

# **COBWRA to hold night meetings to attract younger crowd**

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The Coalition of Boynton West Residential Associations is trying to reach a new, younger crowd in the community by holding night meetings, the first of which is scheduled for Nov. 30.

Ken Lassiter, president of COBWRA, said that the idea of holding night meetings had been tossed around for a few years, but no one acted on it until now.

Lassiter was elected in March during the first contested presidential election in COBWRA's 28-year-history, and one of his main campaign platforms was to create night meetings for working people and families in the community.

COBWRA normally holds its meetings at 9:30 a.m. the third Wednesday of each month at different community clubhouses.

"I'm fulfilling an election promise," Lassiter said.

He said that out of the 88 communities COBWRA represents, about 40 of them are not age-restricted to those 55 and older.

"They don't have very good representation at the Wednesday meetings," Lassiter said. "And they pay the same dues everyone else does."

Sharon Geltner knows just what Lassiter is talking about. She had wanted to get involved with COBWRA through the years, but she said that working full-time made it impossible to attend the morning meetings. It wasn't until she was laid off from her job earlier this year that she was able to step forward and help COBWRA with public relations.

In addition to making the timing convenient for those who work, the night meetings will feature topics and guest speakers that are of interest to a younger crowd.

The first night meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Nov. 30 at the West Boynton Library, 9451 Jog Road, between Boynton Beach and Gateway boulevards, and will feature guest speaker Frank Barbieri, Palm Beach County School Board member.

The library space can hold about 80 people.

"If we can fill even half of it, I'll be happy," Lassiter said.

Unlike the morning meetings, Lassiter doesn't envision the night meetings being held monthly, but rather, several times annually.

"These people are hard-pressed for time, so if we schedule too many meetings, we won't get them," he said.

Attendees will be given a survey to fill out after the meeting asking for their thoughts about the meeting and suggestions for future meetings. All COBWRA delegates and members of the community are welcome to attend and are asked to bring non-perishable food, which will be donated to The Soup Kitchen of Boynton Beach.