

## Winter Meetings 2024

The highlight of this Winter Meetings was certainly the Pickleball for TREPAC event. Great food, drinks, networking, and of course, the pickleball itself. It was such a great venue and event that I truly feel was the crown jewel of the conference. This fun idea for TREPAC fundraising is a perfect gateway for younger REALTORS and first time attendees to really get the most out of the conference and to learn about TREPAC along the way. For some of the folks attending for the first time, the conference can be overwhelming to get around and to choose which seminars, panels, and classes will be the most beneficial for your personal business needs, but this event really does have something for everyone. I enjoyed the venue and karaoke more so than the venue of last year, and whether you were there to watch pickleball or the Superbowl or both, the seating and view for everything was more than adequate.

An enjoyable panel for me was the YPN forum and committee. We saw several colleagues recognized for their work in their respective areas (shoutout to Chris Tye!) and got some great information on what this year will look like for YPN. The YPN pledge was highly encouraged, and myself and several other fellow REALTORS at the meeting were able to find out more about it and get some insight that was beneficial.

Prior to the actual committee meeting, we joined the GA forum to get a pulse on the current climate of the world of politics, in and outside of real estate, but all pertinent to our personal or professional lives. This was not my favorite style of meeting, as it came off very podcast-esque, and I felt that the presentation was very well put together, but didn't offer much audience interaction.

Unfortunately, our time at this conference felt very short this time around, and though packed with good knowledge and fun, I know that in the future, having an extra day on the front end will be highly beneficial to help get settled in prior to jumping into meetings. We certainly made the most of our time there, but there was plenty of relevant info and more networking that I will definitely plan to take advantage of next year. That is an encouragement I would pass on to others joining for the first or second time, is to arrive in time to rest up and have full days on both Saturday and Sunday (as opposed to driving down on Saturday, as I did both this year and last).

The camaraderie and friendship of our CCAR family cannot be understated. That is still of ultimate value, even after having been around CCAR events and circles so much more in this last year. So much of my commitment to the industry and the REALTOR name is my pride in our community and my desire for the education for myself and my peers. Knowing your fellow agents brings so much value to your network and business, and that is why I stay involved.

Cheers to another wonderful conference!

-Jordan Hargrove