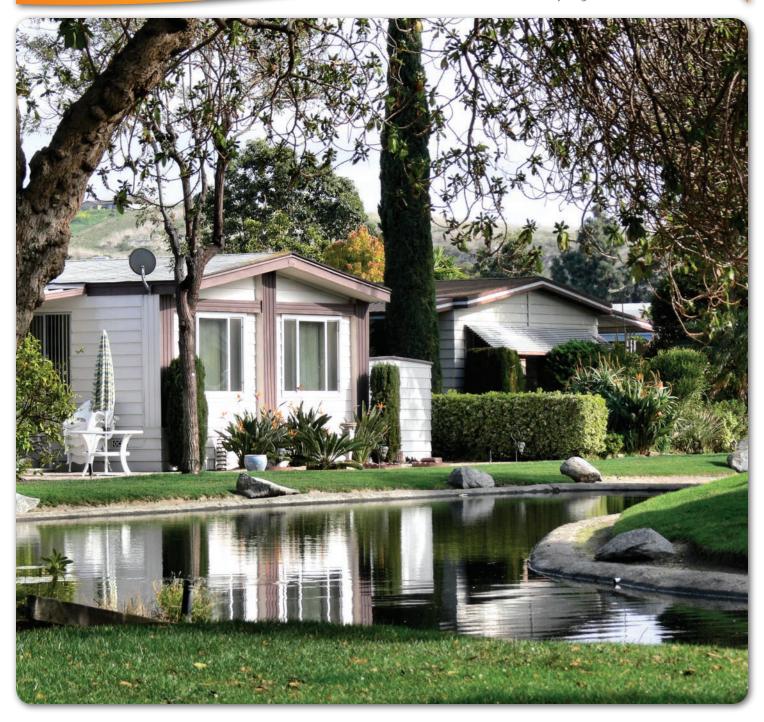
CALIFORNIAN

GOLDEN STATE MANUFACTURED-HOME OWNERS LEAGUE

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July/August 2014



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7 ➤ Know Your Rights



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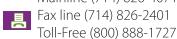
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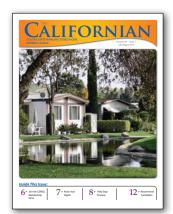
Resident Owned MH Communities

See map on page 19 for Zone boundaries

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jean Crowder, GSMOL State President

Working to 'Rebuild, Renew and Restore' GSMOL



Welcome to the "new" CALIFORNIAN.

Our recently established Editorial Committee has put a lot of effort into giving your magazine a new look, and new content. We hope you enjoy it. They will continue to work to provide you with an interesting and informative venue each issue. This is just one of several initiatives we are undertaking to grow and improve *GSMOL*.

It was an honor to be elected GSMOL President at the April Convention. It is my pleasure to welcome to the Board of Directors Terri Pohrman, Zone A-1 Vice-President; Ron Hulsey, Zone B Vice-President; Craig Hull, Zone B-1 Vice-President; David Loop, Vice-President of ROMHC (Resident Owned Manufactured Home Communities); Jim Sullivan, Vice-President at Large-- all were elected or re-elected at the Convention. It is with much appreciation, I welcome Diane McPherson, who was appointed to fill the seat of Treasurer, the office vacated when I became President, and Marie Pounders who was appointed to fill the seat of Secretary upon the resignation of Tom Lockhart on June 12th. All of these dedicated leaders have joined Zone A Vice-President, Ray Downing and Zone D Vice-President, Tim Sheahan to give GSMOL a Board of Directors dedicated to fulfilling GSMOL's goals to "Rebuild, Renew and Restore" as promised at the 2014 Convention. Together with our GSMOL Advisors Brian Augusta, Legislative Lobbyist; Bruce Stanton, GSMOL Legal Counsel and Darrow Sprague, GSMOL Field Organizer, your Board of Directors hit the ground running, planning and implementing many fantastic methods of working to assist homeowners in building a strong statewide organization.

Among these are the upgrading of the E-Blast to keep you better informed of what's going on at the legislative level; our Membership Committee has worked diligently to plan a fall Membership Drive (you will find more detail within); with the help of our Membership Committee, we have updated the chapter leaders handbook and will be distributing it soon; our Google Leaders Board has been expanded to all *GSMOL* volunteers, including Chapter officers, to improve the ability for our members and our

volunteers to communicate with each other. We will be constantly searching for ways to better serve our members.

Our recent survey was an example of our desire to learn how to better serve. We were amazed at the terrific response. If you haven't sent yours back yet, please do as soon as possible. The purpose of the survey, of course, was to learn more about our members and to hear from you how we can be more effective in meeting our members' needs.

It is important for you as a GSMOL member to know that your Zone Vice-Presidents, your Regional and Associate Managers and your Chapter Officers are volunteers. As our membership continues to grow, more volunteers will be needed. We realize that not everyone can volunteer hours and hours as our Board Members and Regional Leaders do; but there are jobs that need to be done that could only take an hour or two a week or once a month. Reach out to your Chapter leaders and offer to help where and when you can; call the Regional or Associate Manger in your area to see if there is any way you can help them (i.e., pass out flyers or make phone calls in your park). It is through a strong volunteer base that GSMOL is going to grow and be able to expand our services to our members. GET INVOLVED; make GSMOL your organization.

I am looking forward to working with all of you; I will be in your area during upcoming President Meet and Greets; please call the office if you would like to schedule a meeting in your area. It will be my pleasure to come to meet with all the members in your city, Region or Zone.

We are open to your comments and suggestions. By placing a call to the office, you will be put in touch with the person in your area who will be able to discuss and bring to the Board, your concerns, comments and suggestions. If you wish to talk to me directly, let Katie in the office know and I will return your call as soon as possible.

"Rebuild, Renew and Restore" is our Motto; honesty and transparency is our promise. ■

Rebuild, Renew and Restore is our Motto; honesty and transparency is our promise.

Zone Reports

Zone A-1

Zone A-1's New VP Hits the Ground Running

After 9 months without a Zone VP, Miss Terri Pohrman, the newly elected Zone A-1 VP. has hit the ground running. In addition to reaching out to local leaders, she has established an easy way for GSMOL members in Zone A-1 to reach her - 707.315.3754, as well as a new email address - gsmolnorth@yahoo.com. They plan to send weekly emails to all officers throughout the Zone to keep them informed.

Three new Super Chapters (Sonoma, Rohnert Park, and Calistoga) are in the process of being formed in Zone A-1, a tremendous boost to membership in the area.

