

WHY HAVE A GSMOL CHAPTER IN YOUR PARK?

- 1. A chapter allows the GSMOL members in your park to function as an organized group instead of an unrelated bunch of individual members.**
- 2. A chapter allows residents to be proactive about manufactured-home park issues.** Many homeowners think there is no need to form an organization of residents if there are no issues to deal with, but remember that it's better to fix the roof BEFORE it starts raining cats and dogs. **A chapter allows your GSMOL members to be PREPARED to deal with trouble if and when it comes.**
- 3. A chapter helps GSMOL educate park residents** to understand their rights, protections and responsibilities. Being more aware of the laws that apply to MH parks helps residents to avoid being taken advantage of.
- 4. A chapter connects park residents to each other** through chapter meetings and events, and possibly through a newsletter and/or an email list.
- 5. A chapter brings the power and resources of GSMOL into your park.** Your chapter leaders are at one end of a pipeline of support that functions as a 2-way conduit, bringing information, ideas and help down the pipe from the top-level GSMOL leadership and passing feedback and information about park issues back up.
- 6. With a chapter, GSMOL "business" is carried out by people who live in your park.** Someone needs to be keeping an eye out for potential new members, encouraging current members to renew, etc. and this is best done by people who live in your park, who become "boots on the ground" for your nearest GSMOL regional leader who may live far away.
- 7. If your park has a Homeowners' Association, a chapter would work alongside it to support your residents.** If there is no HOA, a chapter can be a good stepping-stone to forming one. An HOA is a good thing to have because it can function as a legal entity to represent residents in a court case or for converting the park to resident ownership, while a GSMOL chapter cannot do these things.
- 8. A chapter can "think outside the park" to connect up with other nearby chapters and/or a local MH owners coalition, if any,** to work together on community projects, such as establishing rent control or closure ordinances and dealing with neighborhood issues.
- 9. It's likely that your park already has a chapter... it is just inactive at this point.** All you need in order to form or reactivate a chapter are (a) enough GSMOL members – at least 15 if your park has 150 or more spaces, or 10% of occupied spaces if less than 150; and (b) at least 3 people willing and able to serve as officers.

Contact your nearest Associate, Assistant, or Region Manager, or Zone Vice President for more information (find their contact information in *The Californian* "Who's Who" page or under the Contact tab on the website www.gsmol.org).