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**July-August 2019 i'mPOWERED! NMHOA's Educational Network**

1 message

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**National Manufactured Home Owners Association** <admin@nmhoa.org>  
Reply-To: National Manufactured Home Owners Association <admin@nmhoa.org>  
To: david.r.anderson.nmhoa@gmail.com

Fri, Aug 23, 2019 at 10:03 AM

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## **i'mPOWERED! July-August 2019**



**NMHOA's President  
Gary Miller  
welcomes you to  
i'mPOWERED!**

Welcome to  
NMHOA's  
educational series,  
i'mPOWERED! As  
they say,

“knowledge is power”, inspiring us to  
create a distinctive service which  
combines the three words I-Am-  
Empowered.

The goal of i'mPOWERED is to inform  
and educate so you have the tools to  
help yourself in dealing with the unique  
circumstances of manufactured home  
living. We hope you find the articles  
valuable and welcome your questions  
and suggestions for future articles.

As a Member, you have  
access to more resources.  
Archives for i'mPOWERED! are  
kept on [NMHOA's website](#).

Log in to **i'mPOWERED!** from  
the main menu using the  
password: **MHO2000\***

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## FEATURED ARTICLE:

### **Why people don't get involved and how to get people involved with your association**

In everyday life, people develop methods for coping with difficult situations that often fall short of actually resolving the underlying issue. If it works, and they're able to manage the situation, they may be content to continue using the same coping method indefinitely. You may be someone who isn't comfortable just managing a bad situation. You may want to resolve it once and for all, but you realize you need the help of others. You've tried convincing other people to act, but it doesn't seem to work. So, how can you get people involved with your community or state association?

There are six things that usually come together to get people to take action:

- First, people come to realize they have a problem and not just a bad situation that develops from time to time.
- Second, the problem begins to produce severe challenges in their day-to-day life.
- Third, an event occurs that dramatically illustrates that the problem is not just one facing them but their entire community or state and that there is an urgent need for action.
- Fourth, a solution to this problem emerges, word of this solution spreads throughout your community or state, and it is embraced by many people.
- Fifth, a decision-making body (a city council, state legislature, etc.) appears to be at least somewhat open to the change and is willing to give your proposed solution a hearing.
- Sixth, once people come to believe that they have a solution that can solve their problem, that other people will support it, and that a decision-making body will give it a hearing, they become willing to do what needs to be done including joining your association.

More than likely you are asking other manufactured home owners to become involved just after number three has happened. Some event that has dramatically escalated the problem. However, because you couldn't get them involved earlier, they may not be as ready as you to make the jump to numbers four, five, and six. They don't know there is a credible solution to their problem and may be prepared to descend into cynicism and despair. They may not believe the city council or state legislature will take them seriously. And, therefore, they are not prepared to do what is necessary, including joining your association.

Events may have opened up an opportunity to shake people out of their coping methods and resolve the problem once and for all, but you need to be prepared to meet that moment.

Here are some basic steps:

- Do your research, understand the nature of the problem, and how the proposed solution will resolve this problem.
- Develop a clear, concise message that explains the solution, relates it to people's real lives rather than theoretical situations, and avoids using jargon and technical terms.
- Engage people in real conversations about their problems and this possible solution, be open to changing the proposal based on people's concerns, and share decision making.
- Develop trust by being willing to share what impact this problem or another problem like it had on you, your concerns about first getting involved, and what finally made the difference for you.
- Once they have decided to become involved, offer and expect accountability for anything people commit to do balanced against a realistic understanding that everyone falls short.
- Promote an environment of mutual support that celebrates successes, evaluates failures, and learns lessons on both the individual and group levels.

I hope this provides you with some useful tips for feeling more I'mPOWERED to make change in your community and your state!

NMHOA is here to help you inform, empower, and engage manufactured home owners in the decisions that affect their lives that are being made at the local, state, and federal levels. Please do not hesitate to contact us at: [admin@nmhoa.org](mailto:admin@nmhoa.org)

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## **DID YOU KNOW? ...**

National Manufactured Home Owners Association (NMHOA) at the national level on federal policy initiatives, safety, design, and energy efficiencies of new manufactured homes, as well as providing a variety of resources to our state and local affiliates and to individual members, including guides to organizing your community, forming home owner associations, running an effective board, and many other topics.

You can find these resources both these i'mPOWERED! messages and on our web site at:  
<http://www.nmhoa.org/resources.html>

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## **Ask Dave**

***Q: How do we avoid bad meetings that leave people feeling either bored or frustrated, and don't seem to result in any action taking place?***

A: Think about all the meetings you have attended in your life: school meetings, family meetings, work related meetings, church meetings, and community meetings. That's a lot of meetings! Most of your neighbors have probably been to a similar number of meetings.

Think of some of the worst meetings you have attended. What made them so bad? Where they unorganized? Boring? Did they seem to go on and on without accomplishing anything? Maybe there were polarizing differences between people at the meeting. Maybe there were people who monopolized the meeting and did all the talking. Maybe people got side tracked and talked endlessly about issues that weren't related to the meeting.

These are some ideas of things to avoid when you are organizing meetings for your community. If your meetings are boring, unorganized, and a place where only a few people do all the talking, then people aren't going to come or certainly aren't going to come back.

## Steps to Pulling Off an Effective Meeting

- STEP 1: Why are you having a meeting? You never want to have a meeting just for the sake of having a meeting. Before calling a meeting, take some time to think about what you want to accomplish. What should the meeting look like? Who should be there? What needs to happen for the meeting to be successful?

- STEP 2: Hold a meeting to plan the meeting. Planning the meeting ahead of time will greatly increase its likelihood of success. It's well worth the time to have a "pre-meeting" with your leaders. At the pre-meeting, brainstorm goals and think about the actions necessary to achieve them. At the pre-meeting you should also decide things like: the date, time and location of the meeting; agenda; ground rules; who's invited to the meeting; and roles in the meeting and who play them (i.e. facilitator, presenters, timekeeper, note-taker, enforcer of ground rules, etc.).

- STEP 3: Follow the plan when you do hold the meeting. Share the agenda at the beginning of the meeting, ask for any changes people want to make, and then stick to it. This will keep the meeting focused, on schedule, and organized. Share the ground rules at the beginning, ask for any changes, and then enforce them. Ask everyone to approve the ground rules by a show of hands. It is easier to enforce the ground rules if everyone agreed to them. Some examples of meeting rules might be: stay on agenda; one person speaking at a time; give everyone a chance to speak; turn off cell phones; etc. Encourage everyone to participate by conducting the meeting in a way that requires participation, such as: asking everyone to introduce and say something about themselves; when new topics are introduced, invite people to ask questions and share their opinions; generate ideas through group brainstorming; call for a vote when making decisions; etc.

- STEP 4: Evaluate how the meeting went? Before you end the meeting, conduct a quick evaluation of how your meeting went. This will allow you to identify any concerns or frustrations people might have and identify changes you can make for the next meeting. In addition to identifying and solving problems, this will also demonstrate to the people at the meeting your openness and willingness to change, which will

encourage people to come back.

If you want to learn more about these strategies, you can contact me at [202-800-9795](tel:202-800-9795) or [david.r.anderson.nmhoa@gmail.com](mailto:david.r.anderson.nmhoa@gmail.com).



## National Manufactured Home Owners Association

*The mission of the National Manufactured Home Owners Association (NMHOA) is to promote, represent, preserve, and enhance the rights and interests of manufactured home-owners throughout the United States.*

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