August 27, 2012



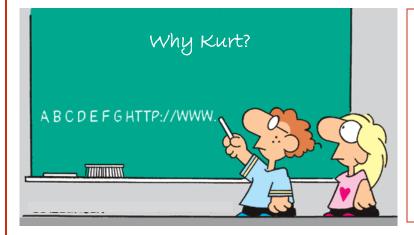
"Each generation goes further than the generation preceding it because it stands on the shoulders of that generation. You will have opportunities beyond anything we've ever known."

~Ronald Reagan

**COUNT ME A RAVING FAN** of Generation-Y. My son, Nick, is one of them, so I'm a firsthand observer. He and his A.T.O. fraternity brothers are already "lieutenants" in their industries. I shouldn't be surprised, since they're better educated, more career-focused, have restless legs, and scornful of tradition -- a throwback to the reckless 1960's without the tie-dye, "feel good now" sentiments.

**GEN-Y** members work to live rather than live to work. They're socially conscious, prefer comfort to tradition, and (obsessively) plan for their future. One criticism of this wireless group of over-achievers is their annoying impatience. "Crawling" does not appear in their vocabulary. Rather, they SPRINT through everything (except daily 12 hour sleep-ins). They're always in a hurry, yet rarely on time - expecting much of others but not of themselves. They're already more successful than most of us will ever be.

HOW TO ATTRACT these go-getters is perplexing. How do managers get GEN-Y grads to get a license and join their real estate office? How can Associates be relevant to the millions of young customers entering the marketplace? To gain confidence, allegiance and new business, it's WE who must change, not them. These "want-it-all's" talk less than they text. They're perpetually online, checking out *everything* before they call . . . properties, neighborhoods, test scores. They're less into living space than *lifestyle*; moving (relocating) to a community not a stuff-filled master closet. We must learn multiple ways of communicating with them (texting seems most preferred); nurturing a more social, less business, environment that fosters collaboration and FUN. We must know MORE than what they already know; give insight beyond Chamber of Commerce data. We must ably discuss future trends in neighborhoods, home prices, finances with them. In short, they want *competent representation*, not "safe" facilitation. If you're not trying to "totally connect" with this big, powerful, emerging group, you could find yourself obsolete or extinct fairly soon, as less than 15% of NAR members are under 40 years of age! Generation Y will be well represented at our Weichert Convention in Atlantic City. True to fashion, any meeting information will be texted, posted, and linked to an after-hours social event. Maybe YOU'LL be invited!



## **UPDATE...**

- Real estate speaker, Darryl Davis, has been added to the General Session speakers at the Weichert Convention, another reason to register before prices go up on September 1.
- Two "network" luncheons are also scheduled in Atlantic City, one for commercial brokers and agents; the other for relocation specialists. Go online to register.