

Landlords of Linn County

Newsletter

January 2011

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Upcoming Events

Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month.
Social Hour at 6 pm.
Dinner and program at 7 pm.

We meet at the Clarion Hotel on 33rd Ave SW Cedar Rapids unless otherwise noted

January Members Meeting Jan 13, 2011

More details below

February Members Meeting Feb 10, 2011

March Members Meeting March 10, 2011

Tax Tips for Landlords – January 12

John Freeman CPA will talk about updates and changes to the tax code, tax tips for landlords and he'll take your questions.

Mark your calendars and make your reservations today!

6:00 p.m. Social Hour

7:00 p.m. Dinner

Reservations are required for dinner

This months menu will include:

Chicken Monteray
Parsley buttered potato
Peas with pearl onions
Salad with dressing
Rolls with butter
Beverage



Lawsuit Updates - Good news!

The lawsuit brought by the Landlords of Linn County against the City of Cedar Rapids last summer was moved to federal court. On December 9, 2010 the federal judge basically sent the case back to state court AND made comments in favor of LOLC!

By no means is this a ruling just a great decision towards our favor! The summary of the ruling is available on our website
<http://LandlordsOfLinnCounty.org>

Please help the LOLC with legal bills! Our organization has spent thousands of dollars so far to defend landlords and we need your help. If you can send a check to help our legal fund that would be much appreciated!

Mail your check to:

Landlords of Linn County
Ste 2 PMB 338
3315 Williams Blvd SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404-1478

The ruling summary is here:

4. Summary

In sum, Iowa law is unclear with respect to Plaintiffs' claims regarding Sections 364.1 and 562A.27A. Plaintiffs also offer plausible interpretations of state law that would be determinative of the case. In these circumstances, "the Pullman doctrine counsels [the court] to stay [its] hand pending an authoritative determination of the state law and city ordinance[] involved here." Robinson, 866 F.2d at 1045.

V. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- (1) The Motion (docket no. 8) is GRANTED IN PART and DENIED IN PART;
- (2) Plaintiffs' claims arising under Iowa law are REMANDED to the Iowa District Court for Linn County;
- (3) All proceedings in this case are STAYED pending final resolution of Plaintiffs' state law claims in the state courts;
- (4) The parties are directed to file a joint status report on April 4, 2011; and
- (5) The parties are directed to notify the court immediately upon the resolution of Plaintiffs' state law claims by the state courts.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 9th day of December, 2010.

Do you have time to volunteer to help?

At the beginning of every calendar year we update our board of directors and create committees for the coming year. If you are interested in becoming a board member and participating in monthly meetings OR if you can help out on a committee give any board member a call.

We need editors, newsletter helpers, article writers, website, membership and vendor helpers!

Membership Renewals Due in January 2011

Membership renewals are due in January. Landlord membership dues are \$60 per year plus \$24 for the printed version of this newsletter mailed to you. Please mail you check with a note "renewal" as soon as possible.

Landlords Day on the Hill

Save the date, we need as many landlords at the state capital in February! Here's the email from Joe Kelly our lobbyist:

The landlords' Day on the Hill will be held on Tuesday, February 15th, beginning at 10:00 a.m. We begin our meeting at the Lucas State Office Building, 321 E. 12th, in Des Moines. The Lucas Building is directly east of the Capitol and connected to the Capitol by means of a tunnel.

We'll have some issue briefings, as well as a couple of guest speakers. Then, after lunch, members will proceed to the Capitol to meet with their legislators. There are many new legislators this session, and it's important that we get to know them as quickly as possible.

It's always advisable to communicate with your Representative and Senator in advance to tell them that you are coming to the Capitol. Ask them what would be a good time for you to meet with them. The process will be much smoother if you have a general idea of the best time to call on your legislators.

Joe Kelly

Register online at:

http://landlordsoflinncounty.org/event-registration/?regevent_action=register&event_id=3&name_of_event=Landlords+Day+on+the+Hill+2011

Landlord Eviction Process Updates

In our November meeting Keith Smith did a great presentation on the eviction process for landlords and updates to the process. The entire presentation is available for download on our website <http://LandlordsOfLinnCounty.org>

2010 Executive Committee Members

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Michele Formanek

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Joe Kelly
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LinnForRent.com yard signs

All landlord members who have paid their membership are eligible to purchase LinnForRent.com yard signs!

There are large yard signs as well as 1/2 size directional signs. Signs are available at the monthly meetings. Large signs are \$10 each and small directional signs are \$8 each.

Both signs have space for you to put your phone number and it



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Landlords of Linn County

PMB 338
3315 Williams Blvd SW Ste 2
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

We want your ideas and feedback!

Our primary goal is to offer more benefits and tools to both our landlord and vendor members.

By harnessing current technologies we now offer a website for tenants to look for current properties "For Rent", and contact the owners.

Our website has become the place to find a unit for rent! Landlord members pay nothing for this service, only their annual membership!

Vendors have new opportunities to advertise not only to our landlords but to tenants visiting our

We are counting on you, our members to get the word out about our new website. We will be distributing attractive yard signs and directional signs to bring more tenants to your properties. Combine that

with newspaper advertising and our website will be connected to social network sites like Facebook and Twitter!

As always we are open to any other ideas or feedback you might have.

Send your comments/ideas to:
Membership@LandLordsOfLinnCounty.com



Do you have an idea where to host a monthly meeting?

Do you want to host a monthly meeting?