

Commercial Real Estate

Time to move and shake

Tonight's REBNY awards dinner is the industry's chance to wine, dine — and shmooze

THE Real Estate Board of New York represents a who's who of city real estate. If you own something in New York City or want to do business with the owners, chances are you belong.

In the last two years, and after major efforts to re-embrace the residential brokers, REBNY's membership has zoomed from 6,000 to over 9,000 strong making this year's diary and member guide an unwieldy 1,100 pages and nearly three inches thick.

Its members provide valuable insights as well as deep pockets to area policy makers.

They consist of building owners and those that service them, including residential and commercial brokers and managers, financial service companies, title companies, lawyers, accountants, architects, bankers, utilities and media.

REBNY is involved in crucial municipal matters including tax policy, city planning and zoning, rental conditions, land use policy, building codes and legislation.

In addition, REBNY publishes reports providing indicators of market prices for both the residential and commercial sectors.

Its goals are to unite those interested in real estate and the welfare of the city and state, facilitate negotiations, maintain the highest ethical standards, promote just laws and public improvements, and create a healthy economy thus generating jobs and equitable taxes.

REBNY's 110th annual banquet tonight provides a celebratory opportunity for 2,800 participants at the Hilton Hotel & Towers to briefly honor a select few of the membership and to spend their time meeting and greeting each other and public officials.

The members pay \$800 a seat for the privilege of mingling at what is often referred to as The Liar's Ball. Even those without tickets



AND THE WINNERS WERE: At last year's gala, from left to right: William Thompson, NYC Comptroller; Shaun Donovan, HPD Commissioner; Stephen Ross, The Related Companies, winner of the Harry B. Helmsley Distinguished New Yorker Award; Mayor Michael Bloomberg; Howard Rubenstein, Rubenstein Associates; Steven Spinola, REBNY President.

Steve Friedman

mingling in their tuxes at the many before and after parties hosted throughout the Hilton Hotel.

Tonight, Mayor Mike Bloomberg and most city elected officials will be on hand, as well as many from state and federal governments.

Steven Spinola, president of REBNY, is being honored this year with the Bernard H. Mendik Lifetime Leadership in Real Estate Award for his 20-years of service to the group.

"It's an opportunity for the smallest broker to be in the same room with some of the largest builders, owners, brokers and financial institutions all in the same room making the contacts, possibly making a deal, and it's

a wonderful opportunity for the industry to gather in one room and make the contacts and leads for future transactions," said Spinola.

"The board is the voice and lobby for the real estate industry," added Spinola. "We stand for a healthy City of New York, a healthy economy, and the ability to build and sell our real estate — whether a lease or co-op, condo or rental — in a professional manner and with the highest standards of ethics, making the city healthier and generating jobs and taxes."

REBNY and its members embrace the city, its people, and its businesses, all of whom are sheltered by real estate.

-Lois Weiss

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