

Property Managers Network for Success

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vice and window washers and cleaning and maintenance and makes sure these beautiful looking buildings are safe — and equally important, sound.

Past the gates leading to the quiet communities such as L'Ambiance, Sanctuary and Sands Point, you'll find that someone in charge of the monumental job of juggling and coordinating all these details—the Community Association Manager. And how do these property managers find the right people or companies to do a good job while adhering to a schedule? Whether it's a gated community, or one that welcomes owners and renters with just a mailbox and a sign,

The Key to the Key

Community Association Managers (CAM) are the key to keeping Longboat Key, or Siesta or Lido Key looking the way they do. They are masters at multi-tasking and getting the job done, whether it is re-surfacing the parking lot, re-potting

the pool plants, or handling the beach re-nourishment, while working with the Board of Directors, preparing the annual budget, or welcoming owners and guests and hosting a group of fellow property managers at a monthly buffet get-together.

Yes, the Community Association Managers on Longboat Key get together one evening each month to discuss the various challenges and triumphs, share insurance update information, vendors names and engage in a couple of hours of shop talk to learn how they can do their job better and more efficiently. It is a loosely knit group with no president or chairman, no agenda or rules and regulations. There is an open, willing-to-share attitude that prevails at each meeting, and many times the group acts as a sounding board for important problem solving. Facts and figures (yes, even the kind with dollar signs) are readily shared, and questions and answers make the time fly.

All property managers on Siesta, Longboat and Lido Key are welcome to

attend these get-togethers. They meet at 5 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month in a different condo clubhouse or meeting room, and a light "finger food" buffet is provided by the host of the evening. Conversation flows around the table, with topics rapidly changing while notes are taken and names and phone numbers exchanged relating to who will do a good job for whom, and what.

The September meeting was held at



Beverly Moore of L'Ambiance with Nick Lloyd of the Sanctuary

the Sanctuary, and hosted by Property Manager Nick Lloyd. Lloyd has been the property manager at the 181-unit Sanctuary for nine years. The most prevalent topics of conversation were: wind insurance, (rates are soaring and outrageous); disaster plans, (directions vary for each county); generators and their fuel source (new requirements are unrealistic). Solutions were suggested as to

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Cheryl Fox of Seagate Club with Ed Miller of Sand Cay

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more danger. It is a rhetorical question, of course, and any serious person must certainly answer that they feel less safe. What kind of fool would feel safer now than they did on Sept. 10, 2001? It wasn't until the twin towers collapsed that we all became aware that Islamic fanatics had declared war on us. It is likely no American felt safer in 1944 than he did on Dec. 6, 1941.

If Democrats are to govern successfully, they must decide how the party views the threat from radical Islam. Christopher

Hitchens defined the choices: "You can either believe that Sept. 11, 2001, was the opening shot, or the most shockingly palpable shot, in a long war waged by Islamic fanaticism against the West. Or you can believe that it was part of a stubborn resistance to an unjust global order largely led and organized by the United States, with Britain as its servile junior partner." Hitchens might well have added Israel to the partnership because Soros and his ilk believe Israel's insistence on striking back at terrorist attacks is the cause of the conflict in the Middle East.

How the congressional Democrats deal

with the terrorist threat will largely determine the party's chance for success in the 2008 presidential sweepstakes. It will not be enough to say, "We support the war on terrorism," but then oppose every means of fighting it. If the Democrats gain control of Congress they must decide whether to continue to oppose intercepting phone calls from known terrorists, detaining persons captured on the battlefield, and even the Patriot Act, which allows the FBI and CIA to compare notes. Once the Democrats have power they will be in a position to actually kill the programs they opposed when in the minority. The question is: will they be that reckless?

Unfortunately Democrats seem to be drifting toward the George Soros gang if the current congressional campaign gives any indication. One test of Democratic seriousness will be whether they treat the threat from Islamic radicals as something akin to war or, as Soros and Michael Moore contend, something Bush dreamed up to excuse his power grab. Too many

of the old Democratic chairmen in the House are not centrists in the Clinton mold. They want to roll back Bush's tax cuts, like Soros; adopt a lower profile around the world, like Soros; and above all, take revenge on Mr. Bush and his cronies, like Soros. If the congressional Democrats chose this route there will not be a change in direction but legislative paralysis and endless political warfare.

H.L. Mencken once observed that it was difficult for a party to stay in power for more than eight years because by that time the public had forgotten the incompetence of the party out of power. Congressional Democrats might well be given the opportunity to prove that the Democrats do indeed have a better approach for governing the country. They also will have the opportunity to prove they are no better, maybe even not as good, as that the Republicans they seek to replace.

So will it be Clinton centrist governance or a continued move to the radical left with George Soros? Stay tuned.

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