

# WRA ANNUAL *Award* RECIPIENTS

Each year, the WRA recognizes individuals who have dedicated their time and effort to advance the REALTOR® organization and the industry. Congratulations to these individuals who received awards in 2020.

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

The WRA's Distinguished Service Award (DSA) was established in 1985 to recognize REALTORS® or WRA employees who have given many years of leadership and service at all levels of the REALTOR® family as well as to the local community. The recipient must have at least five years of membership or employment and must have demonstrated a high level of commitment to the association.



### STEVE BEERS, KEEFE REAL ESTATE

Steve Beers is president at Keefe Real Estate Inc. in Lake Geneva and has served in this capacity for more than 25 years. He is familiar with all aspects of operating and overseeing a real estate company, including luxury residential, condominium, farm, land, resort/second home, commercial, REO properties and more. Since beginning his real estate career 40 years ago, Steve has worked with thousands of clients as well as myriad people and entities related to the transactions of homes, commercial businesses and land. He has marketed a wide range of properties, from farms to timber land, seminaries to luxury homes, and even an island.

While real estate is fraught with ups and downs, Steve was able to build a successful sales career before transitioning to the business and management side. Over the years, Steve's expertise in building, zoning, legal and tax issues has been a tremendous resource for Keefe Real Estate and its customers.

Steve's lifelong passion is improving the lives of his customers, and he is always learning and willing to share the knowledge gained from experiences along the way with associates, colleagues and others. Whether working on a home, farm, commercial building, development or investment property, Steve's advice, strategy and execution have delivered desired results for clients. Steve also credits those real estate and business professionals who similarly mentored him along the way, allowing him to put all of this to work for his clients and partners in affiliated real estate businesses.

Steve has given back to the community in many ways. He currently serves on the board for Geneva Lakes Water Safety Patrol, the Fontana Lakefront and Harbor Commission and Fontana's Board of Review. He was named REALTOR® of the Year by his local Lakes Area REALTORS® Association and has served as past president. Governors Doyle and Walker both appointed Steve as the chairman of Wisconsin's Real Estate Examining Board. Steve has been an active member of the WRA for many years, serving as and served as the WRA chairman of the board during 2019-20.



### DAN LAWLER, FEATHER REAL ESTATE

Dan has been a REALTOR® for 24 years, achieving his ABR, GRI and CRS designations, and has been involved in many committees, such as the REALTORS® Political Action Committee (RPAC), and recently served as the Wisconsin RPAC chair for three years. Dan served for his local REALTORS® Association of

Northwestern Wisconsin (RANWW) for many years, including as president in 2018. Dan has also sat on RANWW's board of directors as well as the WRA's executive committee. Dan believes it's important to be involved in the REALTORS® association and give back to an industry that has given him so much. He encourages other REALTORS® to step up and get involved because you don't know what you're missing until you do!



### STEPHANIE LARSON, WISCONSIN REALTORS® ASSOCIATION

Stephanie Larson, CPA, is vice president of finance for the WRA. She began her career at the WRA in 1995 as the financial information coordinator and became the vice president of finance in 2012. In this role, Stephanie oversees all financial functions for 13 internal and external funds and companies, manages the human resources area of the WRA where she processes payroll and administers staff benefits, and works closely with the WRA treasurer and outside auditors.

Stephanie earned her Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from UW-Whitewater. She became a licensed Certified Public Accountant in 2000 and is a member of the Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Stephanie and her husband, Steve, have two children, Val and Jared. They enjoy watching their children's sporting events and spending time with family and friends.

## CHAIRMAN'S CITATION AWARD

The WRA's Chairman's Citation Award recognizes individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to the WRA or to the real estate industry.



### REP. JOHN JAGLER, WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 37

Since being elected to office in 2012, Rep. John Jagler has been a strong advocate for homeowner and REALTOR® issues, with a 100% voting record on WRA issues such as protecting property rights, lowering property taxes, reforming regulations at both the state and local levels, and streamlining the real estate transaction process.

Rep. Jagler is the chair of the Assembly Housing and Real Estate Committee, one of the most important committees to the WRA. In this role, Rep. Jagler has been responsible for holding hearings and ultimately passing dozens of WRA legislative priorities over the past several years. In addition, Rep. Jagler authored the WRA's seller surveillance bill, which was enacted into law in 2019.



### SEN. JANET BEWLEY, WISCONSIN SENATE DISTRICT 25

As Senior Development Director of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), Sen. Janet Bewley was an advocate for

housing issues before being elected to the Legislature. However, since being elected to the Wisconsin Assembly in 2010 and the Senate in 2014, Sen. Bewley has made housing issues one of her top priorities.

