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BY LAMOND WOODS
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In July we met with Senator Stuart Adams. He is currently the majority whip in the Senate. This year he carried our bill and we appreciate the favorable relationship we have with him. We anticipate that he will continue to be a champion for good community association governance and law.

More recently the topic for the September CAI luncheon was centered on Open Meetings. A panel comprised of individuals with contrasting viewpoints on the matter expressed opinion on the topic. The discussion was lively, meaningful and productive. The result was a move to the middle on several issues that both proponent and opponent could support. The question was raised, is legislation really necessary on this matter? In my opinion volunteers serving on community association boards generally are doing an outstanding job for their community. If there were no exceptions to this rule then regulation would not be necessary. However, there are exceptions and even the best intentioned boards may be called out by individuals in the community for decisions they disagree with. Often it is the action of these rogue boards and individuals that capture the attention of lawmakers who react by jumping into the fray with knee jerk legislation that is overreaching and often draconian. I believe that the Sarbanes-Oxley act of 2002 is such an example of overly burdensome law that resulted from lawmakers reacting to Enron and Worldcom.

Our desire is to bring a commonsense approach to open meeting legislation that is well vetted, not overly burdensome on boards and managers, promotes transparency and positive community involvement. We do not want the job of board members to become more difficult and more complicated than it already is. By tackling this issue now we have the opportunity to implement a sound and simple framework for meetings. Not doing so potentially leaves the door open for those less invested in the long term welfare of community associations to direct our course.

We are also working to resolve ambiguities that were a result of legislation that passed this most recent legislative session.