GSMOL President Jean Crowder will be a guest speaker at the July Presidents luncheon in Petaluma. Zone A-1 will be the site of the next in-person GSMOL Board Meeting, which will be hosted by The Country MHP in Santa Rosa. All GSMOL members and prospective members are welcome to attend. Wednesday, July 23, 2014, in the clubhouse from 9 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Zone A

Leadership Changes in Zone A

Mobil Country Club MHP in Rancho Cordova, has a new chapter president, Betz Storey. Energized by the recent GSMOL Convention, she is committed to keeping her chapter going and helping us grow.

Zone VP Norma Bohannan, accompanied by John Bertaud, recently visited a Grass Valley MHP in Grass Valley, CA, to offer encouragement in their struggle and to educate them about GSMOL.

Ken McNutt has resigned as Region Manager for Region 14. We appreciate all of the hard work, dedication and support he has shown for fellow manufactured home owners in his park, within Region 14, the GSMOL PAC, the Legislative Action Team, in addition to bringing forth countless good ideas for the statewide Board of Directors to consider.

-Norma Bohannan, Zone A VP

Zone B

Park Residents Get Organized, Help Transform Their Park

Prior to July 2013, residents in the Pines Mobilehome Park (140 spaces) in Stockton would have rated their park amenities and management a "0" on a scale of 1 - 10. Clubhouse equipment was not in working order, and the library was nonexistent. Residents lived in fear of management complaints and citations. As a newer resident, I decided to find out what resources there were to help with the situation. After numerous calls to other organizations, I found Ron Hulsey, the GSMOL Zone VP for Zone B, where the Pines is located.

Ron's visit within just a few days opened the doors of opportunity for the Pines! We organized a meeting of residents and invited Ron. A majority of residents in the park attended; there was standing room only at the meeting! After Ron described GSMOL and its work, residents asked questions for two hours about the Mobilehome Residency Law. The manager was actually in the audience, too. That night, fifty-seven residents signed up as GSMOL members. The following week, Ron returned to swear in their new GSMOL Chapter officers!

The residents went on a letter writing campaign to both the managers and the park owner. Based on the residents' research of the MRL, the park was forced to roll back the park Rules and Regulations to a 1998 version, because its management had failed to provide meetings with the residents for all the changes. The park was sold shortly afterwards to a brand new owner who brought in well-trained and experienced managers who treat the residents with respect.

The Chapter Membership now stands at 78 and counting. It is a strong and active chapter. Life has changed so drastically for the Pines residents that they nominated their park, new park owner and managers for the Exemplary Park Owner Award at the GSMOL Convention in 2014!

- Linda Larsen, Member Zone B

Jean Crowder

Jean Crowder

will be a guest

speaker at the

July Presidents

luncheon in

Petaluma.

Zone B-1

Zone B-1 Leaders Offer Tips on How to Build Membership in Your Park

How do you let new residents in your park know about GSMOL and/or your HOA activities? If you want people to get involved, it is important to have specific events to introduce them to what's happening in your park and in your region.

Several months ago, the GSMOL Membership Committee completed a survey asking parks that take responsibility for their own GSMOL Membership Renewals to tell us ways they promote GSMOL to new residents. Here are several very effective ways that will help you increase your membership and the awareness of what benefits GSMOL can provide for its members.

All parks that have been successful at recruiting GSMOL members, hold special activities or events to welcome new residents. Some examples are a pancake breakfast, meet and greets with a luncheon or dessert bar, membership drives on a regular basis, and organizing activities for children in Family Parks during special GSMOL function so adults will be more likely to attend.

One of the differences in strategies these parks used to guarantee success was to send personalized invitations to the new residents in addition to sending a flyer out to everyone. Another tactic, which encourages new residents to attend the function, is to have a GSMOL member offer to accompany the new person to the activity; this way, the new person does not have to go alone to an event. Many parks use follow up phone calls if the residents do not RSVP. Several parks also provide a follow-up letter of welcome and description of the purposes of GSMOL if the residents were unable to participate in the special event. This letter includes a copy of the latest Californian, a yellow trifold and an offer to pick up a check for the \$25 dues for GSMOL. The events themselves may be sponsored by GSMOL and the HOA together or separately, depending on the relationship between the two organizations. In a large park, different GSMOL Board members may be assigned to specific areas of the park. Helping residents understand that your park is a

friendly place to live where leaders reach out to new people is a very crucial step in getting people involved. More ways to welcome and recruit new residents will be in the next issue!

Zone C

Village Trailer Park Closure Litigation a "WIN" for the Homeowners

For seven years, the residents of Village Trailer Park in Santa Monica have been fighting to preserve their park, which was threatened with closure to make way for an expensive new 377-unit mixed-use residential development.

The City Council approved the project last March, after a seven-year process, paving the way for the park to close. The majority of homeowners in the park are in the low and very low income range, and were likely to be displaced, potentially without fair compensation for their homes. In approving the project, the city only required the park owner to pay each homeowner approximately \$20,000 in relocation benefits rather than the "in place" value of their homes. It also required the developer to preserve 10 spaces in the park, but only for the ridiculously short time period of 5 to 10 years. With help from the GSMOL Legal Fund, and his own resources, a resident of more modest means retained attorney Will Constantine to file and pursue a lawsuit on behalf of all the homeowners. The lawsuit charged that the City's approval of the project's development agreement violated California's housing element law and manufactured home park closure relocation statutes.

On March 10, 2014, attorney Mr. Constantine, with the help of attorney Sabrina Venskus, was able to achieve a significant victory in the settlement of the litigation when the developer agreed to substantially increase the mitigation benefits to Village Trailer Park's current homeowners and to preserve a portion of the park as an operating manufactured home Park for 50 years to end the litigation.

To settle the lawsuit, the developer agreed to pay each homeowner the equivalent of \$80,000

See Zone Reports on page 15 ➤

Several months
ago, the GSMOL
Membership
Committee
completed a
survey asking
parks that take
responsibility
for their
own GSMOL
Membership
Renewals...

Join "Team GSMOL" This Summer!

How to help make the GSMOL Summer Membership Drive a Success

Who did you root for in the World Cup? What's your favorite baseball team? How many of you have belonged to a bowling league, or like to play bridge or pinochle or poker, or enter contests for baking, gardening or other skills? Friendly competition brings out excitement in people! Win one for the Gipper! Be true to your school! How about "Win one for your Regional Manager" or "Be true to your GSMOL Chapter"? If you like the sound of that, read on.

GSMOL is having a Membership Drive this summer, and you can help build GSMOL while also competing for prizes!

GSMOL membership is on the upswing and with our Summer Membership Drive, the goal is a significant boost in chapter membership. The Membership Drive, which begins in August, will last 10 weeks. Whether you live in a park with a chapter, are thinking of building a chapter in your park or just want to help build membership in GSMOL, there is a role for you in the Membership Drive.

