

# MHOAA Across America

[www.mhoaa.us](http://www.mhoaa.us)

March 2011 Edition

603/520-0955

The MHOAA Newsletter now has a new name. Many names were submitted to the executive board for a vote and the vote was unanimous. Thanks to each one who submitted a name. This name was chosen because it clearly states that MHOAA is national rather than local. MHOAA also represents the multitude of manufactured home residents that are not members that don't even know we exist. That includes those who support us with their yearly membership dues and their donations. We thank them for their much needed support.

---

## Manufactured Home Owners Association of America (MHOAA) Annual Report 2010

### MISSION

MHOAA's mission is to promote, represent, preserve, and enhance the rights and interests of manufactured home owners throughout the United States.

MHOAA is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization with an 11 member board consisting of manufactured home owners from across the country. The board is elected at MHOAA's Annual Convention which is typically held in September or October.

### MHOAA Facts

In September MHOAA held a very successful national convention in Salt Lake City attended by members from 20 different states.

In November MHOAA hired its first ever executive director, Ishbel Dickens, who comes to MHOAA with more than 23 years of experience working with and for manufactured home owners.

Throughout the year MHOAA members worked hard to ensure stronger protections for manufactured home owners, including successful policy changes in Utah and local zoning ordinances in Washington. MHOAA also worked with its national partners to ensure that the voice of manufactured home owners was heard regarding Duty to Serve and the need for National Housing Trust Fund dollars to be available to help manufactured home owners, as well as other low income households.

### MHOAA Numbers Revenue: \$49,340.06

Grants 50%, Memberships/individual donations 20%,  
Carry over/Convention 30%

Expenses: \$43,885.55

Convention – 75%    Staff – 20%    Other – 5%

### Donors:

**Diamond (\$25,000 and above)** CFED

**Gold (\$1,000 - \$4,999)** Markus Krueger and Ishbel Dickens, ROC USA

**Silver (\$100 - \$999)** Paul Bradley, Carolyn Carter, Stacey Epperson, Bill and Alexis Laing, Michael Sloss, Carol Wayman, Next Step, Pathstone Corporation, Rural Community Assistance Corporation, Utah Housing Coalition

**Bronze (\$50 - \$99)** Sheila Crowley, Florence Roisman, Karen and Bernie Tetreault

**MHOAA President** Lois Parris      33 Tee Dee Dr, Belmont NH 03220      603.520.0955

**MHOAA Staff** Ishbel Dickens, Executive Director      [ishbel@mhoaa.us](mailto:ishbel@mhoaa.us)  
 PO Box 22346, Seattle WA 98112-0346      206.851.6385      [www.mhoaa.us](http://www.mhoaa.us)

### **About Us Board of Directors**

Lois Parris, (NH) President	Tim Sheahan, (CA) First VP
Russ McPherson, (OH) Secretary	Sandy Boone, (MN) Treasurer
Steve Anderson, (UT) West Area VP	Dot Sliney, (RI) Northeast Area VP
Ed Speraw, (DE) Southeast Area VP	Terry Nelson, (IL), Midwest Area VP
Kylin Parks, (WA), At large	Ron Feinstein, (AZ), At large
Rose Stone, (MA), At large	Dave Anderson (APAC, non-voting)
Paul Bradley (ROC USA, non-voting)	

An invitation was extended to State Presidents to submit articles that might be of interest to others. Here are some:

### **Highlights of a Recent AMHO (WA) Leadership Training:**

Don Carlson, Director of Legislation hosted and led this AMHO Leadership Training event and did a great job!. He presented information on how to communicate with legislators, our legislative priorities for the upcoming session, communicating legislative issues with your communities, and the importance of getting as many home owners as possible committed to attending Lobby Day on January 20!

This year's legislative priorities:

- Revisions of 59.20 – tree responsibilities and rent receipts for tenants who pay by cash or money order
- Rent stability – we will go for it even though we know we still have lots of work to do to ever get it passed - lots of statistics to gather
- Two-year park closure - going to try again
- Manager Training Bill - (landlord's bill) – we will support it if they concede to the important objections we had to their original bill

Please work with your communities on the importance of stepping up in whatever way they can to support these issues (phone calls and e-mails to their legislators, make appointments to talk to them and attend Lobby Day)

We need all the help we can get from our homeowners as we do not have the funds to pay lobbyists  
 HINT: when talking to your legislators, learn to ask the right questions – be succinct and to the point. Then WAIT and LISTEN for their answer. Ask it a second time if they talk around it. Complete the conversation with “Did I hear you say you will support bill#..? And again wait for an answer!

