



NMHOA Across America

Special Convention Issue

www.nmhoa.org

www.nmhoa.org

October 2014 Edition

206.851.6385



Message from NMHOA President Tim Sheahan

It's been a busy few months preparing for our annual convention and completing a few other major projects, our website and new educational e-blast network.

Website

We recently completed a total overhaul of our NMHOA website and I want to personally express my appreciation to those who were involved in the project, especially NMHOA's longtime friend Francisca Blanc from Utah, who constructed a whole new website for us at no charge! We are thrilled with the result and encourage you to check it out at www.nmhoa.org. We will continue to develop the website into a more effective means of informing and educating homeowners and advocacy groups and welcome suggestions on how to make our website more effective.

i'mPOWERED!

Another exciting development has been the release of our new educational e-blast network we call **i'mPOWERED!**, a name that combines the three words I-am-empowered. Our goal is for this educational tool to empower homeowners to help themselves through the knowledge and confidence they gain. Each installment of **i'mPOWERED!** will feature an informative article, an interesting "fun fact" about manufactured housing and an opportunity to ask our Executive Director, Ishbel Dickens, a question about manufactured home living. Do you have a burning question you would like answered? Initially, **i'mPOWERED!** will be circulated on a monthly basis but we hope to increase the frequency as we add volunteers to assist with the effort. All of our members on the NMHOA E-mail contact list receive **i'mPOWERED!** automatically and past installments can be found archived on the NMHOA website. Join us and become **i'mPOWERED!**

Convention

I have attended every NMHOA convention for over a decade and strongly encourage representatives from each state to join us in Seattle. From Florida to Washington State and New Hampshire to Utah, each NMHOA convention has had its own unique character and focus that made it worth attending. I learn something new at each convention and always get to meet new people with new perspectives who join our growing network of homeowners and advocates.

Today, we are very fortunate that NMHOA has funds available to help underwrite most of the costs for several people to attend our convention—in the early years, state groups and individuals had to pay their own way, which was often a heavy burden. Don't miss this chance to gain knowledge and meet with your counterparts from across the country. Not only will it be informative, it will be entertaining and enjoyable, especially for those who can stay a few extra days to enjoy the sights of Seattle. We will have very nice accommodations at the **Hyatt at Olive 8**, so there will be no excuse for going sleepless while in Seattle--I hope to see you there!

Tim Sheahan, President.

Table of Contents

President's Message	P.1
From Where I Sit	P.2
Save the Date – NMHOA Convention	P.2
Convention Agenda.....	P.3
MHOA – NJ - Convention	P.4
Convention Registration form	Attached
Membership/renewal Form	Attached

NMHOA Annual Convention – Seattle

November 13-15

Hyatt at Olive 8

From Where I Sit

NMHOA Executive Director Ishbel Dickens

How I wish the NMHOA Annual Convention was taking place NOW! Seattle is beautiful at this time of year – the trees are beginning to change color, the sun is still shining, and the sky is blue.

However, regardless of the possibility of grey skies in mid-November, our Annual Convention – ***Banding Together for Change*** – will bring the warmth of meeting new and old friends, the opportunity to move forward with bold new ideas, and the reassurance that we are all under the same umbrella!

As you can tell from other articles in this special Convention edition of *NMHOA Across America* the NMHOA board and staff are very proud of all the work that has gone in to making sure that the 2014 Convention is even better than the one we held in Denver last year – indeed the goal is to get bigger and better every year and we seem to be accomplishing that!



NMHOA is especially grateful to our sponsors, CFED and NeighborWorks America, without whose support it would be impossible to provide travel stipends and accommodation to NMHOA members. We are also very fortunate to have advertisers who support our mission and we encourage you to check out their websites to find out more about the work that is being done in different arenas to support manufactured housing living.

Be sure to review the Agenda for the Convention on P.4. NMHOA appreciates the time and talents of all of our presenters and I know that the wealth of information you will acquire and the opportunity to share experiences with each other are the two key ingredients to a successful Convention – we have been able to provide plenty of both!

I encourage you to register for the Convention at: [www: http://www.nmhoa.org/convention.html](http://www.nmhoa.org/convention.html) and I look forward to seeing you at the Hyatt at Olive 8 in downtown Seattle next month.

NMHOA Annual Convention – coming soon!

Rita Loberger, Chair, NMHOA Convention Committee.

November 13th is just around the corner and then it's off to the Emerald City for a great weekend with new friends and old acquaintances. NMHOA's Annual Convention will take at the classy Hyatt at Olive 8 in downtown Seattle and as Chair of the Convention Committee I encourage you to complete the Convention Registration form (at the end of this newsletter) and come to Seattle for a great two days of inspiration, education, and fun!

The Convention Committee has been hard at work preparing the agenda and identifying speakers from all across the country who are generously donating their time to bring you the most up-to-date information on a whole range of issues related to manufactured housing. This will be my fourth convention and every year the quality and content of the program just keeps getting better and better! The information you will obtain will be invaluable for you to take back and share with your state and individual home owners' associations.

