



# WRPLA HOLIDAY SHOUT-OUT!

*Wishing You Peace, Cheer, and a Happy New Year!*

## A Message from Our President

Hello!

As I am sitting here today and trying to think of what to write, we just finished our last municipality's tax bills. We started on the Monday after Thanksgiving and the first week did not go so well. We kept having mechanical issues with everything. If it wasn't the printers, it was our folder/sealer machine. We had the repairman here for the folder/sealer machine 4 or 5 times in that first week of printing the bills and he was coming from the Twin Cities area, which is two hours away! I really thought I was going to be folding & sealing our tax bills by hand and that I should have put stock into glue sticks. :-)

Once we got everything working, then it was pretty much smooth sailing. Being on GCS has certainly made a huge difference for us this tax season. It was so much easier & faster. I hope everything has been going smoothly for all of you.

So far, everything has been quiet with not much happening for excitement at the state level. I hope all of you received my email regarding the Sheriff's Deeds going to the Legislator. If you haven't already done this, please contact Sarah Guenther or Beth Pabst to give them our support on this bill.

Last year, we had 24 new Property Listers join us in our organization. I believe, we will have quite a few more that will be joining us in the year of 2017, since we have a lot of retirements happening. On behalf of everyone in the Wisconsin Real Property Lister's Association, we wish all of you who are retiring, happiness in your new adventures. Be safe and stay healthy! Thank you so much for all of your dedication, advice, support, & knowledge that you have given to the rest of us along the way. We wouldn't be where we are today without you. You will truly be missed!

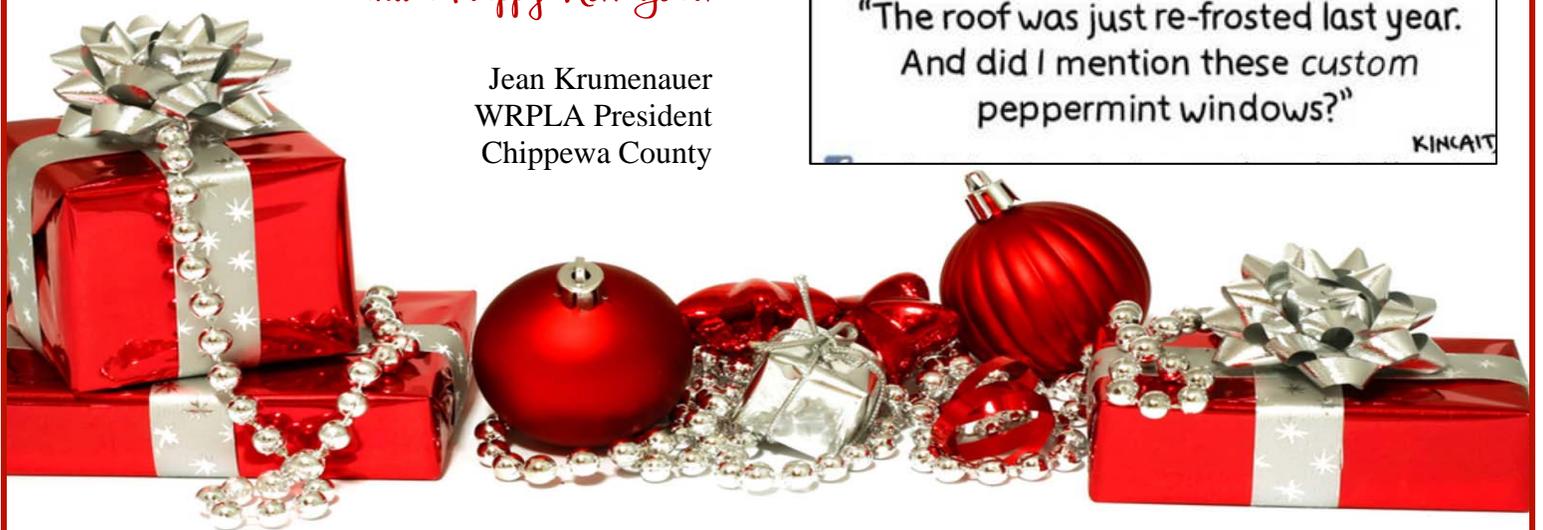
From the bottom of my heart to all of yours, I wish you all

*A Very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!*

Jean Krumenauer  
WRPLA President  
Chippewa County



## When You are Trying to Sell Your Gingerbread House in Wisconsin





## TAX SEASON OR HOLIDAY STRESS GOT YOU DOWN?

Cheer Up! Enjoy some fond memories from our Short-Timers!