Be sure to start putting together your community carpools for Lobby Day soon. Parking will be at a premium due to the construction work still going on at the Capitol. The legislators are also crammed into even smaller spaces this year as well. We are really counting on our community leaders to do their best for us. Numbers show them our unity and our votes.

*Submitted by, Jo Parkening - AMHO President, WA - assisted by Joyce Squier*

**Changes?** - Please inform MHOAA when you have a change in snail or e-mail address or phone number so we can keep you up-to-date with MHOAA information. **You are important to MHOAA.**

**Question:** What are you doing to make sure bills pass? Working together to pass the bills now in front of the legislature will show our elected officials that manufactured home owners are a serious force in state politics and build the reputation they need to start the fight for the passing of such.

## **RENT ADJUSTMENT – PROPOSED LEGISLATION 2011 in WASHINGTON (and other states)**

Reasons to support this proposed legislation:

- Home owners should not be forced to abandon their homes simply because the landlord has raised their rent to unacceptably high levels.
- Many community owners provide little in the way of amenities yet they raise lot rents every year, often more than the cost of living increase.
- Home owners are required to take care of their homes; some have mortgages over and above the lot rent, yet they constantly face rent increases they can ill afford.
- This proposed legislation encourages fair bargaining between the home owners and the landlord so that everyone receives a fair return on their investment.
- Community owners are allowed to raise rents annually but are required to justify the amount of increase and the Dept. of Commerce will determine whether or not the increase is justified.
- Home owners are given an opportunity to challenge the proposed rent increase.

This proposed legislation is very similar to Seattle's floating home ordinance. If floating home owners are entitled to a rent stabilization process, then should the state's 70,000 manufactured homeowners not be entitled to the same process?

*This Washington proposed legislation (bill number not assigned as yet) is presented by the Association of Manufactured Home Owners (AMHO) and the Manufactured Home Owners of America (MHOA).*

**Mold and Winter Sniffles** - In the winter, indoor mold spores can cause sneezing, running noses and allergic reactions. Mold spores are found in all homes either floating in the air or in dust. The spores grow indoors when they collect on wet surfaces. Mold will begin to grow in dampness within 24 to 48 hours.

To reduce the effects from mold, start by reducing the moisture in the home by keeping indoor humidity between 30% and 50%. Use an exhaust fan during a bath or shower. Clean areas under refrigerators and washing machines where dust and moisture collect. If moisture collects on windows or walls the humidity in your home is too high.

Outside the home reduce dampness by cleaning gutters of leaves. Look under your house for leaks and puddles. Check the vents in your home's skirting so they allow fresh air to circulate and dry the crawl space. The ground should slope away from your foundation/skirting so that water does not collect near the house. These are suggestions from the EPA to make your home healthier in the winter.

*Jim Demitrus- AMHRO*

**Do you have anything that would be of interest to other MHOAA Members? We want to know. Send us your newsletter or legislative items via e-mail. We reserve the right to edit items submitted to MHOAA for publication.**

Send them to [R.Pherson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:R.Pherson@sbcglobal.net)

Please put on Subject Line: MHOAA News

**Organizing** - When planning an event, the amount of planning determines the results. Washington just had a Senior Lobby Day in Olympia. There were many e-mail reminders sent. Each one gave the day, giving the date and time, location of where to park, lunch provisions, a link where to register, requesting that each one make appointments with their legislators hand outs, talking points, etc. The result was that over 500 people participated.

**Furnaces and Faucets** - Our furnaces have been running full-time for several months by now. It's a good idea to check the filter at least once a month to see how much dust it's collecting. The more the dust builds up in the filter, the harder and the hotter the blower motor runs, shortening its life. Your home will stay cleaner and the furnace will work better by changing the filter more often.

Many of us have well water in our communities. The water comes from ground usually high in mineral content, iron or limestone. Those with iron know it; there are rust stains on the faucets, sinks and tubs. If the well is drilled in limestone there is a white deposit around the faucets. The small screen filters on the faucets will collect crystals. It's especially noticeable in showerheads where they will get clogged or the spray from some holes will shoot off sideways. The hot water tank will get a buildup of enough crystals in the bottom to plug the drain valve. For those tanks heated by gas, the layer of crystals in the bottom will also act as an insulator, causing the tank to take longer to heat water.

