

PAAR CARES FOUNDATION

NANCY KOCH SCHOLARSHIP

The Nancy Koch Memorial Fund will be used to award scholarships to complete a GRI, The Graduate REALTOR® Institute Designation through the National Association of REALTORS®. Earning the Graduate REALTOR® Institute (GRI) designation is a way to stand out to prospective home buyers and sellers as a REALTOR® who has gained in-depth market knowledge, increased proficiency in a broad array of subjects to enhance professionalism and business success. The number of scholarships awarded each year will be determined by the Foundation.

Each scholarship will pay for reimbursement for actual expenses, not to exceed \$530.

Any person who has been a licensed real estate agent in Illinois for a minimum of one year, and a member of the Peoria Area Association of REALTORS® interested in furthering their career in the real estate industry. Applicant must be a resident of Fulton, Hancock, Knox, Mason, McDonough, McLean, Peoria, Schuyler, Tazewell and Woodford County is eligible to apply for a scholarship. This Scholarship cannot be used for reimbursement for previously attended designations.

Nancy Koch was a 40+ year member of PAAR having served as President in 1996-97, as well as President of the Central IL Homes Guide. Nancy was also instrumental in the formulation of PAAR CARES Foundation, serving on the board for many years. Nancy was a managing broker for almost 25 years and served on numerous state committees since 1990. In 2007, she was named the Illinois REALTOR® of the Year.

THE FOUNDATION

The PAAR CARES Foundation is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to unite our REALTOR® Community into making an impact in Central Illinois by strengthening charities in our communities, aiding in crisis relief and providing industry support.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The application must be completed and returned to the Foundation's office **no later than December 31st, 2024**. Copies of letters of recommendation and reference must also be received by the Foundation's office. Mail all information to the PAAR CARES Foundation; 7307 N Willowlake Ct; Peoria, Illinois 61614. Recipient of the Nancy Koch Scholarship will be announced at the 2025 Awards Banquet.

The selection of scholarship recipients will be determined by the Foundation, taking into consideration the following criteria:

- The applicant's references and recommendations by at least one real estate broker from the office with which the applicant is affiliated (if the applicant is from a small office a designated principle broker from another firm within the association may be used) or from two directors from the PAAR Board of Directors, one of which may be a local Board Executive Officer;
- The applicant has been a licensed real estate agent or broker for a minimum of one year, working and residing in Illinois.
- The applicant may not have previously been awarded a Nancy Koch Scholarship.
- Participation in PAAR activities and having served on at least 1 committee.
- Participation in PAAR CARES activities.

All of the following must be submitted along with the scholarship application form: (Checklist for your convenience only)

- A typed, signed statement of activities in the Peoria Area Association of REALTORS®, including any committee memberships or chairmanships, and of your attendance at meetings and functions of the Peoria Area Association of REALTORS®.
- Information regarding community involvement, including details of local, state and national participation in civic and service clubs, charitable activities, political action, fraternal or religious groups.
- A letter of recommendation from at least one real estate broker from the office with which the applicant is affiliated, and at least one from the Peoria Area of REALTORS® board member or committee chair you have served.
- Your personal letter providing information about why you need this particular scholarship, your plans for use of the scholarship, and your future goals as they related to the use of this scholarship.

