

## MINUTES FROM AGENT SECTION

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2011

The agent section meeting was called to order at 5:45PM in the afternoon. The primary focus of the meeting was our legislative approach for the 2011 session. We talked about the best way to make our points with the legislators. To that end, we discussed the focus of the new administration on jobs and reduction of expenditures and how our bill could further those initiatives. We also discussed the diversity of our agent section and the Association as a whole. We recognize that the primary goal is to keep everyone informed without alarming them or bombarding them with minutia. We need to save our energy for the big challenges.

We prepared our position for the upcoming UPL Hearing that will be held on Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that we were pleasantly surprised by the position taken by the RPPTL Section of the Florida Bar and that to the extent that it does not erode Cooperman and McPhee, the Agent Section will support the RPPTL's position (Attachment #1). We further agreed that someone should speak at the hearing on behalf of the Agent Section. Skip Strauss was our first choice but due to his unavailability, it was decided that Beverly McReynolds would attend and speak. Skip and Beverly will compose a letter to submit to the Committee on Friday (Attachment #2).

Rep. Reed's proposed bill was discussed. The bill would allow individuals to hire an attorney to represent them in real estate transactions and finance the cost in their mortgage. It was perceived as dangerous to the corporate agent and a windfall to attorney agents as it would encourage all purchasers to hire attorneys to handle the closing and the title insurance would naturally follow. Alan Fields met with the Representative and pointed out the issues that it would raise on the lending side (Attachment #3). We will continue to monitor this proposed piece of legislation.

It was decided that the Agent Section will begin having monthly conference calls. The first one will be on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 AM. We encourage all agent members to participate and the dial in information and Agenda will be forthcoming.

The American Land Title Association has approached our Association about the formation of a joint venture with the goal of increasing membership for both Associations. As of this time, the exact structure of that venture is not clear but the topic was briefly discussed to see if there was any interest. Everyone wanted to learn more but did not want to commit to anything at this point.

Volunteers to serve on the Lobby Committee were solicited and Joe Campoamor, Jim Moody, Rich Yankowski, Sue Geigle and Jeff Stein volunteered.

Everyone was encouraged to participate in the visits to the legislators tomorrow afternoon.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.