The hotter the tank is set, the more limestone crystals will be formed. It is best to keep the tank at about 115 degrees or water that is hot to the touch but won't burn your hand.

Most major faucet manufacturers have a lifetime warranty on their products. For those of us with high mineral content well water; our faucets fail sooner. Usually the faucet cartridges get clogged with mineral deposits or start to leak or will not work at all.

If you are the original owner of your home or you purchased a replacement and sent in the registration card for a sink, tub or shower faucet, the manufacturer will send you a replacement part or complete faucet free of charge. American Standard and Moen are examples of some of the companies that offer the lifetime warranty on their residential faucets. *Jim Demitrus*

### **SAVE THE DATE - MHOAA CONVENTION - WASHINGTON, DC - OCTOBER 20-22**

The MHOAA Board has decided to hold the 2011 Convention in Washington, DC. The board wanted to provide members the opportunity to meet with their elected officials, as well as to provide the high quality presentations and networking opportunities that you have all come to expect and enjoy.

Staff is currently researching accommodation options and we will have much more information to share either in the next newsletter or via the monthly E-blasts.

Please start saving now. Unfortunately, we are probably not in a position to provide scholarships this year for the Convention. Consider sending at least 2 members to represent your state at this important annual event.

We hope to see as many of you as possible in DC in October!

**Identification?** Question: Do you have a dress code for when your organization goes to visit you legislators? Many states have a T-shirt with their logo and quote that they wear when they visit their capital. Utah is even known as the "Banana Brigade" due to the bright yellow color of the shirt. Can you imagine what a sea of yellow does when they march from the parking lot to the statehouse? Everyone notices! The same is true when they attend a hearing for all the legislators take notice. Even television and newspaper reporters take note; especially, when they carry banners. For confirmation, contact Steve Anderson at 801/230-8362.

**Please send all articles for newsletter and comments to: [R.Pherson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:R.Pherson@sbcglobal.net)**

**MHOAA**

Manufactured Home Owners Association of America  
United We stand Strength In Numbers

**Board of Directors**

**Lois Parris, President**

Manufactured Home Owners & Tenants  
Association of New Hampshire

**Ishbel Dickens, Executive Director**

**Tim Sheahan, First Vice President**

Golden State Manufactured Home  
Owners League

**Sandy Boone, Treasurer**

All Parks Alliance for Change

**Russ McPherson, Secretary**

Association of Manufactured Home  
Residents in Ohio

**Dot Slaney- N East Area Vice Pres**

Federation of Rhode Island  
Mobile Home Owners

**Ed Speraw- S East Area Vice Pres**

Delaware Manufactured Home Owner  
Association

**Terry Nelson- Mid West Area Vice Pres**

Mobile Home Owners Association  
of Illinois

**Steve Anderson- West Area Vice Pres**

Utah Manufactured Homeowners  
Action Group

**Ron Feinstein- At-Large Member**

Arizona Manufactured Home Owner &  
R.V. Association

**Kylin Parks- At-Large Member**

Association of Manufactured Home  
Owners

**Rose Stone- At-Large Member**

Massachusetts Federation of Mobile  
Home Owners

**Paul Bradley- Honorary Director**

ROC USA™

**Dave Anderson- Honorary Director**

All Parks Alliance for Change

2501 Lowry Avenue NE, # I-27 St. Anthony, MN 55418

Phone 612-782-6813 [membership@mhoa.us](mailto:membership@mhoa.us) www.mhoa.us

**Membership Form**

**New Membership**       **Renewal**  
Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Web site <http://> \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership (check one):**

\$150 for State Membership

\$75 for first-time State Membership

**Annual Subscription (check one):**

\$15 for Individual/Family Membership

\$100 for an Associate Membership

\$35 for Local Home Owners Association

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to MHOAA. Mail to Above Address.**  
**PLEASE NOTE: MHOAA is a 501(c)(3) organization**  
**Your membership and donations are tax deductible**

**Involvement:**

I/We want to become involved with MHOAA by:

Putting a link to MHOAA on our web site.

Becoming involved in a MHOAA Committee.

Promoting MHOAA in my state.

Receiving alerts on issues that affect home owners.

Making an additional contribution.

Application Approved /Accepted Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised 12/15/10

