

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT SOCIETY

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Bob Bassett
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Mary Gentile
Arleen Hunter, AICP
Bill Morris
Chris Pacitto
Peter Rossi
Past President Matt Simmons

BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Luncheon Programs:

Fort Myers Mayor Randy Henderson will be the guest speaker at the January 10th luncheon, sponsored by [Velocity Engineering Services](#).

Lee County's goals and challenges for 2017 will be presented by John Manning, Chairman of the Lee County Board of County Commissioners, at the February 14th luncheon, sponsored by [Roetzel & Andress, P.A.](#)

Lee County Port Authority will report on airport projects and related real estate opportunities at the March 14th luncheon, sponsored by [State Insurance Agency](#).

REIS welcomes your suggestions for programs. Please share your ideas with [Bev Larson](#), 239.281.1290.

Scholarship Program:

Scholarships have been awarded to 3 FGCU students. Each scholarship includes \$2,500 towards tuition and books and honorary membership in REIS for 2017. You may contribute to the scholarship program at any time at the [REIS website](#).

Membership:

All REIS memberships expire December 31st and must be renewed at the [REIS website](#). Memberships not renewed by January 6th will be offered to new members.

WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE

"Cooperative Solutions" is the theme of the annual Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference, a day-long event January 13th at Florida Gulf Coast University, co-sponsored by REIS. The conference will showcase how agencies, engineering firms, and non-profit organizations can work together on actions to improve water systems and the environment. The conference brings together researchers, managers, decision-makers, consultants, and other interested parties to discuss ongoing scientific research and innovative projects, share ideas, and increase awareness of water supply, water use efficiency, and watershed health. Registration is on the [American Water Resources Association website](#).

REIS AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Real Estate Investment Society (REIS) presented the Paul Sands Memorial – REIS Scholarship to Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) students Kayla Glover and Shannon Knaggs at the December luncheon.



REIS 2016 Scholarship Chair Bob Bassett, scholars Kayla Glover and Shannon Knaggs, REIS 2017 Scholarship Chair Mark Morris, and REIS President Amanda Brock.

COMMERCIAL OUTLOOK

The annual CCIM Commercial Real Estate Outlook Conference takes place January 19th at Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers. Keynote speakers Lawrence Yun and Brian Bailey. Details on the [CCIM website](#).



Outgoing REIS Board Members Pete Rossi and Bob Bassett were honored at the December luncheon. REIS 2016 President Amanda Brock presented both with engraved plaques.

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LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO MEET

Lee County Legislative Delegation meets January 19th to consider local bills, funding requests, and public commentary for the 2017 State Legislative Session. The meeting is from 9 to 5 in Florida Southwestern State College Nursing Building, Room AA-177. Bills must be submitted and presentations registered by January 6th with [Charlotte Codie](#). The Delegation includes Senators Lizbeth Benacquisto and Kathleen Passidomo, and Representatives Matt Caldwell, Dane Eagle, Heather Fitzenhagen, and Raymond Rodriguez.

LEGISLATORS LUNCHEON

Southwest Florida legislators will participate in a panel discussion February 1st to address the upcoming session. The Lee County Delegation will be joined by newly-elected Representatives Byron Daniels and Bob Rommel, both serving Collier County districts. The luncheon is hosted by [The Chamber of Southwest Florida](#).

BONITA BEACH ROAD PLANS

There will be a public meeting January 10th to discuss comprehensive plan amendments to implement the vision for Bonita Beach Road. The meeting begins at 5:30 pm at Bonita Springs City Hall. Review the Bonita Beach Road Visioning Study [final report](#).

REIS WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please join in welcoming our new members:

Richard Fuchs, is a Realtor with Downing Frye Real Estate in Bonita Springs.

Machelle Shirk, business banker with Achieva Credit Union, specializes in small business finance and credit.

Amjad Sitti, professional engineer, is the senior project manager with Stantec.

John Goede, attorney with Goede, Adamczyk, DeBoest & Cross, specializes in real estate development.

Richard DeBoest, attorney and co-founder of Goede, Adamczyk, DeBoest & Cross, practices community association law.

Jason Brewer, is Senior Vice President of Branch Banking & Trust Company in Fort Myers.

REIS HONORS LEE COMMISSIONERS

The Real Estate Investment Society (REIS) hosted the newly elected Lee County Board of Commissioners at a reception at Edison National Bank on December 8th. The festive holiday event allowed REIS members to spend time with their Commissioners

on an informal basis. The reception was generously sponsored by [Edison National Bank](#) and [Henderson Franklin, Attorneys at Law](#).




BONITA SPRINGS REVIEWING LDC

City staff is reviewing changes to the Land Development Code to address schematic design and amended calculations of density and intensity for multi-use planned development. They will also review LDC amendments for Planned Unit Development (PUD) and Planned Development (PD) to ensure compatibility with existing surroundings. The Local Planning Agency (LPA) will now review LDC changes prior to a hearing by City Council.

DEVELOPMENT FINANCING

Life insurance companies are becoming more active in construction financing and often preferred by developers who plan to hold the property long-term. Although the companies value the higher yield of construction-to-perm loans, insurers held just \$7 billion in construction and land development loans at the end of 2015, compared to \$400 billion in mortgages on commercial and multifamily real estate, according to the American Council of Life Insurers. Insurers also value properties more conservatively.



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