## MichRIC

Information Provided by Gary Walter, retired RCE Southwest Michigan Association of REALTORS® 3123 Lakeshore Drive St. Joseph, MI 49085-2625

The Michigan Regional Information Center (MichRIC) is a limited liability company owned by several Associations of REALTORS® covering a 21county area in South and West Michigan. County associations that are members of MichRIC include: Allegan, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Grand Rapids, Hillsdale, Ionia, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, St. Joseph, and Van Buren.

The purpose of MichRIC is to provide to the REALTORS® of our Member Associations a common database and computer system, including software, that will enhance their ability to obtain real property information in the market places that they serve. MichRIC currently provides service for over 7,400 REALTORS. MichRIC charges each member Association or their MLS a monthly user fee based on the number of users they have. The MichRIC Office in Kalamazoo has three full time employees that work for our current vendor providing agent training, support services on a toll free number and the running of the computer system and communications network for system access.

The MichRIC is not an MLS and does not make any rules of engagement. There is, however, by mutual agreement an offer of cooperation and compensation for all listings in the system.

The body that makes the computer system decisions is the MichRIC Managers. Each member Association has two managers with each having an equal vote, even though the ownership interest and the capital investment required was based on the number of members the association had when the MichRIC was formed in May of 1996.

As an organization, MichRIC has served the Member Associations well, allowing each to maintain their own MLS and their own fee structure for the services that they provide to their members.