

MHOAA Board Members Return to Washington D.C.

On July 12-16, MHOAA Board members Peter Ferris from Oregon and Tim Sheahan from California traveled to Washington D.C. to follow-up on contacts made during an April visit by the MHOAA Board of Directors.

During the trip, Peter and Tim had the opportunity to meet with administrators of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), a new regulatory body that oversees Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Of top concern and discussion was the “duty to serve” manufactured housing by Government Sponsored Enterprises such as Fannie Mae.

The highlight of the trip was a policy roundtable discussion coordinated by Corporation For Economic Development (CFED) and which included National Consumer Law Center (NCLC), along with several other partners advocating for owners of manufactured housing. The roundtable discussions focused on a variety of issues facing owners of manufactured housing, from making it easier for residents to purchase their communities, to energy efficiency programs, to a Federal “Bill of Rights” for homeowners. With the Federal stimulus plan and other programs under the new administration, we will be exploring any opportunity for creating better programs and protections for homeowners.

Peter and Tim also made several visits to Congressional offices to discuss such topics as a Capital Gains tax waiver for community owners who sell to residents, Section 8 rent subsidies and treating our homes as real estate, not personal property (chattel).

On July 26-30, Terry Nelson from Illinois and Tim Sheahan were in Washington D.C. as members of the Housing and Urban Development Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee (HUD MHCC). The MHCC consists of consumer representatives, manufacturer representatives and public officials. A primary focus of the Committee is on construction standards of manufactured housing to create safer and more energy efficient homes. While in D.C., Tim had the opportunity to meet with the Deputy Secretary of HUD, Ron Sims, in his office. Mr. Sims pledged to explore ways HUD could become more effective in serving manufactured home owners.

In September, MHOAA President Lois Parris, will travel to Washington D.C. to participate in a Uniform Law Commission meeting.

Each of the trips to our nation’s capitol this year have helped develop MHOAA’s presence at the Federal level to better serve homeowners in all states and they laid a great foundation to build upon in the years to come.