My favorite memories are how both the WRPLA and WCTA treat each other like family. Everyone is always ready to help whenever anyone has a question or problem. We've had a lot of good conferences which included a lot of good times. We've been to and seen areas of the state that we wouldn't regularly travel to. I'm thankful to have met so many great people over the last 24 years.

-Kathy Brugger, Clark County



I'm having trouble coming up with a specific item—so many great conferences I want to go back to. And the sharing of ideas—sometimes not agreeing, but everyone helping everyone else. The year we were in Barneveld and golfed (I'm not a golfer at all) with Jim Wallen—lots of laughs and good times!

-Marilynn Sheahan, Buffalo County

## R.I.P.

### Nick J. Gamroth (May 13, 2003 - March 31, 2017)

Nick J. Gamroth was born into the roll of Trempealeau County Tax Lister later changed to Real Property Lister on May 13, 2013. Through his 14 years as the Real Property Lister for Trempealeau County he had the enjoyment of working along with many great people. The passion he had with this job lead him to great enjoyment with helping the public with their property issues and guiding them in the right direction to resolve their problem. By this interaction with the public, he met some wonderful people along the way and felt great pride when they could leave the office or the phone conversation happy that they've been helped. Even with some disgruntled people at times he still felt the drive to continue doing the work everyday.

He also held different committee rolls for the WRPLA but his greatest enjoyment came from representing the association on the WI DOR State and Local Finance Committee. It was always an enjoyment driving down to Madison several times a year and working along side others around the state to better improve the taxation and assessment of properties around the state. He left the committee in the fall of 2015 knowing it was in good hands and that the WRPLA will always have a strong voice down in Madison.

Nick is survived by many other listers around the state and Chelbi Stromblad who now is taking on his endeavor. He further survived by this great memory:

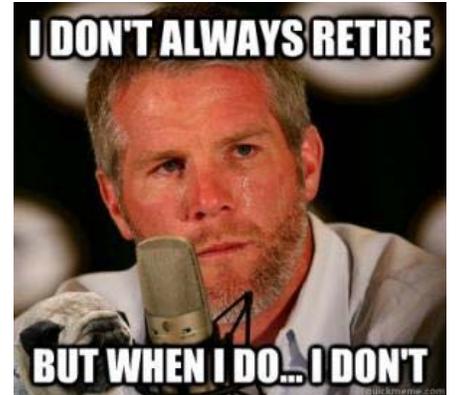
There are so many memories with my fellow listers that it's hard to come up with that one big memory which I've been struggling like trying to stay warm outside. I won't forget the daily emails and how they developed into great conversations and one of the best learning tools for the job. The annual state meetings are full of great memories and I will never forget those times I had with many of you at these gatherings. I'm really going to miss them. But it was my very first one that really sticks out in my head. It was the one in Siren and I remember arriving and wondering where everyone was. With be only 23 years old at the time I was looking for some young people and they were no where to be found. What I found was a group of people that were old enough to be my parents. I remember Pam inviting me along with a group to go out to eat that night and that was fun. The next night came and I remember going to frivolity (which I no idea what that was) and walking into the room looking for some people my age and not seeing anyone but a bunch of people like my parents playing these weird games. I was thinking to myself ok I will just go along with the flow. Later on that night we went out back for a bonfire and then all of sudden the conversation led to whether you fold or wrinkle your toilet paper. Now I'm thinking to myself what in the world did I get myself into. Then the next day when it was roll call for the meeting those same people in the conversation stated fold or wrinkle instead of saying here. Now I'm like these people are crazy funny. The banquet that night I will never forget. When I left that Friday I still wasn't sure what I got myself into but through the years I wouldn't have wanted to do anything different. This has been my favorite memory knowing that I got to work along some of the greatest people I know. It's like an extended family and we always were there for each other which you don't find in other jobs. I'm really going to miss the job and everyone in the association and I will never forget.