Chapter Contest: Chapters will go head-to-head to see who can sign up the most new GSMOL members. Each chapter that increases its membership by 5% or 5 new members, whichever is smaller, will receive a ticket for a drawing. There will be one drawing for each of our 14 regions. The winner of the drawing will receive a \$50 gift certificate to one of several stores. For every additional 5% or 5 members, the chapter earns another ticket for the drawing! YOU have a chance to help your chapter win by working with your chapter leaders to sign up new members in your park. Chapter leaders will be trained by other GSMOL leaders on the best ways to pull in new members.

You may be thinking, well, we can't enter because our park doesn't have a chapter. No worries!

Read on!

Regional Contest: Regional Managers will also be battling it out to see who can reactivate or form the most chapters! Like the Chapter contest, each Regional Manager can receive a ticket for reactivating a certain percentage or number of chapters in their region, and the winners will be determined by drawings in each of the six Zones.

You can "win one for the Gipper" – meaning your Regional Manager – by helping him or her (or maybe an Associate or Assistant Manager) reactivate the chapter in your park (practically every park that has any GSMOL members at all has a chapter; yours may just be inactive). And any new chapters that are formed or reactivated during the Regional contest can participate in the Chapter Contest! This is a good chance for you to get to know your Regional, Assistant and/or Associate Manager, if you don't already. (You can find their contact information on the "Who's Who" page in the Californian or at www.gsmol.org/whos_who).

Individual members can win, too. All the new members that are signed up will be entered into a drawing.

How can I help? We need volunteers to help us reach out to new members! If you would like to volunteer or need more information contact Anne Anderson at a.bushnell.anderson@gmail. com. We can put you in touch with local leaders who are helping with the membership drive, or help your chapter do an event and other recruiting. We have recruitment material available to assist in your efforts.

The parks that tend to have a higher membership rate are those where recruiting new members becomes everybody's concern. *The top reason* new people join GSMOL is because a current member invites them to join.

So be ready to join "Team GSMOL" for your park and your region in August! Regardless of who wins the drawings, we all win in the end because GSMOL wins – by becoming stronger, more connected, better able to support MH owners throughout the state – and if GSMOL wins, then YOU win, because YOU ARE GSMOL!

We need volunteers to help us reach out to new members!



Knowing and Exercising Your "First Amendment" Mobilehome Rights



During the past few years, the GSMOL "Road Show" has been traveling throughout the State to educate homeowners about their important Mobilehome Residency Law (MRL) rights, as set forth in California Civil Code sections 798, et seq. We hope that all homeowners get a chance to attend one of these informative meetings. Of all the protections contained within the MRL, perhaps none are more valuable than those found in sections 798.50-52. I call these sections the "First Amendment" of the MRL, because they contain a number of protections which pertain to the basic right of a mobilehome or manufactured home owner to communicate with his or her fellow homeowners about mobilehome issues.

Civil Code 798.50 contains a sentence that is critical to understanding the importance of communication to the preservation of the mobilehome lifestyle: "It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this article to ensure that homeowners and residents of mobilehome parks have the right to peacefully assemble and freely communicate with one another and with others with respect to mobilehome living or for social or educational purposes." No higher statement of importance could have been given by the California Legislature to these rights. It is clear that the Legislature understood the importance of networking and organizing, of the ability of homeowners to work together for the common good. Organizing into a local HOA or GSMOL Chapter, or just being a member of a State organization like GSMOL, can mean the difference between protecting your home investment, or losing it. But in order to fulfill this legislative intent, and bring these words to life, homeowners need to put into action those rights which are specifically described in the sections which follow. And homeowners need to know and understand their rights before they put them into practice. Information is power. But that is only the first step. Once the law is known, it then becomes necessary to exercise one's rights in order to enjoy them.

The goal of each mobilehome owner should be to strengthen and protect their investments and way of life. This is accomplished by communication, organizing, assembling and meeting together, walking the park, hearing from those who have knowledge of mobilehome issues and electing representatives who are committed to protect mobilehome living. Belonging to a strong organization such as GSMOL which can provide both the necessary information and the way to use it, is essential. So how can we strengthen GSMOL and GSMOL Chapters? How can we communicate and organize for the betterment of all mobile homeowners? There are a number of guarantees and protected activities set forth in the MRL which are invaluable tools that can be used to build a better mobilehome world. They are illustrated by the following questions which are frequently asked of GSMOL leaders:

Does the MRL guarantee the right of homeowners and residents to meet in the park? Absolutely. 798.51 (a) states that homeowners cannot be prohibited from peacefully meeting in the common area facilities (which must be open or available to all residents pursuant to 798.24) for any lawful purpose, as long as the facility is "not otherwise in use". This means that management cannot flatly deny clubhouse use to homeowners. Some parks might try to disguise their denial by claiming that the clubhouse is already in use, such as where a last second "cleaning project" allegedly creates a conflict. Homeowners should keep a record of such "last minute" conflicts, as evidence of the park owner's true intent if a pattern of denial becomes clear. Remember that for each willful violation of the MRL a court may order a penalty of up to \$2,000.00 (see 798.86).

Must the homeowners comply with a rule or regulation that requires a GSMOL meeting to be scheduled or reserved in advance? Yes, as long as it is not unreasonably enforced, and reasonable in scope. It is reasonable for management to require that only one group at a time use the facilities, and to schedule usage at a reasonable time in advance so that all homeowners can enjoy clubhouse availability. It is not reasonable to require 6 months advance notice, or to base approval upon the

See First Ammendment on page 17 ➤

11 About the author: Mr. Stanton has been a practicing attorney since 1982, and has been representing mobilehome residents and homeowners associations as a specialty for over 25 years. His practice is located in San Jose, and he is the corporate counsel for GSMOL.

Manufactured Home Park Closures Are on the Rise

They Can Be Prevented If We Act Early: Here Is How.

Since the housing market has taken off again over the last year, there has been an enormous upsurge of developer money becoming available in California. This has created a new and dangerous situation of providing the motivation and financing for the closure and redevelopment of manufactured home parks. Until recently, this has not been a threat since market conditions had made manufactured home park closures and redevelopments financially untenable. Unfortunately, the protection provided by those poor market conditions has now appeared to evaporate. For example, in addition to the proposed closure and redevelopment of Village Trailer Park, which was recently approved by the City of Santa Monica and resulted in litigation, developers are now pursuing closures and redevelopments of Buena Vista Manufactured MHP in Palo Alto, Winchester MHP in San Jose and Magnolia MHP in Glendora and I have heard rumors of many more now being planned.

