

Pompano Forum

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NEWS

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Seminars offer opportunities for residents, boards alike

With the laws changing annually and board membership often in flux, disputes can become the norm in community associations.

Association experts say the more knowledge residents and board members have at their disposal, the more efficiently their communities will operate.

To help board members learn the intricacies of condo and community association laws and to assist them in operating dispute-free communities, officials from Kaye, Bender & Rembaum P.L. are

hosting a series of free community association education seminars.

"It's an opportunity for us to give something back to associations in the form of legal guidance to board members to help assist them with their daily operations," said Michael Bender, a partner and lawyer in the firm.

This is the fifth year Kaye, Bender & Rembaum has hosted the series. Bender said the positive feedback has encouraged the firm to continue hosting the educational seminars.

"We hope [participants] come away with some new piece of information they can utilize to improve their community and use the seminar series to learn about any legislative changes," he said.

Upcoming seminars will take place at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 12 at the Emma Lou Olson Civic Center in Pompano Beach, 1801 NE Sixth St.; 6:45 p.m. Feb. 12 at ArtServe in Fort Lauderdale, 1350 E. Sunrise Blvd.; and 6:45 p.m. March 5 at the Deerfield Beach Chamber of Commerce, 1601 E. Hillsboro

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Bender said there were few legislative changes this year that have impacted community associations, but he added that by dwelling less on the changes, the seminars will give participants an opportunity to focus on issues affecting them. Issues that often arise at the seminars include inquiries regarding foreclosures, collection matters and service animal requests.

"We want to focus on the hot topics and what others want to discuss," Bender said.

Along with discussing various changes, the seminars feature question-and-answer sessions in which any community association topic is fair game. Organizers will also use the seminars to clear up misconceptions about how boards operate and the powers they can impose.

"When you step up to serve on the board, you're taking on a huge responsibility because you're essentially running a business. There are a lot of legal nuisances and [board members] need to under-

stand the laws that govern their community," Bender said. "We're a strong proponent that board members need as much education as possible with regard to their operation and governance of their community to ensure the smooth running of their community on a daily basis."

For information, visit www.KayeBenderLaw.com. To make seminar reservations, email KBRLegalSeminar@piersongrant.com and specify which seminar, or call 954-776-1999, ext. 230.