Nick J. Gamroth, Trempealeau County



He's for the birds!

### WAIT! ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE RETIRING???



One of my favorite memories would be the old symposiums. Listening to LaVoun Wruck, Roxy Moore, Ann Burton and others tell jokes. We would laugh so much that your stomach would hurt the next day. It was so much fun when Ken Shuck and Colleen Wasilewski from the DOR would join us. They were always good for a few jokes also. The symposiums were where problems were hatched out and friendships were made that will last a lifetime.

-Cheryl Zellmer, Dane County

**Did You Know?** Studies show that viewing cat videos at work can make you more productive! Why? Seeing cute animals lowers your stress and increases happiness—which boosts energy and makes you more productive. Don't believe us? Google it! Then try it for yourself!

MEOW!

2016 is almost over and for some of us, it's been another rough year. We hope we were able to bring a chuckle or smile to your face with this shout-out. Even though we should all do this all year long, this seems to be the time to express gratitude and appreciation for things in our lives. We'd like to take the time to express gratitude for the WRPLA Family. You are the best and are appreciated!

Best Wishes,  
Your Communications  
Committee



Baby It's Cold Outside!!



Lordy... I have so many fantastic memories... so many great people so many wonderful events... Where to start? I'll probably make this an essay so hack whatever you want. I think I want to address the newbies first... There is a saying from my favorite movie "Field of Dreams" that really covers a lot of us, in our job and with the organization.

**"We just don't recognize life's most significant moments while they are happening. Back then I thought – well there'll be other days – I didn't realize that that was the only day"** It's an old cliché but it is true... Seize the moment for the moment may never come again. Enjoy life now, be happy, make people a priority, take a chance, and leave regrets behind. Words from an old guy that has learned a couple of things through time.

**Special memories... My first WRPLA meeting in La Crosse...** I go to the meeting in my suit and tie. I'm a kid and I want to act sophisticated and respected within the WRPLA organization. The first day of classes ends and I'm walking back to my room when a group of Northern County Listers call to me from a plaza next to the bar. They asked me to sit down with them and have a beer. Here I am all dressed up sitting down with an attitude sitting down with a bunch of blue jean, casual dressed listers. I can't remember laughing so much and really feeling like I "belonged". This is when I learned that Listers are "family". Didn't matter who you were, where you came from, what you did... you were a Lister and a Lister belongs to the Listing family. Being part of that family includes a hug when you meet and when you leave and a fraternity that will always stay with you. Something I will really miss.

**People** ... there was a very wild and carefree Lister that I met once... I'd say her personality, and her actions made her seem to be almost (please excuse the phrase) trampy... We were going to some event and as fate would have it she sat next to me on the bus. We talked and I found out that her manner was an act. She had an abusive past, she was married and adored her husband, she had 2 adopted kids, one with a disability, and she worked 2 jobs including being an EMT at night. The more she said the more I admired her, and the courage she had. I remember her to this day and think of how good people actually are and how little recognition they require.

**Fun:** The things that Cheryl mentioned are some of my best memories as well. However one thing I won't forget are the dances. We use to have a dance for our entertainment at the banquet. These were a blast and I ended up with a tie wrapped around my head keeping the sweat out of my eyes. I don't think I'd have a job today with all the social media and a tie on my head. We (I) had a theme song... "Paradise by the dashboard lights" by Meatloaf... Guys would sing their part and the ladies their part. It made for a really great time, seemed like everyone was on the floor for that song.