This issue will soon become as large of a threat to mobile home owners as the forced conversions of mobile home parks to unaffordable resident owned subdivisions was until GSMOL pushed for the successful adoption of SB 510. However, similar to that effort, a statewide campaign is needed to enact strong local protections and policies to protect against these conversions because if those protections are not in place, before a manufactured home park closure application has been filed, it is then difficult, if not impossible, to stop that closure. On the other hand, with the proper local protections in place, these closures can be prevented.

The starting point for enacting good local protections is your city's or county's housing elements, which are now being updated and which are required to establish and enforce "goals, quantified objectives, policies and programs" to preserve the availability of your communities'



low-income housing stocks. [See Government Code Section 65583] A California appellate court decision has ruled that this requires communities to enact "programs directed to how a city will encourage the conservation of mobile home parks"

Next Page ➤

➤ [See Buena Vista Garden Apartments Association v. City of San Diego Planning Department (1985) 175 Cal.App.3d. 289 at 303].

California's Housing Element Law requires local communities to implement these low income housing conservation goals and policies through the administration of land use and development controls, particularly zoning. [See Government Code Section 65583(b)]. In that regard, California's General Plan Guidelines strongly recommends changing the underlying zoning of mobile home parks from multiple uses to mobile home park exclusive use to provide that protection. (See the State of California, General Plan Guidelines, Gov.'s Office of Planning and Research at p 72). The use of this type of zoning to protect mobile home parks has recently passed constitutional muster by the Federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal. [See Laurel Park Community LLC v. City of Tumwater (2012) 698 F.3d 1180]

California General Plan Law also does not allow development agreements, zoning changes and subdivision applications to be approved that are inconsistent with the goals, policies, and programs of its Housing Element. This provides additional protection against the closure and development of manufactured home parks that will result in the loss of the low income housing stock located in those parks.

The third line of defense is local manufactured home park closure ordinances. Although many

communities have these ordinances, a great number of them do not provide strong enough protections and should be evaluated and improved.

However, the above protections can only be provided if local housing elements, zoning codes and manufactured home ordinances contain strong and properly drafted manufactured home park closure protections before a park closure and development application has been filed since any post - closure application changes to these local regulations are not permitted to be applied to an already filed closure application. I have seen manufactured home parks that have been closed and developed into other uses simply because the local jurisdiction, in which they were located, did not have the proper provisions in their housing elements and zoning codes, which would have prevented their closures.

What is required now is for manufactured home owners to get involved early and lobby your local jurisdiction to update the manufactured home park closure protections in their housing element updates and in their zoning codes before a closure application is filed in your community. These provisions must be amended correctly so my office is available to answer your questions and assist you in this critical endeavor that is now needed to protect the future of your homes. I can be reached at 831-420-1238 or at wconstantinesantacruz@gmail.com

- By Will Constantine, Attorney

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON GSMOL'S WORK IN THE CAPITOL

Join the GSMOL Email Alerts. Get timely updates on legislation and how you can help GSMOL build support for legislation.

To sign up go to GSMOL.org, under News and Updates and follow the link.



II What is required

manufactured

home owners

to get involved

early and lobby

your local

jurisdiction

home park

closure

to update the

manufactured

protections in

their housing

and in their

zoning codes

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Running Successful Chapter Meetings

GSMOL chapters are a great way to unite homeowners in your park and build a network of **GSMOL** members. But nothing can undermine that unity more than boring or ineffective chapter meetings. Making your meetings informative and engaging will keep people involved in your chapter, and help your chapter (and GSMOL) grow.

My Chapter holds four quarterly meetings a year. Here are five tips from our experience for planning and running a successful chapter meeting.

First, provide advance notice of your planned upcoming meeting; print and distribute notices to each home and post them on all park bulletin boards a few days ahead of the actual meeting date; and email a notice to every homeowner who has given you their email; publish the meeting, date and time, in your monthly park newsletter's calendar. If possible, stake one or two meeting signs in your park's main driveway (or other high traffic area) the day before the meeting (and remove them after the meeting).

Second, reserve your clubhouse as far in advance as possible.

Third, always try to have one or two guest speakers. The meeting is a great opportunity to invite your local political leaders/candidates who support the manufactured homes and rent control and any pending related legislation. Police could present the Neighborhood Watch program. Fire could present a Safety Tips program. Your GSMOL zone VP usually has an inspirational talk which includes current legislation in Sacramento that members need to be urged to support or oppose.

Fourth, it is always a good idea to have some refreshments to follow the meeting adjournment. In fact, at my park, we have a Wine & Cheese Tasting Party (for our members and invited guests only) at the conclusion of our January meeting; we have an Ice Cream Social at the conclusion of our July meeting; themed parties are very popular and help increase attendance!

Fifth, in addition to informative speakers and some tasty treats, most chapter meetings have to involve a little business, too. Ensure that the business portion of the meeting is quick and painless by setting an agenda and sticking to it. A

good meeting agenda should be clear and concise in order to guide an orderly meeting. Consider including an allotted amount of time for each agenda item to keep everyone on track. Here's an outline for a successful and efficient meeting:

- Start the meeting with your chapter president (or other board member) leading The Pledge of Allegiance.
- The Secretary reads the previous meeting's minutes; the board may agree or suggest any corrections, and then adopt them.
- Next, it's the Treasurer's turn to give his or her report.
- After the Treasurer, the Membership Director should also give a brief report. This is a great time to ask if there are any new members in attendance. If there are, ask them to introduce themselves, and welcome them with warm applause.
- On to the featured speaker. Speakers should be given the floor as early as possible in the meeting. Many active speakers have multiple engagements particularly during local election campaigns. They will not need to stay for your entire meeting; of course, they are always welcome to stay and chat with members afterwards.
- · New Business is discussed item by item.
- Old Business is discussed item by item.
- · Legislative updates, if any are presented.
- The next meeting date and time and location should be announced before adjournment. If anyone has any other questions about GSMOL then please ask one of your board members afterwards.

One last tip: During the meeting, try to be flexible (if you need to rearrange the agenda then do so), try to be patient (if certain points of discussion become confusing then try to work them out to everyone's benefit), try to call on non-board members as much as possible (everyone should feel included and involved). Listen and be respectful.

- Victor Roy, GSMOL Associate Manager (Oceanside)



Speakers
should be
given the
floor as early
as possible in
the meeting.

Potential Guest Speakers For Chapter Meetings

Keep your meetings interesting with engaging guest speakers. Here is a list of potential sources for speakers for your chapter meetings.

City Council Member or County Supervisor:

Invite your local city and/or county elected representatives or their staff, to give an update on local city or county events and to answer questions.

