

A BRIEF HISTORY OF AMHO AND IT'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A community in Snohomish County was threatened with closure and nearly every resident in that community faced certain loss of what was their greatest investment of value; their home. The short story is that they were able to save their community from development and preserved their park as an affordable lifestyle for the community's senior residents.

Realizing that their experience could help others to the same end; AMHO was born.

Today, AMHO is a not-for-profit Washington State Corporation with an IRS status as a 501(c)(3) organization. Our stated purposes are the preservation of manufactured housing communities in Washington, the protection of manufactured home owners living in communities, and to strengthen the bargaining power of manufactured home owners living in communities. Our major focus has been the education of elected officials and the general communities and to support the production of more affordable housing.

So what has AMHO accomplished in its first four years?

- AMHO membership currently consists of home owners from more than 60 communities in Washington State. We have assisted more than 25 of these communities in organizing Home Owners Associations (HOAs).
- We have aided residents in filing grievances with owners and managers through the Attorney General's Dispute Resolution Program.
- Our members have volunteered countless hours talking to legislators and testifying at city and county council meetings around the state about the rights and needs of manufactured home owners.
- We have been the leader in the rezoning efforts in Tumwater, Lacey, Snohomish County, Lynnwood and Marysville, and aggressive efforts have begun in Spokane, King and Pierce Counties.
- AMHO has organized the Manufactured Housing Lobby Day in Olympia since 2008 with attendance about 150+ residents each year.
- AMHO co-hosted the Manufactured Home Owners Association of America (MHOAA) in Seattle in 2009.
- A state leadership development effort was conducted this past year with four 1-day sessions. The successful results of this effort may lead to the hosting of a State Convention for manufactured home owners in the near future.

AMHO has been strictly a volunteer organization; until now! Thanks to the generosity of grant giving organizations we now have funding that allows us to employ professional assistance. But volunteer assistance is still needed. Volunteers have three things they can donate: Time, Talent and Treasury.

- If you have Time to attend a county or city council meeting to demonstrate your support, please give it!
- If you have Time to distribute fliers in your community, please donate it!
- If you have Time to call your neighbors and ask for their support, donate it!
- If you have Talent as a leader, please donate it to your community and become a member of your Homeowners Association Team or form one!
- If you have computer skills, accounting experience, writing abilities, please donate your Talents!
- Every effort requires Treasury. If you have a couple extra bucks to spare, please donate it or pay a membership fee for a neighbor who may not be able to join AMHO.

Not everyone can donate all three. But please donate what you can. All three are important to the livelihood and success of AMHO. What will you get from donating any of those "T's"? Time, Talent and Treasury? I can't answer that for you. Everyone's satisfactions come from within themselves. For me it has meant finding friends I will probably have for my lifetime. I have retained my sense of being of value since my retirement and I hope it is helping me retain my youth. Your \$15.00 membership will be of great assistance to AMHO and our cause. Please join today.

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