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NEWS

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Free seminar will put focus on association issues

With another legislative session on the horizon, owners and board members who are eager to brush up on association law have a place to turn.

To help board members learn the intricacies of condo and community association law, as well as how to operate a community and avoid disputes, the Kaye, Bender & Rembaum P.L. law firm is hosting a free educational seminar. The seminar will provide a platform for residents and board members to voice concerns on

a variety of topics.

"It's always a transition to incorporate the new laws, and we want to make that transition easier and less intimidating," said Robert Kaye, a partner and lawyer in the firm.

The upcoming seminar will take place from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m. Feb. 12 at ArtServe, 1350 E. Sunrise Blvd. in Fort Lauderdale.

Kaye, Bender & Rembaum has been hosting the series for the past four years. Kaye said the firm has been encouraged by the positive feedback it

has received.

Michael Bender, a lawyer in the firm, said one of the purposes of the seminar is to help attendees stay abreast of developments in community association law. "We hope they 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," Bender said.

While Bender said there were few legislative changes in 2012 that im-

acted community associations, he added that the dearth of new laws will allow seminar participants to focus on issues currently affecting them. Issues that often arise at the seminars include foreclosures, collection of fees and service animal requests.

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

Along with discussions of legislative changes, the seminars feature a question-and-answer session

in which any community association topic is fair game. Seminar organizers will also be looking 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 [nuances], and [board members] need to understand the laws that govern their community," Bender said. "We're a strong pro-

ponent that board members need as much education as possible with regard to the operation and governance of their community to ensure the smooth running of their community on a daily basis."

For more information about condo law seminars, visit KayeBenderLaw.com. Reservation for upcoming seminars can be made by emailing KBRLegalSeminar@piersongrant.com or calling 954-776-1999, ext. 230.