Senator or Assemblymember: Invite the Senator/ Assemblymember or one of their district staff to address the meeting. Topics can range from their position on pending legislation to the budget to local affairs.

Adult Education Classes: Both community colleges and unified school districts frequently offer adult classes of all kinds. Invite a representative to your park to describe what the offerings are for the upcoming year.

Commission On Aging/Area Agency On Aging:

An outstanding resource for wide variety of programs and services for Seniors. Will be able to put you in contact with experts in many fields.

Community Health Centers: Choose the agency that provides medical care to moderate and low-income residents. A representative can come out

to describe the services available for all ages of residents and any special programs your county provides.

Conservation Programs: Every community has a variety of different types of "conservation" programs, for water or energy for example. Check your Utility Services Departments first, then the phone book for special programs near you and invite a representative to come speak about their conservation plans and ideas.

Emergency Preparedness: The American Red Cross, Cal-Fire or local City Fire Department often offer an Emergency Preparedness presentation.

Hicap – Medicare: Excellent presentation on options available in any county for MEDICARE, also describes different approaches... i.e. Supplemental

Plans vs. Medicare Advantage plans. Details about Prescription Drug Programs. Contact 1-800-434-0222, or on the web at www.cahealthadvocates. org/HICAP/

Hospital Community Educational Services:

Most facilities offer speakers on a wide variety of topics who will bring materials and handouts to share. Ask for the Educational Community Outreach or Public Relations Department.

League Of Women Voters: The League has a number of different outreach programs and speakers available

Neighborhood Watch Programs: The local police department or sheriff's department will send an officer to discuss setting up a "Park Watch" program for your mobilehome park, including materials and workshops.

Parks And Recreation Department: Invite a representative of the local department to come discuss the wide range of programs offered for youth and seniors. If you are a senior park, limit the topics to programs that are just for seniors. Representative will bring flyers for all classes and programs the department offers.



How You Can Recommend Candidates for PAC Endorsement

With this fall's general election campaigns approaching, GSMOL members are invited by the GSMOL Political Action Committee (PAC) to identify candidates to be considered for PAC endorsement.

Our recently updated GSMOL PAC Candidate Endorsement Policy gives renewed emphasis on the candidate endorsement process driven from the ground up, encouraging members to actively engage and evaluate candidates to recommend for endorsement.

Beginning with this 2014 general election cycle, the updated policy calls for endorsing candidates for local office, in addition to statewide offices. Ensuring strong support among local elected officials is as important to protecting our homes, as electing supportive candidates to the Senate and Assembly. However, with limited PAC funds, only those PAC-endorsed candidates running for state office will be considered for a contribution.

For any endorsement to have the most value to the candidate, it must become known to voters before they cast Vote-By-Mail ballots starting in early October. To accomplish this, our PAC endorsement decisions must be made in time to be included in the candidate's campaign materials are printed, and be announced in the Sept-Oct issue of *The Californian*. Thus, our endorsement process must follow a very tight timeline to reach a September 1 deadline.

If you're interested in recommending a candidate for endorsement, your first step is to identify candidates or races you want the PAC to consider. These may be candidates for local office (e.g., city council, county supervisor, court judge, etc.) or for state assembly or senate. Then for each race to be considered, email the Candidate Contact information ASAP to our PAC chair faas@verizon.net, with copies to your GSMOL zone VP and regional manager.

The PAC will then invite each identified candidate to complete a Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire, and share the completed Questionnaires with the local sponsor.

Upon receipt of the completed Questionnaire, local leaders are urged to engage and vet candidates (particularly non-incumbents) through a local candidates' forum or individual meetings. In deciding to recommend a candidate for PAC endorsement consideration, local GSMOL leaders should assess the candidate's support of manufactured-home owners, including the candidate's view of property rights (supporting those of homeowners as well as park owners), and understanding of the importance of existing (or proposed) local ordinances that protect manufactured-home owners' interests.

After reaching consensus within the district on which candidate to recommend, and submit the candidate's name, along with a

brief summary supporting the recommendation by August 11 to our legislative advisor & the PAC chair with copies to your Zone VP and region manager. (Note: Recommendations received after this deadline will be considered, but may be too late for announcement in *The Californian*)

PAC Board members will review each endorsement recommendation, completed questionnaires & legislative advisors' recommendation, and decide which candidates to endorse before September 1.

The updated policy lists detailed steps in the endorsement process, along with specific criteria for prioritizing candidate endorsement & contributions. The policy statement and timeline for its implementation is available from your GSMOL Board, region managers, associate & assistant managers, and was emailed to chapter officer for whom the office has addresses. You may also request a copy by emailing me, at the above address.

Please accept our invitation to participate actively in the candidate endorsement process. By helping select and elect those candidates who support us, GSMOL will be in a much better position to pass laws that will protect MH owners and also oppose harmful bills sponsored by parkowners.

As you may know, the GSMOL PAC exists as an entity separate from GSMOL, and manages a PAC Fund independent of GSMOL. The PAC's purpose is to endorse candidates whom it judges, with input from the GSMOL legislative advisors, will best represent manufactured homeowners in defending our rights, home values and way of life.

Our PAC is funded only by contributions to the PAC Fund from homeowners like you. Contributions to the other GSMOL funds – legal, homeowner defense and disaster relief - are not used for supporting candidates for public office. For that reason, contributions to the PAC Fund are critical to our support for candidates who support our interests.

Contribute to the PAC Fund by sending a check (with a notation indicating that that it is a contribution to the PAC) to: GSMOL-PAC, 6101 Ball Road, Suite 202, Cypress, CA 90630, or go online http://www.gsmol.org/apply/donations.php to the GSMOL website's Fund Donation Page (under Get Involved).

The GSMOL PAC is a crucial part of our organization's legislative and political agenda, and its success depends on the support of leaders like you.

Help Your PAC Work for You! ■

- Ron Faas GSMOL PAC Chair

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Attention Chapter Leaders: We Need Your Email Address!

Don't miss out on important communications from GSMOL. In order to streamline our communication with chapters and their members we are encouraging every chapter to provide an email address for at least one chapter officer.

We will only use this for official GSMOL communications. If we don't yet have an email address for at least one officer in your chapter, send it to our membership co-chair Anne Anderson at a.bushnell.anderson@gmail.com.

As always, you can call the home office at 1-800-888-1727.



To settle the lawsuit, the developer agreed to pay each homeowner the equivalent of \$80,000 in additional benefits so that all homeowners could be fully compensated for the \$100,000 "in place" fair market value of their homes. Some of the homeowners have chosen to move into new mobilehomes in the City-owned Mountain View Mobile Home Park. The developer agreed to purchase the portion of the park that would remain open, and to allow the 10 mobilehomes to remain as the Village Trailer Park for a period of 50 years.

