

AAMHO Update

Arizona Association Manufactured Home & R.V. Owners

Fall 2004

The Importance of AAMHO In Our Life

The Comstock Report

How important is AAMHO in our life? It is probably the single most important item that can determine the quality of life for the residents of Manufactured Home and RV parks. It has a giant impact on the law under which, we who live in rental parks, must live. This law is the Residential Mobile Home Landlord and Tenant Act and the RV Act.

Since 1987, the only buffer or protection that exists between the resident and the park owner/manager is AAMHO. Without this organization, the resident is at the complete mercy of the owner. This often leads to the most abusive acts imaginable. The only way to change conditions that we find intolerable is through legislation.

This is the primary purpose of AAMHO, and the main driving force behind it, is to propose and support legislation that will enhance the Manufactured Home and RV life style. AAMHO will also monitor and oppose that legislation which is unfavorable towards park residents.

To help AAMHO accomplish its stated purpose, we must become more active politically. If we band

together, we are a viable political force to be reckoned with. The legislators understand and look at two things, mainly the number of votes that an organization can muster, and the amount of money one can donate to political campaigns. We don't have a lot of capitol, but we can and must become a viable voting block.

AAMHO also educates the park residents about their rights under the LL&TA and RV ACT by having workshops statewide and by assorted meetings. AAMHO will train park residents in forming local AAMHO groups, and will train park officers on how to handle grievances. AAMHO will also help residents, when necessary, to prepare for a hearing before the administrative law judge. But this is all frosting on the cake. We do all of the above, not because it is required, but because it is necessary and will help our members.

But keep in mind that all of our programs and the quality of our way of life hinge on one thing, proposing and obtaining good legislation as well as defeating bad legislation. We didn't get our bills passed last year, but we were eminently successful in defeating some very bad pieces of

legislation that were on the floor of the House and Senate. Thanks to the extensive activity of our lobbyist, Janet Regner.

Between the years 2000 and 2003, AAMHO in essence, gave away the farm and received virtually nothing in return. In 2003, AAMHO got busy, formed a legislative committee and hired a new lobbyist. Janet Regner, our lobbyist, is very knowledgeable, very professional, has great political skills and has our best interest at heart. The legislative committee has been hard at work ever since.

How successful AAMHO will be legislative wise, and perhaps our basic survival itself, depends upon each of us. We must become more political and become a part of the political process. There is nothing that beats a good friend in the legislature when it comes time to sponsor good legislation or oppose bad bills. So in the remaining days before the general election, let's keep active politically and go out and help elect our friends to state office.

*by Bill Comstock
AAMHO Legislative Director*