

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – MARCH, 2010

Dear Members,

This month we're fortunate to have **Michael S. Bender, Esq., of Kaye & Bender, P.L.** along with representatives from **Sun Trust** to offer information, solutions and answer your questions. We're living in interesting times, and we need to help one another get through it.

Many thanks to **Community Association Institute** for again offering the Coalition a table at the **Annual Day of Education and Exposition**. The keynote speaker was the Senior Risk Manager from Fannie Mae and the information was invaluable. We truly appreciate CAI's hospitality and generosity.

We're making new friends, welcoming new members and advertisers. Welcome, **Joanne Willoughby; Hallmark Condo, Bunny Mestel, President; Devon Kings Point, Stuart Fisher, President; Sunset Springs, Jeff Lang, Manager; Comcast Cablevision, Margaret Huter; Fairways North, Inc., Csaba G. Kulin, President; Sunset Maintenance, Robert Macfie; Daniel & Joy Jacobson; Mark Simon; Barbara Graver.**

A big thank-you to **Becker & Poliakoff** for offering us a table at their annual Conference on March 6 at Signature Gardens. They always have a very large crowd, and we make new friends every time. Thanks so much, **Lisa Magill, Diana Zayas-Bazan and Jill Proietti.**

It was good to welcome **Ralph Baer**, representing **Senator Jeremy Ring**. **Ralph** introduced us to **Alan W. Berkowitz, Community Outreach Liaison, Department of Law Enforcement**. Both offered to provide any assistance that our members request, and we appreciate having them as our friends.

We're outraged to learn that **Gov. Crist** has backtracked on his promise not to veto the bills giving us extensions on elevator retrofits. We've asked him if it was safer to live under an overpass because people can't afford the assessments that these requirements would mandate than waiting for the economy to recover. We depend on **Donna D. Berger's CAN** to keep us in the loop and sound the call for action via **CAN's Capitol Connection**. **Thank you, Donna!**

Census warning from Comm. Charles Bronson: Do not disclose personal identification numbers, including Social Security, bank account, credit card or income information. Although some census surveys ask people to disclose their income, the once-a-decade count taking place next month **does not require that information**. In addition, the Census Bureau is **not** contacting anyone by e-mail or through the Internet, so any Web site disguised as a census survey is fraudulent, the press release states.

Just when we thought we may be getting a chance to do something about the County ethics, lack thereof, situation, we discover that anything we vote to approve can be easily changed by a vote of the County Commission. In a story by **Scott Wyman** in the **Sun-Sentinel**, everyone is shocked to learn about this loophole. By the time you receive this, we may end up with a solution...or not.

Well, the audit of my condo association's property management company is complete, and we're owed about \$15,000 from over/double billing. Now we have to sit down with them and see if we're going to have trouble getting repaid. We've also had our first bankruptcy, filed just before we were ready to put a lien on the unit for unpaid association fees. We consider ourselves lucky to have had only one such case. So far.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on March 12.

Charlotte

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