

Realtors celebrate a year's work

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With Golden Globes and Oscars, Hollywood is buzzing with award season. But they aren't the only ones to enjoy the glamour of award galas.

The Del Norte Association of Realtors (DNAR) held its own award ceremony last Friday at Ocean's 657 by Northwoods.

"Everybody had a good time, but yet we honored the people that needed to be honored," said Dave Powell, DNAR board treasurer and a realtor with Alder Point Real Estate.

Guests filtered into the twinkle-lit banquet room donning their snazziest outfits to match the night's theme, "Glitz and Glam." The ceiling sparkled with lights. And intricate centerpieces, decorated by the real estate

companies, adorned the tables.

Realtors grabbed drinks and visited with colleagues, taking the evening to relax from the past year's work.

The awards ceremony is a yearly event meant to recognize realtors in the county for excellent work they achieved over the previous year. The awards included the realtors' choice, realtor of the year, rising star, and rookie of the year.

The event also included live and silent auctions with items such as a Rumiano Cheese basket, a bag of coffee supplies, and signed jerseys on display.

Proceeds raised from the event go to the Community Outreach Assistance Team, a private nonprofit organization in town that provides food, showers, clothing and other services to homeless individuals.

This year, realtors from Finigan Real Estate stole the evening, with its agents winning all four awards. Candace Forsht won the realtors' choice award, Cindy Sanderson won realtor of the year, and Andrea Borges took home two awards – rookie of the year and the rising star award.

"It was amazing. It was more than I could have asked for," Borges said. "I just owe so much to a lot of people."

The awards were given for the realtors' exemplary work, but also for their involvement in community organizations.

"One of our mandates is to be active, not just selling property and real estate, but to be active in the community. That's why the awards tonight were very focused on people that are over and above, out there in the community, being a firefighter or being on boards," Powell said.

The purpose of DNAR is about more than selling property. It's a community, committed to defending homeowners' rights. "A lot of times, a lot of legislatures come up with ideas that do not support the right of the property owners, so being a member of the association gives us the ability to be that voice," said DNAR president Donna DeWolf.

"In our local community, that is what the Del Norte Association of Realtors is. We are that voice."

Members of DNAR are automatically members of the California Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors, which fights against policies that do not foster home ownership rights.

"It's very important for our community that we be a member," DeWolf said. "Being a realtor means you have a higher standard of ethical conduct. You are held to a higher standard, in that you're a voice for property rights and for the community."