Sen. Bewley has served on housing committees in both the Senate and Assembly and has consistently been a strong supporter of the WRA's legislative priorities. In fact, she often takes a leadership role on WRA priorities by sponsoring legislation and working behind the scenes to help enact the bills into law. For example, in the 2020 legislative session, Sen. Bewley was the only Senate Democrat to sponsor legislation that would restore the riparian rights of waterfront property owners along flowages and artificial waterways in 2019 Senate Bill 501.

## INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

The WRA's Instructor of the Year is selected from the team of WRA instructors and is someone who consistently provides high quality instruction in the classroom and receives outstanding evaluations for his or her teaching.



### JENNIFER LINDSLEY, WISCONSIN REALTORS® ASSOCIATION

Jennifer Lindsley is the director of training for the WRA. Jennifer participates as an attorney on the WRA Legal Hotline and serves as a liaison between the WRA and the Wisconsin Technical College System. Her responsibilities include drafting education materials, developing pre-licensing and continuing education resources, and teaching WRA pre-licensing and continuing education courses. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Portland State University and her Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Wisconsin Law School. Jennifer is a member of the Real Estate Educators Association. In addition to being named as Instructor of the Year in 2020, Jennifer also won this accolade in 2014.

## WRA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award recognizes an extraordinary individual for a lifetime of meritorious achievements that have advanced and enriched the real estate profession in Wisconsin.



### BECKY MERWIN, THE RAULAND AGENCY

Becky Merwin, ABR, CRS, GRI, SRES, has worked in real estate full time since 1995 and is the current president of the Lakes Area REALTORS® Association. An actively involved member from the start, Becky was elected to the board of directors in 1999 and first served as board president in 2004. Her peers selected her as REALTOR® of the Year in 2005, and she received the WRA Distinguished Service Award in 2015. She is a broker with the Rauland Agency in Walworth, a small family-owned company in business for 50 years, serving all of Walworth County. Becky is also the president of the Big Foot Fine Arts Foundation Geneva West Rotarian, a member of the Wisconsin State Fair Park Board and a member of the GOP of Walworth County executive committee. Prior to her real estate career, Becky focused on community service, teaching and farming with her late husband Ernie. Along with her son James, Becky continues to own and operate Merwin Farms, a sesquicentennial farm near the Wisconsin-Illinois state line.

## WCR MEMBER OF THE YEAR

This award is given by the Women's Council of REALTORS® (WCR). The recipient of the WCR Member of the Year is recognized for exceptional leadership skills and advancing women as professionals and leaders in business, the industry and their communities.



### SHARON SZATALOWICZ, COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

After completing undergraduate studies in three years at UW-Eau Claire, Sharon Szatalowicz earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and political science. A brief stint in broadcasting, followed by a year of backpacking solo throughout Europe, brought her to her final job as development assistant at the Milwaukee Art Museum. At the suggestion of her dad, she acquired her real estate broker's license in 1982.

When the Wisconsin WCR offered a business networking meeting, Szatalowicz found kindred spirits devoted to supporting women in real estate. Szatalowicz has served the WCR in nearly every capacity and served two consecutive terms as the state governor, actively participating as a member of the national WCR governing board. She is currently the first state liaison reporting to the national WCR executive board.

Sharon sat on the Greater Milwaukee Association of REALTORS® (GMAR) education and arbitration committees and was a member of GMAR's task force. She is a founding member of The Friends of Lincoln Park, has volunteered for the Holy Women Garden and Riverwest Food Pantry, is a member of the National Cattleman's and Wisconsin Cattleman's associations, has participated in Milwaukee's "Block Build MKE" property revitalization event and is an advocate for citizens with disabilities.

## WISCONSIN CRS MEMBER OF THE YEAR

This award is given to a Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) designee by the Wisconsin chapter of the Residential Real Estate Council (RRC). This recipient has demonstrated accomplishments inside and outside the field of real estate and demonstrates outstanding commitment to the chapter.



### BETH JAWORSKI, SHOREWEST REALTORS®

Beth has been a full-time residential REALTOR® since 1992. She holds the ABR, CHMS, CNE, CRS, GREEN and GRI designations and was elected to the Greater Milwaukee Association of REALTORS® (GMAR) board of directors in 2003. Beth served as the GMAR treasurer in 2005, secretary in 2006, chairwoman in 2008, and was also named GMAR's REALTOR® of the Year in 2004. Beth has served on GMAR's professional standards committee since 1995 and in the WRA's real estate school since 2003. Beth also served on the WRA executive committee from 2010-2011, was chair of the WRA convention in 2010 and was inducted as a Wisconsin CRS chapter leader in 2016. Beth is an associate vice president with Shorewest REALTORS®. She is also a lifetime member of its Million Dollar Club, and has been a President Club member and national sales award winner every year from 2000 through 2015. Beth consistently ranks in the top 1% of the company in production.