

Uptown Business. Downtown Cool.

That's what you can expect to discover when more than a thousand REALTORS® from Murphy to Manteo gather in Charlotte on Oct. 5-8 – that's a Sunday to Wednesday – for the NC Association of REALTORS® Annual Convention & Expo.

The center of activity will be the Charlotte Convention Center, optimally situated amid the Queen City's vibrant and versatile central business district. The elegant Westin Charlotte is our headquarters hotel – it's located immediately across the street from the Convention Center, which will be home to 150 exhibitors who'll showcase their latest products and wares.

Plenty of business will be conducted, as many of the top instructors in the industry share their wit and wisdom during more than 20 education sessions. In today's economy, everyone's looking for a bargain – and boy, do we have one for you: Three CE courses are available for \$10 each (this includes Bill Gallagher's update course, plus two electives!) for the first 250 registered Convention attendees who sign up for the classes.

There'll be playtime as well. Attendees can "feel like a rock star" at the Opening Reception and Concert (hosted and sponsored by the Charlotte Regional REALTOR® Association) featuring The Marshall Tucker Band. And you'll have the opportunity to kick up your heels at the always popular Tuesday night Dance Party, which this year features Big Swing & The Ballroom Blasters.

Those who enjoy getting their heart beating a little faster can test their mettle at the nearby U.S. National Whitewater Center (yes, whitewater rafting just a few minutes outside the city!). Not quite that adventurous? How about a round of golf at the luxurious Ballantyne Resort during our annual tournament?

But first things first, which is the Opening Session that's set for early Sunday evening. The keynote address will be delivered by Les Brown, a renowned professional speaker, author and television personality. Born a twin in a low-income suburb of Miami, Brown's passion to learn and his quest for achievement has taken him from a hip-talking morning DJ to broadcast manager; from community activist to community leader; from political commentator to three-term legislator; and from a banquet and nightclub emcee to a premier keynote speaker.

“We are blessed to have secured Les Brown as our keynote speaker for our Opening Session,” says Wendell Bullard, the 2008 president of NC REALTORS®. “His is an amazing story, and it’s through a remarkable spirit and determination that he overcame long odds to become one of our country’s leading authorities in understanding and stimulating human potential. We are guaranteed to benefit both personally and professionally from his address to us.”

As if that’s not enough, a special treat is in store: Popular North Carolina artist William Mangum has been commissioned to create an original painting to celebrate the 2008 Convention & Expo. Special prints will be given to all attendees as keepsakes, and Mangum will hold a signing event in the Expo hall on Sunday afternoon.

Have we piqued your interest? We hope so! To learn more about the 2008 Convention & Expo and/or to register online, visit www.ncarconvention.org. If you’d prefer to speak to a staff member, please call 800-443-9956.

We look forward to seeing you in Charlotte!