



1949

W.L. Clark Jr. served as the first President of the Naples-on-the-Gulf Board of REALTORS. President Bill Clark also had served the Naples community as a Collier County Commissioner and as a Mayor of Naples.

The Naples-on-the-Gulf Board began with a membership of 13, with President, Bill Clark, leading members Robert Benson, George Huntoon, George W. Lescher, John A. Pulling, N.P. Sloan, Edwin Watson, and six Associates. Their membership meetings were held at the Bay View Inn. Interestingly, it was reported, the cost of their lunch at the Bay View Inn was one dollar per member.

One of the first membership criteria the board established was that a member was required to be a resident of Naples for one year prior to joining the Board.

According to the 1949 Collier News:

- ⑩ “On May 25, 1949 the Florida State Legislature approved a new Charter for Naples changing it from a township to a city. Naples comprised 12.03 square miles of land and 2.38 square miles of water.”
- ⑩ “REALTOR W. Roy Smith was the first official Mayor of the new city of Naples as he served as Mayor from 1946 to 1960.”
- ⑩ “The Barbara B. Mann Center for the Arts opened in Fort Myers.”
- ⑩ “This same year the first Swamp Buggy Days and Parade was held for a crowd of 4000.”
- ⑩ “REALTOR W. Roy Smith headed the new Bank of Naples with first day deposits totaling \$108,000.”
- ⑩ “REALTOR Eddie Watson headed the Chamber of Commerce”.
- ⑩ “Fort Myers contractor, J.C. McDonald was praised for providing six new Negro housing units costing six hundred dollars each. The following year he added four more units. He charged his tenants \$6.50 per month rent.”