



# 2014 REALTOR OF THE YEAR

Michael Aid takes participation and community involvement to a new level as a Realtor

by John Cal, for The Bulletin Special Projects



Photo by Kevin Prieto

Every year the Central Oregon Association of Realtors has the hard task of choosing between it's own distinguished members to name the Realtor of the Year. Each year the award is chosen, not only for professional excellence but also for outstanding community involvement.

This year's honored recipient is Michael Aid of Bend and Beyond Real Estate.

A Central Oregonian since 1984, Aid moved to the area from Palo Alto, Calif.

"I used to come up here a lot as a kid," said Aid, who spent many summers up at a cabin near Odell Lake. So when he had a chance to come back, Aid jumped at the opportunity.

"You can't beat the quality of life here," he said.

But it wasn't until 1995, more than 10 years after his move, that Aid entered the real estate business. Until then, he was a cobbler and

owner of Bend's Finest Shoe Repairs.

"I really enjoyed shoe repair," said Aid, "but it was a dying industry."

It was happenstance that pushed Aid into real estate. Aid's wife, Jeannene Brown-Aid, was already working in real estate when she called on her husband's help.

"My wife lost her assistant, so I stepped in to help her, and it turned out to be a lot more fun than I expected," offered Aid. "Jeannene taught me everything I know. She led the pace. She worked her way up, and it's because of her I got sucked into the vortex of real estate."

In February, Aid lost his wife to cancer, but Aid's outlook continues to be one of optimism and service.

"She taught me that it's all about giving back," Aid said about his wife.

Through Bend and Beyond Real Estate, Aid sponsors Bend Little League and also

personally volunteers for the Bend Park & Recreation District and is a member of the Bend Elks.

Aid already has many accomplishments attached to his career, including former president of the Oregon Association of Realtors, current Oregon District VP for Central Oregon, and former president of the Commercial Investment Division in 2002. He's also been on the COAR board since 2005 and has served as the District VP in 2005. He also received the Oregon CRS of the Year in 2010.

"Michael is an exceptional example of what it means to be a Realtor," said COAR CEO Casie Conlon. "His 14 years of experience in the industry, his long-term service to our community and the real estate field, made him a wonderful choice for COAR's 2014 Realtor of the Year."

Still, with all the accolades, it's his demeanor,

his commitment to the people of Central Oregon that make him so great, not only at what he does but who he is.

"My whole take on it is that the more you participate, the more you learn, and the more valuable you are to yourself and others," continued Aid.

He's always looking to better himself, not only professionally but also in his recreational pursuits such as ballroom and country western dancing and weekends spent fishing out at Paulina Lake.

"Keep giving your time," said Aid. "Steve Scott was a huge mentor of both Jeannene and mine, and he continues to be a big influence on me. He's constantly giving time to individuals and the community... Passion, education (and) raising the bar so that more Realtors are educated and professional, that's what I aim for."