

Re: *Harriet Konter Leadership Scholarship –
As Written By Kathy Haddock, 2013 Georgia President*

The History goes back to around 2010 when we were in DC for a Mid-Year Meeting (now called The REALTORS® Legislative Meetings and Trade Expo). Sitting with a group of First-Time Attendees, we saw their excitement; saw a sort of "*light bulb turned on moment*" about seeing a bigger picture of what the Women's Council of REALTORS® is all about. This led to a discussion about how wonderful it would be if all the Local Members could have this experience.

With Membership down, throughout the Country due to the "*hit our industry had taken*", we discussed that the General Member would probably not have an opportunity to make the journey and experience the essence of Women's Council. Joined with a need for new leadership to step up, we started talking about a plan to make a small difference in Georgia. Most of us considered the meeting that takes place in our Nation's Capitol to be the most energizing and exciting of National meetings, and this is where we wanted to start.

It took us almost 3 years to get it done; but finally in 2013, a Task Group was asked to come together and help make this idea a reality. A group of Past Presidents of Georgia Women's Council of REALTORS® met and worked out the criteria that needed to be met to qualify for a Scholarship to send someone to Washington, DC to experience firsthand what the Council is all about. We had decided this should be someone who otherwise would not be representing their Local Chapter, someone who was excited about the Council, although who had never held an Office or Chaired a Committee, someone who could be identified as having vision, having the willingness to serve and having leadership skills. Georgia would bring that person with us to Washington. We would raise money in the form of a Scholarship, to bring them along.

We wanted this Scholarship endeavor to have a name that was synonymous with Leadership. There was only one person we could even consider to honor by naming the Scholarship for, and that was Harriet Konter. Mrs. Konter is a cornerstone of Georgia Real Estate and the Savannah Chapter, serving as President in its pioneer days. She was the first woman to serve as President of the Georgia Association of REALTORS®, and has always been a Champion of Women in our industry. She ran her own independent real estate company for many years; and to this day, she is recognized as a true leader.

This scholarship was created to recognize and rise up a shining star, and it has been named for the "*brightest of all stars in Georgia's Real Estate Galaxy*".

This Scholarship was created to inspire someone with the traits of a visionary and a leader, to follow along the steps of Women's Council of REALTORS® leaders who came before them, yet ready and willing to step off that path and help create the Council of the future. We want to give the opportunity to someone who has taken that first step, possibly without even realizing it.

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