The Convention wraps up with NMHOA's Annual Meeting – every state represented has a vote and you will have an opportunity to run for board positions as well as vote for the next group of NMHOA leaders. Your input at the Annual Meeting is valuable to us.

Let's meet in Seattle.

NMHOA Annual Convention Agenda - Banding Together for Change

Thursday November 13

3pm on – Registration

5pm – CFED Reception

Friday November 14

8am – Welcome and Introductions – Tim Sheahan, NMHOA President

8:30 – State Associations/Presidents' Club – Kylin Parks, Lori Dibble, NMHOA Board Members

10:30 – Work at the Federal Level – Doug Ryan, CFED; Carolyn Carter & John Van Alst, National Consumer Law Center; Ishbel Dickens, NMHOA.

Noon – Lunch/Keynote Address

1pm – Diversity – Paulette Cross, Utah home owner.

2:45pm - Aging in Place in ELS communities – Andree Tremoulet, Portland State University; Brenda Jose, Unlimited Choices.

4:00pm – Alternative Dispute Resolution – Ishbel Dickens, NMHOA

5:00pm – Adjourn

Saturday November 15

8:30am – Welcome/debrief from Friday – Tim Sheahan, NMHOA President

9:00 – Fundraising – Ishbel Dickens, Tim Sheahan, NMHOA

10:30am – NMHOA ANNUAL MEETING

Noon – Adjourn

As you can see the NMHOA Convention Committee has been able to bring together a wonderful mix of topics and presenters. We strive to provide a broad-ranging agenda that has something for everyone – home owners who are just starting to organize within their community or state, as well as experienced home owners who are looking to make manufactured housing living as comfortable, safe, and secure as possible for all manufactured home owners.



The presenters are very interested in hearing from you, so be sure to bring your questions and insights with you to the Convention – this is a great group learning experience and you all have much to offer. If you have questions right now regarding Convention logistics, please contact Ishbel Dickens at: ishbel@nmhoa.org

NMHOA Convention – Presenters

NMHOA is indeed fortunate to be connected to so many excellent national partners. You will learn a lot of valuable information from Doug Ryan, CFED's Director of Affordable Housing Initiatives, who along with Carolyn Carter and John Van Alst of the National Consumer Law Center, will present on federal and national activities related to manufactured housing at their Friday morning session. Dr. Andree Tremoulet and her co-presenter Ms. Brenda Jose will enthrall you with ideas about making manufactured housing communities great places to "age in place". Dr. Paulette Cross will allow us to deepen our understanding of diversity as it relates to living in manufactured housing communities – we're all in this together! In addition to these national experts, NMHOA also has a wealth of expertise within its ranks. Both Kylin Parks and Lori Dibble are expert community organizers with lots of great ideas to share, and NMHOA President, Tim Sheahan, is well-known for his creative mind and will provide useful insights into fund-raising. Ishbel Dickens, NMHOA Executive Director, has been working with manufactured home owners for more than 27 years and is always available to share her experiences and her knowledge of what is happening in other states, that might also work in yours – including how to work with the Attorney General to establish a mechanism to enforce your state's manufactured/mobile home landlord tenant act – after all there is no point having an Act if nobody enforces it! Come and hear all of them speak at the convention, join in the conversation, and go home laden with new ideas.

MHOA – NJ – New Jersey State Convention Coming Soon

Lori Dibble, East Region, VP.

New Jersey's Manufactured Home Owners Association will hold their Annual Meeting and Convention on October the 18th. NJ will welcome homeowner and State groups from both Delaware and New York to their meeting.

We will have a chance to discuss legislative strategies, tips and what works with several board members from Delaware Manufactured Homeowners Association. Delaware has had a very successful legislative team for the last several years and New Jersey hopes to learn from our neighbors. New York home owners are coming to talk with us about forming a state organization and New Jersey would like to extend a helping hand to our northern neighbors.

Connie Pascale, senior Vice President of Legal Services of New Jersey will speak about his 25 years of advocating for manufactured home owners in New Jersey and ways to increase legal representation of home owners in land lease communities in the future.

The meeting is hosted by the Brighton at Barnegat HOA in Brighton, NJ. The election of officers and appointment of non-elected board members will also be on the agenda.

So MHOA-NJ will have a mini regional version of NMHOA's meeting in Seattle. These meetings are invaluable and increase opportunities for collaboration and involvement with our home owners. We will also be distributing membership forms for NMHOA and recruiting members to come to NMHOA's Annual Convention in Seattle!

News Items?

If you have news items from your state or HOA that may be of interest to other readers and could be included in *NMHOA Across America* please forward them to Ishbel Dickens at: ishbel@nmhoa.org All items will be considered.

If you have found value and items of interest in this newsletter, please pass it on to your neighbors and friends. Spread the word about NMHOA. Thank you!

Why does NMHOA need my email address?

We often have important information on issues that affect manufactured home owners. Getting out a NMHOA Alert is the fastest way for us to notify you of items that may need your immediate attention.