Following the settlement, the entire \$10,000 loan was paid back to GSMOL on June 13, 2014, exactly one year from the date of the loan.

- Ray Downing, Zone C Vice President

Senior Residential Park Overlay Ordinance Huntington Beach

Six months ago, Betsy Crimi of Rancho Huntington approached GSMOL about how to help preserve the senior-only parks in Huntington Beach. GSMOL leaders worked with the residents to develop a proposal to establish a "Senior Park Overlay." The leaders and residents approached Councilmember Jim Katapodis and provided him with information on what other cities have done to preserve senior parks. Councilmember Katapodis presented the information to the City Attorney and some members of the City Council. With support from the mayor, the item was brought to the Council for a vote, but not before establishing a moratorium on any new conversions to ensure no one skirted the newly proposed ordinance.

On March 17, 2014, the "Senior Residential Mobilehome Park Overlay Ordinances" were approved by the City Council to help protect the 10 senior parks primarily occupied by seniors 55 years of age and older from conversion to family (non age-restricted) parks, and preserve affordable senior housing in the City of Huntington Beach. These ordinances will favorably affect the lives of thousands of Huntington Beach senior citizens including numerous veterans.

Great things can happen when you are united and work together towards one goal.

- Mary Jo Baretich, Region 5 Co-Regional Manager

Zone D

Sheahan Named to National Position

GSMOL Zone D Vice President, Tim Sheahan, has been elected President of the **National Manufactured Home Owners Association**(NMHOA), a nonprofit advocacy organization representing MH owners across the country.

GSMOL is a charter member. Tim has served on the Board of Directors of NMHOA for the past 11 years, and has served on the HUD Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee in Washington, D.C. since 2009. Tim is continuing to serve as GSMOL VP for Zone D. He encourages homeowners and homeowner associations, or in California to join NMHOA. The NMHOA website is: www.nmhoa.org.

Dispute over Cavalier MHP Proceeds to Trial

The trial in *Dunex v. City of Oceanside* began on June 24 in Vista Superior Court. Dunex (the owner of Cavalier MHP) is suing the CITY for \$35M alleging "takings" arising from a long-standing dispute over Dunex's attempts to subdivide Cavalier.

This is the fourth lawsuit filed by Dunex against the City within the last five years according to the city attorney. The trial was expected to last 11 days.

These ordinances will favorably affect the lives of thousands of Huntington Beach senior citizens including numerous veterans.

FEEDBACK WANTED!

Give us your feedback on The Californian. Comments on stories we've published, or stories you'd like to see are always welcome. Tell us what you like and what you don't like so we can help tailor *The Californian* to you—our member!

Send your feedback to editor@gsmol.org



Resident Owned MH Communities

Resident MH Park Purchases Creating a "Win-Win" for the Residents and the Park Owner

For MHP resident groups, the big question is always, "Where can we find a mortgage lender to help us buy our park?"



One California resident group recently came up with a solution that worked well for them and for their park owner. As you know, successful real estate deals generally benefit the seller and the buyer.

The park in question was a "mom and pop" operation. The park owner was in his 70's. He'd owned the park for almost 20 years. He wanted to retire. He put the park on the market, at a price close to its fair market value. Some real estate investors had shown interest and made offers. The resident group was well-organized and motivated to buy the park, if a sensible arrangement could be made with the park owner.

The solution? The resident group asked the park owner to be the "bank." That is, they asked him to carry a mortgage to finance most of the group's purchase of the park. This was the perfect solution for both sides. The resident group got its long-term mortgage, and the former park owner deferred his capital gains through an "installment" sale.

Here are the facts:

The Park: A 46-space family park in a central coast county.

The Goal: Convert the park into a resident-owned cooperative, with title to the park real estate held by the residents' homeowners association (a nonprofit, mutual benefit corporation or "NPMB").

Membership Shares: The NPMB offered 46 membership shares for sale to the residents (one share for each household).

Share Price: \$9,250

Share Purchase Terms: Either (1) pay cash or (2) finance a membership share by putting \$500 down, then making payments of \$64/month. The share loan is assumable, and can be prepaid without penalty at any time.

Member Monthly Assessment ("rent"):

Members pay 4.5% more than the amount they paid as renters under the county's RSO.

Governance: By a 5-person board of directors, elected by association members. Regular open board meetings to be held in the park clubhouse.

Park Management: by a professional property management company, chosen by the homeowners.

At close of the park purchase escrow, 35 households bought membership shares in their NPMB. The 11 households that didn't purchase a share simply became tenants of the NPMB, protected by local rent stabilization.

This real estate transaction was a "win" for buyer and seller. The deal solved problems and benefited both sides.

It was a "win" for the park residents because:

- Their NPMB now owns the park;
- They have stabilized their rents over the long term;
- They have protected the value of their homes;
- They select the company that will manage the park day-to-day;
- Those residents who didn't participate still have the protection of the local RSO;
- The park will never be closed or converted to some other use:
- They have taken control of their futures.
 - By Dave Loop, GSMOL VP for Resident Owned Manufactured Housing Communities

Have Questions? Have Answers!

Do you have a burning question about manufactured housing, the MRL, GSMOL or any other topic of interest to manufactured-home owners? We can help. Starting with the September/October 2014 issue, *The CALIFORNIAN* will feature a brand new column devoted to answering select questions from our readers. Each month we will select a few of the best questions to answer in *The Californian*. Please send your questions to editor@gsmol.org no later than August 15th to





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Questions or need a hand with instructions?

Contact the Home Office at:

800.888.1727



purpose of the meeting or what will be discussed. GSMOL has successfully taken park owners to court who have violated this provision.

Can management require liability insurance be obtained as a condition of holding a clubhouse meeting? The answer contained in 798.51 (c) is clearly: "No". This would chill the ability of homeowners who cannot afford insurance policies to meet. The only exception is where alcohol will be served.

Can management require a cleaning deposit as a condition of holding a clubhouse meeting? 798.51 (b) says that no deposit can be required, regardless of whether guests or visitors attend the meeting, as long as a resident of the park is hosting the meeting and all homeowners are invited. This would not apply to a social gathering where only invited guests intend, such as a private wedding reception.

Does management have the right to approve the content of a meeting? Absolutely not, otherwise the park owner could control the content of meetings.

Can speakers be invited to meetings? 798.51 (a) (2) protects the right of homeowners to invite any speakers who meet with them with respect to any issues described in 798.50. This would include GSMOL leaders, politicians, law enforcement, the District Attorney or the like.

