



Neighborhood Insider

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AN AAM PUBLICATION

How Can I Get Involved in the Legislative Process?



We are often asked by our homeowners and Board members how they can get more involved in the Legislative process, given how active our State Legislature has been in creating legislation that impacts community associations in recent years. There are several ways to become more involved in this process.

First, contacting your applicable State Representatives and Senators via e-mail or telephone is a very effective method of voicing your opinions or concerns regarding community association bills. Visit the Arizona State Legislature website at www.azleg.gov for all of the latest information on bills and their progress through both the House of Representatives and the Senate. In addition, if you are unsure of who your applicable District Representatives and Senators are, you can find this information via this website. The website includes both e-mail addresses and phone numbers for our State Legislators to allow us all to have the opportunity to contact them directly. The website provides information on current bills, the status of those bills and when the bills will be heard by the various committees in both the House and the Senate. If you are opposed to a bill or if you want to show your support for a bill, e-mailing your comments and calling are great ways to reach out to our Legislators.

A second way to get involved is to testify in person before the applicable Legislative Committees as bills are being heard by those Committees (i.e. Commerce, Government, Homeland Security and Property Rights, etc.). This process allows you to stand before the Legislative Committee members and speak out in support or opposition to a particular bill. By visiting the Arizona State Legislature website, you will find the Committee schedules and information on how to "Request to Speak."

Another way to get involved in the Legislative process is to become a part of our recently formed group of homeowners and Board members from our communities called the "Happy Homeowners." The group will be meeting on a regular basis to learn more about the Legislative process and to provide a voice of reason to our Legislators in an attempt to help facilitate responsible community association legislation. The group's second meeting will be held at AAM's corporate office, 7740 N. 16th Street, Suite 300, in Phoenix, at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2007. If you are interested in hearing more about the group or are interested in joining the group, please contact Susan Platner, AAM VP of Customer Service, at 602-288-2615 or via e-mail at splatner@aamaz.com.

The next Legislative Session starts on Monday, January 8, 2007, so visit www.azleg.gov today or let us know if you are interested in the "Happy Homeowners" group. We can all make a difference!

Amanda Shaw, President of AAM, LLC

DID YOU KNOW?

Meeting / Training Room Available at AAM

- Did you know that AAM's corporate training rooms in Phoenix and Chandler are available to you for Board meetings or continuing education? The Phoenix location, our headquarters site, seats 80. In Chandler, our East Valley office seats 10. Give us a call at 602-957-9191 to reserve a room.

CPA Services

- Each year, all communities are required to contract with a Certified Public Accountant to prepare either a compilation, an audit or a review report of their financial books. If you are uncertain which type of report is mandated for your community, check your bylaws, then contact your community manager as soon as possible for help securing the necessary professional evaluation.

Here's a quick overview of the different types of reports:

Compilation - The most basic of the three. The CPA compiles the community's cash receipts and disbursements and prepares a financial statement. The CPA does not express an opinion about the financial statements, taken as a whole.

Review - A review report is more in-depth than a compilation, yet less comprehensive than an audit. This report gives a higher level of assurance than a compilation, but does not analyze internal controls.

Audit - An audit report requires examination of the books in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards that will enable the CPA to express an opinion about the financial statements. Extensive work is performed and all appropriate disclosures are made. This report provides the greatest level of assurance.



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SERVICE SPOTLIGHT:



If you are a new Board member – or even a seasoned veteran – you won't want to miss next month's training session on compliance issues. Let's face it – nobody really enjoys being the neighborhood Rules Police. But, enforcing the community governing documents in a consistent, reasonable and prudent manner is at the heart of our goal at AAM to build stronger communities.

This valuable seminar, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., February 6 at AAM's corporate office (7740 N. 16th St., Ste. 300, Phoenix) and 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., February 27 at AAM's East Valley office (1311 W. Chandler Blvd., Ste. 130, Chandler) will help all of us reach our common goal, which is to assist residents in meeting their personal obligation to the community, and to encourage them to do their part in maintaining the integrity and value of their most important investment.

Please contact Susan Platner, splatner@aamaz.com, at least five days prior to the seminar to reserve your seat.

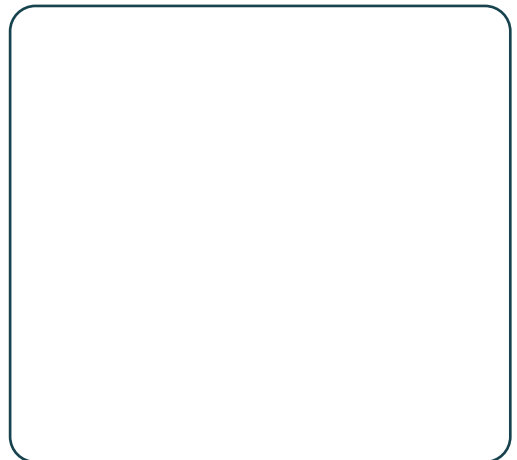
NEWS YOU CAN USE:

In accordance with the federal government's new Check Clearing for the 21st Century (Check 21) legislation, you will notice starting this month that we are using a different procedure to process your monthly association payment.

Check 21 mandates that HOA payments be converted to an electronic transfer in a one-time transaction using your check's routing, account and check numbers. From that point on, just like with a paper check, your monthly bank statement will show the payee, amount, date of transaction and check serial number. The description of "HOA Association Payment" also will be reflected on your bank statement.

Perhaps the biggest difference most people will notice is they no longer will be able to view a copy of their physical check, either online or otherwise, following payment. Once your account numbers have been obtained for processing the initial transaction, the paper check will be destroyed and all future payments will be deducted directly from your bank account.

You may also opt out of this conversion by contacting your Community Manager. Questions? Give us a call at 602-957- 9191.



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