

Meet Jeff Harris
2025 Maine Association of REALTORS® President

Why did you begin a career in the real estate industry? Being brought up on a dairy farm buying and selling property for business got me thinking how much I could benefit from a real estate broker's license and diversifying my options along with increased revenue for my family. Also, I love to socialize and talk. What better way to have the best of both worlds?

What was your first transaction? Selling land that Adrian Harris [my dad] and myself owned. I showed the wrong property that was very wet, and the buyers fell in love with this property.

What has been your favorite transaction? Working with a land developer selling 25 subdivision lots. The landowner listed all the lots with me, helping me understand how land development works. The landowner wanted to see me be successful on that subdivision and for future development.

What is something people may not know about you? I like rebuilding diesel engines along with operating heavy equipment. Operating a bulldozer is satisfying because the operator gets to put the final grades on site work which is art. Also, I love music and singing.

What led you to the Presidency of the Maine Association of REALTORS® (MAR)? I was affiliated with the Mountains Council and the Council merged with the Kennebec Valley Board of REALTORS® (which was a great move on behalf of the Council). I saw all the committees at the KVBR, and I asked if I could be the auctioneer at the Board's Holiday Party oil auction. After that I got involved with KVBR's Dancing With the REALTORS® fund raiser and that led me to being asked to be on the Nominating Committee for the Board and then up through leadership in the KVBR where I served as President in 2021. I attended NAR national convention representing my local board as President. While attending the NAR convention I felt like I wanted more and started asking questions to some of our state leaders which led me to this 2025 MAR Presidency. I'm grateful to serve all members as a team effort. Go Team Maine!

What would you like members to know about MAR? There are many committees for members to be part of. Please know that each committee intentionally includes statewide representation. The MAR staff is great at recommending resources that help individuals make decisions for their business. MAR is committed to REALTORS® being successful and our guide to success is the MAR mission statement (**see below).

What is your plan for MAR for 2025? MAR is full of change and REALTOR® members need to embrace change. As we experienced in 2024, the changes are tough at times, however we all need to believe and embrace the changes. My plan is to envision what MAR could look like in five years, seven years, and ten years. Looking at our strategic plan and looking at resources to be streamlined. MAR is not one person - it's all our members - Team Maine. Advocacy will be a

priority with the new Legislature, so members understand this involvement is critical to our industry and our profession.

What would you like members to know about the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR)?

NAR is the reason why each of us are REALTORS®. When we pay our dues for the year a portion goes to the local board, another portion goes to MAR, and a portion goes to NAR, known as the three-way agreement. The three-way agreement makes the REALTOR® organization a strong engine. NAR is constantly advocating for private property rights on a national level. NAR's work with Congress in Washington, D.C. helps keep us all in our daily jobs. Recently, NAR worked with the U.S. Veteran's Administration to modify VA financing to allow buyers commissions, worked with FEMA for flood insurance, and so many more. I am proud to wear the REALTOR® "R" logo on my shirts and jackets and proud of what it stands for. On a national level, NAR has given us all so much ability to do business. NAR is the biggest trade association in the USA which makes us a very effective team.

How do you relax and unwind? I go north and drive into the woods of Maine. I also like traveling, going to a movie, or listening to good old country music and drinking a cup of coffee on a Sunday morning on the front porch having conversations with neighbors or friends that stop by. So please stop in and visit me any time. You do not need an invitation, just stop by because I love to talk.

Where's your favorite place in Maine? I love going to Rockwood and The Forks to enjoy the outdoors and wilderness of Maine. It's beautiful and I call that "God's Country". If I was going to southern Maine, I would go to Kennebunk which is beautiful with so much history.

How can members be in contact with you? I can be reached through a phone call or text on my cell: 207-491-6001 or through email: jeffharris@harrisrealestate.net I am available to all members at any time, and I welcome any communication. I have an open door for all members who want to reach out.

**** Maine Association of REALTORS® Mission Statement:**

The Maine Association of REALTORS® enhances members' ability to successfully conduct business; ensures the integrity and competency of REALTORS®; and promotes the preservation of the right to own, transfer and use real property. It does so by communicating critical information to members, the public, and decision-makers; fostering cooperation among members and member boards through meetings and joint education experiences; advocating for the health of the real estate industry in governmental settings; and supporting Maine Listings in its provision of high-quality and responsive information to members and the general public.