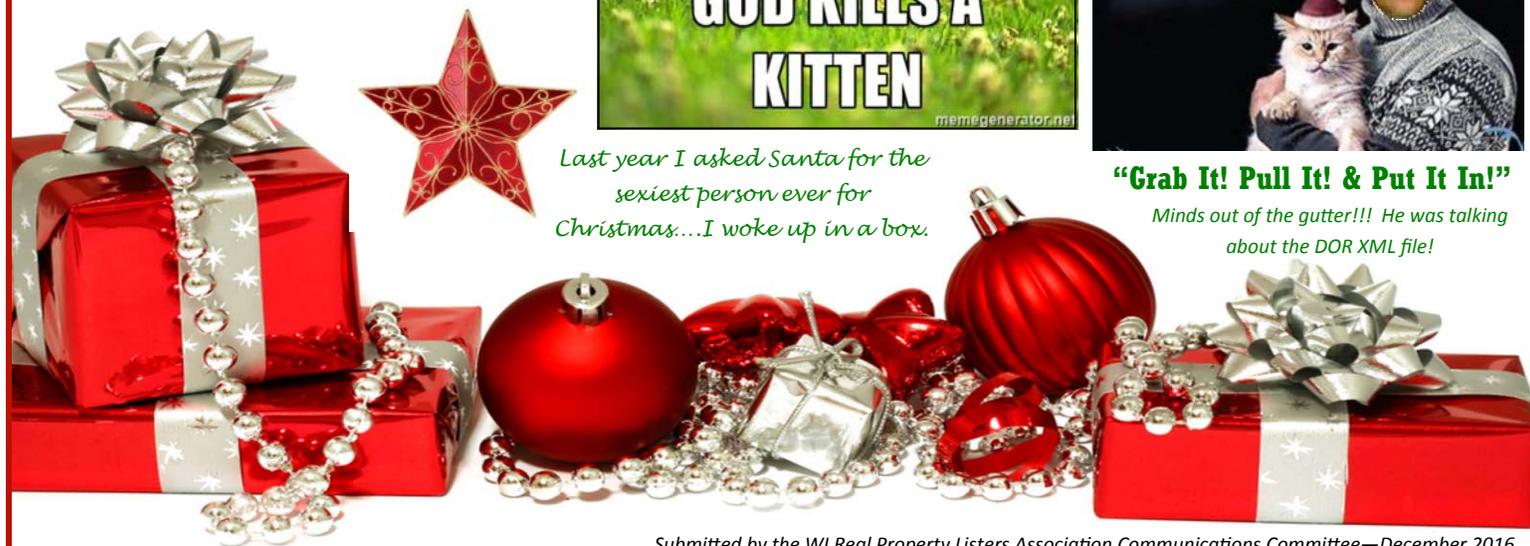
**Trust and Understanding** ... I was President of the organization and my father was dying. I poured my soul out to Jeff Bluske, probably the best Lister we ever had. I had a lot of pain that I was carrying around with me and I needed to get it off my chest. Jeff was somebody that listened and empathized. At the end of my confession, Jeff started to tell me a hunting story... I listened closely expecting to get some illuminating advice on the world and on God's path. Instead it was a joke... a great joke that made me laugh until tears came out of my eyes. It was just what I needed at that time... it was a great release... My father passed a week later and although it hurt, the pain seemed to be less difficult to take.

**Special Gifts...** Everyone has a special gift within them. I think that being part of the "family" helps you give and receive those gifts. I received a lot... how to have fun... leave life's cares behind, and know that it is OK to laugh at yourself and not always be so serious. In return I think that I helped individuals become confident in their abilities and with themselves. Be a good listener... sometimes life becomes hard to cope with, being away from the situation and talking it through with a stranger made it seem easier. By taking and giving you will form a special bond that will stay with you forever and make you a better person.

**Learning and Laughter..** I have not been to one WRPLA conference where I did not learn at least one fact that I did not know. That's close to 30 conferences. Even the last conference I was at I picked up a couple of facts that were new to me. The WRPLA members and conference is a great resource for learning your job and learning how to laugh. Listers know how to have fun after meeting hours. As Cheryl said the joke telling sessions in the past were fantastic.. Ann Burton (Sauk County) had an ice breaker where she made up these ridiculous games that made those that were involved and those that watched laugh so hard that their sides hurt. The recent symposiums are different but still are fun and have a little bit of something for everyone. All are always welcomed. There are other events (when I was younger) that I think about and say "oh my Lord what were we thinking" but those are best left unstated. But they were awful funny.

Learning, laughter, trust, and family... those are the things that I will remember most about Listing and the people who were and are Listers. Told you it was an essay.

-Al Brokmeier, Kenosha County



*Last year I asked Santa for the sexiest person ever for Christmas...I woke up in a box.*

**"Grab It! Pull It! & Put It In!"**  
*Minds out of the gutter!!! He was talking about the DOR XML file!*