

2022 Ride for the "R"



Bill Leininger
2022 MAR President

Bill is a native of Montana and was raised in the Flathead Valley. His maternal grandparents homesteaded in the Bigfork area in 1940.

He opened Dean & Leininger Real Estate in 1995 in Bigfork with his business partner, who retired in 2002. Bill remains the Broker/Owner today and operates the business with his wife Anita.

He is very active with the local, state and national real estate associations and is past president and current board member of Northwest Montana Association of REALTORS® (NMAR). He was honored to be chosen as the 2019 REALTOR® OF THE YEAR for Montana Association of REALTORS® and 2013 & 2019 REALTOR® OF THE YEAR for NMAR.

"Riding the Brand" is a cowboy poem by Rod Steiger. It brings visions of the wide-open spaces of Big Sky country, Montana, a place that we all call home. The cowboy signed on with the ranch and "rode the brand" and all that the ranch stood for. We, in many ways, do the same. We ride the REALTOR® brand "R". But where the cowboy rode for the rancher, we ride for an organization that is made up of over 1,500,000 REALTORS®. This is an amazing industry whereby we are all small (and large) business people working to make a living and to make a difference. But under the "R" we do amazing work. What an incredible career opportunity that we have to help our clients live the American dream of home ownership.

Through our local associations, the Montana Association of REALTORS®, and the National Association of REALTORS®, we are impacting our towns, state and nation. It is through the individuals that work together that we have seen an incredible state legislative session, but the work continues with our Government Affairs Committee already preparing for the 2023 session. And the local association's Government Affairs Directors working on local issues and bring expertise. People from across the state coming together for common causes.

I watch our members give selflessly, raising the bar on education and professionalism. What I continue to hear from individuals is that they want to give back to our associations and communities. I see our local association, made up of hundreds of individuals, raise thousands of dollars supporting numerous causes and charities. I've been blessed to join countless members go to Washington DC to visit our US Senate and House of Representatives and promote property rights and other aspects of home ownership. I can't even begin to add up the hours our Montana Realtor members spend at countless meetings, seminars, conferences and conventions helping steer our local, state and national organizations. But what I know personally and what I hear from those who serve, it is their privilege to give back to an industry and career that is so fulfilling.

It does not matter the level or position at which we serve, rather it is the heart and love with which we serve. We come from many different backgrounds and serve in many different ways, may it be coaching little league sports, ringing the Salvation Army bell, sitting on the city council, or writing a check to our favorite charities, we all give to our communities. It is the same with our associations, may it be serving on a local, state or national board of directors, helping monitor a continuing education class, or mentoring new agents, we all make the "R" brand great.

Through many hands the load is lighter, and it is with many REALTOR® hands that the Montana Association of REALTORS®, will have another outstanding year. I humbly sit as your 2022 president, and I celebrate each of you and what you contribute to the REALTORS®, organization.

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