

Frequently Asked Questions – Georgia Association of REALTORS® 2013 Annual Convention and Expo

- **Who comes to the Annual Convention and Expo**
 - Georgia’s most successful brokers and REALTORS®
 - REALTOR® Leadership from across the south
 - Nationally known real estate experts
 - REALTORS® who aim to grow their business

- **What’s in it for me? Why do people come to the GAR Annual Convention and Expo?**
 - Build your referral business
 - Enjoy the beautiful shores of the Florida panhandle before winter
 - Prepare yourself for the next wave of business trends
 - Get briefed on laws that will affect your next year in business
 - Show your colleagues you support your industry
 - Share your knowledge with those across the state

- **What are the registration fees?**

<i>Registration Fees:</i>	EARLY BIRD	REGULAR	ON-SITE
<i>Payment Deadline Received by:</i>	before 8/10	8/10 - 8/30	8/30-9/21
REALTOR®, Board AE,			
Board Staff, Affiliates	\$159.00	\$189.00	\$229.00
Non-Industry Spouse / Guest	\$159.00	\$159.00	\$159.00
Non-Member Attendee	\$229.00	\$229.00	\$229.00

- **How do I secure my hotel room?**

- Contact the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort at 800/622-1038. To receive the GAR rate inform the hotel that you are with the Georgia Association of REALTORS®, group code: 2257JT.
- The deadline for booking your hotel room at the GAR rate with Sandestin is **August 16, 2013**.
- Rooms are not guaranteed to be available at the GAR group rate after August 16th and rooms are based on a first come - first served basis. We strongly suggest attendees book their hotel room as soon as possible to guarantee lodging at the headquarters hotel. At the present time, no overflow hotel has been established.
 - Bayside Area
 - LeCiel \$145.00*
 - Formerly known at the Bayside Inn. Please go to <http://hotelleciel.com> to see this newly renovated hotel.
 - Bayside 1 Bdrm \$170.00*
 - Bayside 2 Bdrm \$195.00*
 - Grand Fairways 3 Bdrm \$320.00*
 - Beach Side Area
 - Beachside Studio \$175.00*
 - Beachside 1 Bdrm \$195.00*
 - Beachwalk Villas 2 Bdrm \$210.00*
 - Westwinds 1 Bdrm \$210.00*
 - Westwinds 2 Bdrm \$315.00*
 - Westwinds 3 Bdrm \$415.00*
 - Village Area
 - Grand Sandestin Studio \$160.00*
 - Grand Complex 1 Bdrm \$185.00*
 - Grand Complex 2 Bdrm \$255.00*
- *Plus 14% for taxes.
- All room rates include complimentary WiFi in guest rooms, meeting rooms, and Expo; on-property tram service; four hours of bicycle usage daily; one hour per day of tennis court time (based on availability); one hour per day usage on either a canoe, kayak or boogie board.
- *If you are told any rate other than the special GAR rate listed below or that the room block is full, contact Rebecca DeShazo, GAR Meetings Manager, at once via e-mail at rdeshazo@garealtor.com or via phone at 678-597-4134.*

- **Does my spouse / guest pay the same registration fee?**
 - When you invite your spouse or guest who is NOT a GAR member, your spouse / guest will received the guest rate listed above. This fee will enable your spouse or guest to attend all convention events such as continuing education and optional activities. If your guest wants to play in the GAR Tennis Tournament then there is an additional \$25.00 fee for that. If your spouse or guest is a GAR member, both of you should pay the REALTOR® registration fee.
 - Should you wish to purchase individual tickets for your spouse or guest instead of the full registration fee, you will simply check off which tickets you would like to purchase for them when filling out the registration form.

- **Can I register online?**
 - You can register online by [clicking here](#).

- **Do I register once at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort?**
 - Upon your arrival you will be welcomed by the GAR Staff at the GAR Registration Desk. Here you will be given your name badge, program and any other important convention materials. Admission to ALL convention functions is by your name badge ONLY and WILL be monitored. Registration is required to attend any and all events. Badges are not transferable onsite.

- **What does the registration fee include?**
 - A full registration includes all education sessions, committee meetings, the Grand Opening Cocktail Party, Thursday Lunch on the Go, Thursday Happy Hour, Thursday Night Party, BINGO, Friday Brunch and the Continental Breakfast on Saturday.

- **What a registration fee does NOT include?**
 - A registration fee does not include the GAR Tennis Tournament.

- **What meals are included in my registration fee?**
 - Grand Opening Cocktail Party
 - Lunch on the Go
 - Happy Hour / complimentary beer and wine
 - Brunch on Friday in the Expo
 - Board of Directors Continental Breakfast

- **Do you have a convention schedule?**
 - Yes, [click here](#) for the posted schedule.

- **Where do the events take place?**
 - All events take place at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort Linkside Conference Center and Exhibition Hall.

- **What are the refund and cancellation policies?**
 - Written cancellations prior to August 30, 2013 will reflect a \$40.00 service charge.
 - Due to contract obligations, **no refunds will be given after August 30, 2013.**
 - All meeting cancellations and requests for refunds must be made in writing and mailed or faxed to the GAR office. Cancellations will not be taken over the phone.

- **I can't come to the convention after all. Can someone else take my place?**
 - GAR does have a transfer / assignment policy that allows a member who needs to cancel to transfer his and her registration to another person. A form can be obtained at www.garealtor.com under Meetings and Conventions. A transfer cannot be completed without this form and a non-refundable service charge of \$25.00. Only the individual transferee is authorized to pick up the registration packet.

- **Why is the convention being held in another state?**
 - The members who regularly attend our conventions have expressed a strong desire to have the event in a resort location. For years our conventions had been booked years in advance, for instance, when Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort was chosen 5 years ago the committee would not have been able to foresee the current economic situation. That being said, one might ask "Why would we go out of state at all?" GAR Leadership does understand the importance of holding a convention in Georgia. There are, however, many factors that must be considered. We look at past history of our room blocks to see what locations have the biggest draw for attendees. We also put out surveys to see where the membership wants to go that will help us in selecting locations.

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- Also, there are several factors that have to be looked at in choosing a site. The amount of meeting space is a huge issue. With our CE classes and governance meetings we do require quite a bit of meeting space and many locations cannot handle a group our size. For instance, in Lake Oconee there is the fabulous Ritz Carlton, unfortunately they do not have enough hotel rooms or meeting space to accommodate our group. We've found this to be the case at many Georgia locations. We use to go to the Cloister but when they did their renovation in 2004 they could no longer accommodate us. GAR has restructured our Inaugural Meeting to held in Atlanta. The move was proven beneficial for the members by the overall success of this meeting in 2013. We will continue asking members their opinion of possible avenues for future growth of the conventions.
- **I've seen a logo advertising a code for Twitter. What's that about?**
 - This symbol is called a Hashtag:#. Twitter Hashtags are used to label or categorize Twitter posts. You can use them to follow tweets in real-time on one subject from different Twitter users by putting them on one screen. Very simply, if you are interested in a conversation, event or topic, you can follow all the tweets with that Hashtag. We have created the Hashtag #GAR2013 to make it easier for you to follow tweets about our 2013 convention.
 - Here's how to follow our convention tweets:
 - To get convention updates, enter the convention hashtag, #GAR2013, into Twitter search or a Twitter application such as Tweetdeck. You will see one page with all of the convention tweets.
 - To add your own convention tweet, make an entry on your Twitter page and add the convention hashtag, #GAR 2013, to the end. Your tweet will then show up on the same page with all of our other convention tweets.