Can non-resident guests attend the clubhouse meeting? Absolutely, but with two possible conditions: (1) the park can reasonably require that a person attending the meeting who is not a speaker be the invited guest of a park resident. This just means that each non-resident guest should be paired up with a designated sponsoring resident when the guest arrives at the meeting. Many parks have no such condition, but where present it is easy to comply with using this method; and (2) parking regulations must be adhered to, which means that guests must park in designated areas. If none are available, the sponsoring resident would have to allow parking in that resident's carport.

Can a rule that prohibits "soliciting" be used to deny an HOA or GSMOL meeting? The answer is "no", since meetings related to mobilehome issues are not commercial in nature. Where the organization solicits dues or contributions, they are typically not commercial in nature. Thus, a

GSMOL meeting cannot be denied based upon the allegation that a non-profit entity such as GSMOL is actually "commercial" in nature. It is not.

Does a homeowner have the right to walk the park and distribute literature or information, or speak with other homeowners? This important right is guaranteed in 798.51 (a) (3). Homeowners may freely walk the park, talk with their neighbors and distribute written literature. The may also hand carry petitions or solicit residents to join organizations such as GSMOL. The only limitation is where a resident requests that no literature be left on their space, or that they not be disturbed. In those cases, the wishes of the resident to be left alone should be honored. But it is the resident, and not management, who makes this request.

Can homeowners use the mail tubes to distribute 798.51 literature? The answer depends upon the park's policy. If the mail tubes are installed at the park owner's expense and are limited solely to park owner-initiated communications, then as long as all residents and resident groups are equally prohibited from using the mail tubes, the rule is probably reasonable. In such cases canvassing, leafleting, distributing information or knocking on doors should be used. But the park cannot discriminate, and allow only some persons or entities to use the tubes. If some get to use them, then all should be allowed to do so.

Can a homeowner go to another park where they do not live to speak, distribute literature or talk with residents? Absolutely they can. But this requires an invitation from a resident of that park according to 798.51(a) (2). Thus, at least one park resident needs to make the invitation and should accompany the guest throughout the park. A park owner can reasonably prevent someone from showing up in the park uninvited and moving throughout the park.

Many tools are available which can be used to organize and strengthen homeowners. GSMOL urges you to read and know your rights, and most importantly to put them into practice. We support your exercise of these "MRL First Amendment" freedoms, and you should contact your local GSMOL immediately if any of these rights are bring denied.

- By Bruce Stanton, Attorney

Many tools
are available
which can
be used to
organize and
strengthen
homeowners.

GSMOL "Who's Who" • Leaders in Your Area - Refer to Map on Page 19 for Zones and Regions

on Page 19 for Zones and Regions

ZONE A

REGION 4

COUNTIES: Butte, Glenn, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity

REGION MANAGER

Anne Rucker

1901 Dayton Rd. #132 Chico, CA 95928 Phone: (530) 343-3904 karucker@sbcglobal.net

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Pat Dallara

400 Hiram Page Rd. Yreka, CA 96097 Phone: (530) 842-1327 happy2bat52@yahoo.com

REGION 11

COUNTIES: Amador, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas and Sierra (Vacant)

REGION 14

COUNTIES: Colusa, Sutter, Sacramento, Yolo and Yuba

ASSOCIATE MANAGER John Bertaut

5909 Mallard Lane #222 Citrus Heights, CA 95621 Phone: (916) 500-1485 GSMOL1136@aol.com

ZONE A-1

REGION 1

COUNTIES: Alameda, San Mateo, Contra Costa, Santa Clara and San Francisco

ASSOCIATE MANAGER Gary C. Smith

390 Mill Pond Dr. San Jose, CA 95125 Phone: (408) 975-0950 garyslighthouse@sbcglobal.net

REGION 2

COUNTIES: Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Solano and Sonoma

REGION MANAGER Diane McPherson

83 Seguoia Circle Santa Rosa, CA 95401 Phone: (707) 573-0410 deemcph42@hotmail.com

ASSISTANT MANAGER Bill Donahue

28 Oakwood Dr. Petaluma, CA 94954 Phone: (707) 765-2556 williamdonahue28@hotmail.com

ASSOCIATE MANAGERS Richard Heine

143 Bryce Canyon Rd San Rafael, CA 94903 Phone: (415) 479-6343 rah111@comcast.net

Ernest Ponce De Leon 300 Stony Point Rd. #515 Petaluma, CA 94952 Phone: (707) 981-7605 Cell: (650) 892-3176 ernest.deleon@comcast.net

ZONE B

REGION 12

COUNTIES: Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera and Tulare

REGION MANAGER Jean Crowder

1500 Villa Ave. #133 Clovis, CA 93612 Phone: (559) 213-8002 Fax: (559) 298-7013 jeankc@sbcglobal.net

ASSOCIATE MANAGER Debra Hulsey

720 E. Worth Ave #221 Porterville, CA 93257 Phone: (559) 784-4986

REGION 13

COUNTIES: Alpine, Merced, Calaveras, Mariposa, Mono, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne

