



In 1975, Paul E. Lees was installed as President of the Naples on-the-Gulf Board of REALTORS. The name, Naples on-the-Gulf had been in use for twenty-five years. He soon went to work with the National Association of Real Estate Boards (NAREB) recently changed to NAR, National Association of REALTORS, and the State government of Florida, plus the Florida Association of REALTORS (FAR) to change the Board name to Naples Area Board of REALTORS (NABOR). The name change was not approved until 1976.

On the top of the list of Board activities in 1975 was the construction of the new Board building. The acquisition of the land had been accomplished, The land was paid for, the contract was let and construction was underway. “ The new facility will have an auditorium large enough to accommodate two hundred and thirty people for a sit down dinner,” according to President Paul.

Paul was born in Chicago and practiced law in Cleveland, Ohio until Pearl Harbor. He moved to Everglades City in 1959.

Paul was a firm advocate of the Protection of Private Property Rights. Paul, along with Addison Miller and David C. Jones were the men most responsible for NABOR becoming politically oriented. One of Paul's concerns of eroding private property rights was the plethora of government agencies; federal, state, local, and private that were born as a result the Clean Air Act and the The Clean Water Act passed by Congress in 1970. Paul's concern was not with the Acts but rather with the agencies adopting rules and regulations with the force and power, as if, passed by the Supreme Court.

It was a busy year for NABOR. The new member Orientation Course was expanded to two and one-half days. The Course was offered once a month with an emphasis on the Code of Ethics and the responsibility members had to educate themselves in the intricacies of the industry. A passing grade was a prerequisite for membership in the Board.

The MLS was expanded. MLS information was delivered by taxi, three times a week to member offices. The total number of Listings increased from approximately 5600 in 1974 to a projected 6400 in 1975. Board membership was 663. The MLS Committee continued to sponsor a weekly breakfast for members. The popular silver dollar awards continued. Also provided with the free coffee and pastries was a weekly update of mortgage rates collected from the different banking institutions in the Naples area.

The Naples Board was the Host Board for the FAR Mid-Year Meeting held at Marco Island. The Friday night Dinner-Dance, the Annual Golf Tournament and the special Tennis Tournament were all very successful.

In an effort to create goodwill in the community the first Sandcastle Building Contest was held the weekend before school started in the Fall. There were 125 participants between the ages of five to fifteen. Judges were selected from the County Commission, City Council, School Board, local architects and engineers. The second event was an Essay Contest with a Bicentennial theme. Prizes for both events were gift certificates which could be redeemed in any store in Collier County. The news media and our members cooperation was outstanding.

During elections the Board sponsored free transportation to and from the Polls. Announcements were made through the media. Just one call to the Board office and a member responded.

The Board's Speaker's Bureau was very active providing programs for numerous area Civic Clubs.

A Blood Bank was set up and approximately fifty members donated blood regularly. Most of the blood went to patients in Naples Community Hospital who could not afford to pay for it, or who did not have donors to replace the blood they used. This frequently occurred with patients from the Immokalee area.

President Paul E. Lees was awarded NABOR REALTOR of the Year in 1977.

President Paul E. Lees received the NABOR Ad Miller Award for his dedication to the Preservation of Private Property Rights in 1986.

President Paul E. Lees was installed in the prestigious NABOR Hall Of Fame in 2003