

May 2014 Eblast

Welcome to NMHOA's May 2014 Eblast. Please share these monthly Eblasts with as many home owners and other interested individuals as you have on your email list. The Eblast is an important way for NMHOA to share exciting news from across the country.

Welcome and Thank You – NMHOA is very pleased to welcome **Oceanside Home Owners Association** in California and **Columbia Park Homeowners/Tenants Association** in Ohio, as our most recent home owners' associations to join NMHOA. NMHOA also welcomes new individual members from California and Washington.

Issues at the National level – NMHOA staff have been working on issues at the federal level that could have significant impact on the lives of manufactured home owners. Letters from NMHOA have been sent to congressional committee chairs to try to prevent the RV industry from getting support for legislation that would exempt RVs and park model homes from building codes. If passed this type of legislation could result in inferior products coming onto the market which would not benefit consumers and could devalue existing manufactured homes in communities if sub-standard models were sited beside them. Additionally, NMHOA has been working to ensure that amendments to H.R. 1779 and S. 1828 do not move forward since these amendments would also have a negative impact on consumers trying to finance manufactured home purchases. NMHOA staff have been involved in conversations with energy efficiency advocates and industry representatives with a goal of having manufactured homes held to the same energy efficient standards as site built homes. All of this "behind the scenes" work will benefit manufactured home owners now and in the future.

Consumer Concerns - The National Manufactured Home Owners Association (NMHOA) is interested in hearing from people who have recently purchased manufactured/mobile homes. We would like to hear about the process you had to go through to get financing; what did your loan package look like; and what has been your experience since getting the loan – has it stretched you financially, are you worried you might lose your home through repossession/foreclosure; and what were you told when you signed the paperwork to purchase your home. Please email NMHOA Executive Director, Ishbel Dickens, at: ishbel@nmhoa.org with your home purchase experience. All information will be kept confidential.

Last words for May – On Tuesday May 13, NMHOA Executive Director, Ishbel Dickens, President Tim Sheahan, and VP Carla Burr, attended the stockholder meeting of Equity Lifestyle Properties, Inc. (ELS) in Chicago. Ishbel made a statement asking that ELS consider rethinking its business practices especially in light of the large number of baby boomers retiring every day. The options to support "aging in place" are many and NMHOA is hopeful that ELS might see a way to altering some of its business practices to support seniors, either through long-term leases, rent caps, or reduced rents for heirs trying to sell the homes of their deceased loved ones – all practices that ELS engages in on an ad hoc basis and ones NMHOA hopes they will adopt company-wide. ELS regional VPs have been invited to attend the NMHOA Annual Convention to be held in Seattle in November. We hope to continue the conversation around "aging in place" with them at that time. If you would like more details about this please contact Ishbel at: ishbel@nmhoa.org

You can read about all about NMHOA at the NMHOA webpage: www.nmhoa.org and please check out our facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/NationalManufacturedHomeOwnersAssociation>

If there are stories from your state that you would like to share through the Eblast, please contact NMHOA Executive Director, Ishbel Dickens at: ishbel@nmhoa.org – your story will inspire others.