REGION MANAGER Linda Larsen

6706 Tam O'Shanter Dr. #114 Stockton, CA 95210 Phone: (209) 473-3226 linda4947@att.net

ASSISTANT MANAGER Nicole Ackerman

6706 Tam O'Shanter Dr. #117 Stockton, CA 95210 Phone: (209) 986-1555 nlackerman@sbcglobal.net

ZONE B-1

REGION 8

COUNTIES: San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura

ASSISTANT MANAGERS Barbara Tolerton

109 Blackburn Pl. Ventura, CA 93004 Phone: (805) 647-1935 oldvalleygirl@aol.com

Joan Harper

1012 Kerry Dr. San Luis Obispo, CA 93405 Phone: (805) 543-7946 nutmegger36@att.net

ASSOCIATE MANAGER

Ventura County

Jill Martinez

213 Iris Way Ventura, CA 93004 Phone: (805) 323-5859 Cell: (805) 982-0013 jillmartinezgsmol@gmail.com

ASSOCIATE MANAGER

South Santa Barbara County Anne B. Anderson

333 Old Mill Rd. #161 Santa Barbara, CA 93110 Phone: (805) 895-8319 a.bushnell.anderson@gmail.com

REGION 10

COUNTIES: Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz

REGION MANAGER Richard Halterman

1099 38th Ave. #16 Santa Cruz, CA 95062 Phone: (831) 476-0337

ASSOCIATE MANAGERS Patricia Cramer

3128 Crescent Ave., #11 Marina, CA 93933 Phone: (831) 384-6058 otterpc@aol.com

Bob Lamonica

2395 Delaware Ave. #131 Santa Cruz, CA 95066 Phone: (831) 469-9248 bob@cruzexpo.com

Carole Harris

444 Whispering Pines Dr. #124 Scotts Valley, CA 95066 Phone: (831) 438-4404 carolemae_harris@yahoo.com

ZONE C

REGION 3

Los Angeles County

REGION MANAGER Edward Souza

17350 E. Temple Ave. #466 La Puente, CA 91744 Phone: (626) 506-4303 covinahillsasmol@vahoo.com

ASSOCIATE MANAGER Chuck Loring

8250 Lankershim Blvd., Olive 7 North Hollywood, CA 91605 Phone: (818) 768-6257 chuckloring@dslextreme.com

Martha Vazquez

17350 E. Temple Ave. #379 La Puente, CA 91744 Phone: (626) 965-3454 vmarqsmol@yahoo.com

REGION 5

Orange County

REGION MANAGERS Mary Jo Baretich

21752 Pacific Coast Hwy #23A Huntington Beach, CA 92646 Phone: (714) 960-9507 mjbaretich@hotmail.com

Ray Deniston

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ASSOCIATE MANAGERS Nancy Agostini

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Kathy Downing

2770 W. Lincoln Ave. #42 Anaheim, CA 92801 Phone: (714) 828-2896 kathydowning@sbcglobal.net

Janet Offhaus

201 W. Collins Ave. #81 Orange, CA 92867 Phone: (626)991-7537 jlloyd758@live.com

Ginger Roberts

1973 Newport Blvd. #55 Costa Mesa, CA 92627 Phone: (949) 533-1075 gngroberts@gmail.com

REGION 6

San Bernardino County

REGION MANAGER Carl Laughman

9800 Baseline Rd #7 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 Phone: (909) 980-3484

Kallkarl43@netzero.net

ASSOCIATE MANAGER Joseph Diaz

4400 Philadelphia St. #123 Chino, CA 91710 Phone: (909) 591-9973 Joseph68diaz@yahoo.com

ZONE D

REGION 7

COUNTIES: San Diego and Imperial

REGION MANAGER Frankie Bruce

10771 Black Mtn. Rd. # 100 San Diego, CA 92126 Phone: (858) 335-8885 francesbruce@att.net

ASSOCIATE MANAGERS Victor Roy

200 N. Camino Real #422 Oceanside, CA 92058 Phone: (760) 439-0069 victoryawaitsyou2@hotmail.com

Don Greene

2280-62 E. Valley Pkwy Escondido, CA 92027 Phone: (619) 665-6426 don.greene@cox.net

Karen Bisignano

PO Box 712022 Santee, CA 92072 Phone: (619) 448-9404 smoac@juno.com

REGION 9

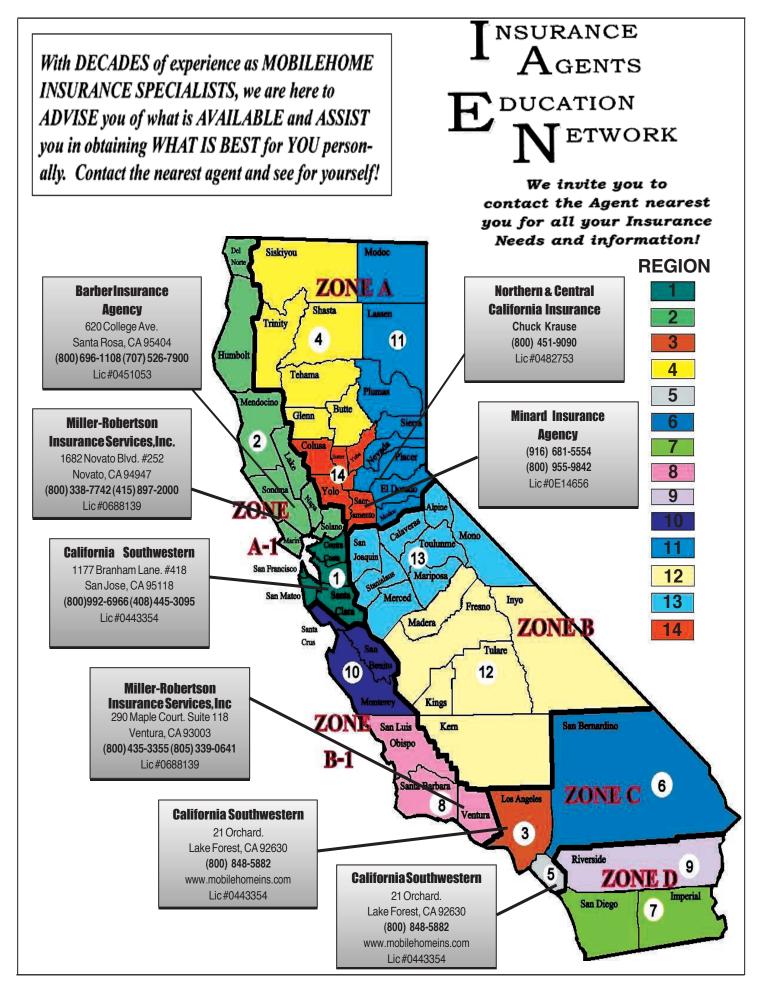
Riverside County

ASSOCIATE MANAGERS Barbara Rish

3701 Fillmore St. #137 Riverside, CA 92505 barbaraqsmol@yahoo.com

Ron Wunsch

1044 Via Grande Cathedral City, CA 92234 Phone: (760)328-0688 rwunsch@dc.rr.com





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PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY NEW MEMBERS' NAMES PARK NAME SPACE NO. MONTH AND YEAR JOINED Please send \$5 reward check to: Name ___ _ Address _ (Note: If the reward is going to a chapter's treasury and the chapter does not have a bank account, the check should be made out to and mailed to a chapter officer. The officer can then cash the check and put the money into the chapter treasury.)

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E.		☐ Three-Year GSMOL Membership	o for \$70	Records
	SERVING HOMEOWNERS S	One-Year Associate Membership for \$50 [EOWNERS SINCE 1962] (Associate Members Do Not Own Manufactured Homes. They Do Not Have Voting Rights And Cannot Hold Office In GSMOL.)		Detach And Keep for Your Theck#Amount
		(DUES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE)		eep
Comments (For O.ce Use)	First Name	Initial Last Name	New Member	nd K
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	Park Name		GSMOL Chapter #	:
	Street Address	Space #	Check # / CASH	RS SINCE 1962
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	Day Phone	Alternate #	Legal Defense Fund \$	LO NING HOM
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FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK TO GSMOL 6101 RALL ROAD SUITE 202 CYPRESS CA 90630				Dov 7/14