

News & Updates

March 3, 2021



MHI's 2021 Winter Leadership Roundtable Roundup

MHI's 2021 Winter Leadership Roundtable brought together industry experts and members over the course of three days to discuss the latest issues impacting the manufactured housing industry such as zoning, financing, and the HUD Code, to name a few. Taking the place of MHI's Winter Meeting, the event kicked off with MHI's CEO Lesli Gooch and President Mark Bowersox sharing with attendees the top priority issues and objectives for growing the market in 2021 by telling our story, engaging our members, and developing our team. MHI's key federal priorities for 2021 include improving the availability of financing, ensuring HUD Code reforms support innovation, protecting preemption and combatting adverse zoning, and advocating across the federal government to ensure the interests of manufactured housing are considered. [Click here](#) to learn more about these priorities and read on below for brief summaries of the sessions.

COVID-19 and Supporting Landlords

YES Communities' Karen Hamilton and MHI's National Communities Council Vice Chair Bill Raffoul with Sun Communities provided valuable insights into how community owners and operators are successfully navigating the challenges posed by the COVID-19 health crisis by sharing best practices and examples of programs they have implemented to assist their residents. Participants also discussed the impact of the current eviction moratorium and the importance of rental assistance for both residents and landlords. MHI updated attendees about the actions the Association is taking to ensure the interests of community owners and operators are included in federal COVID-19 relief programs.

Elevating Manufactured Housing at HUD

Teresa Payne, Administrator of HUD's Office of Manufactured Housing Programs, provided an overview of the recent actions the Department has taken, including publishing the final set of HUD Code changes, and what is on the horizon. MHI's Manufacturers Division Chair Jayar Daily, alongside CAVCO Industries Manny Santana, shared an update about the industry's performance and answered questions about the new HUD Code changes. Participants also heard about the steps MHI is taking to elevate manufactured housing at the Department including HUD Secretary Nominee Marcia Fudge's recent remarks praising manufactured housing as an outstanding option during her nomination hearing.

Discussion with MHI's Zoning Task Force

Freddie Mac's Simone Beatty and members of MHI's zoning task force discussed strategies for addressing the zoning challenges around the country for the placement of manufactured homes. Beatty shared with attendees actions that Freddie Mac is taking, including research studies they have conducted. Task force chair, Cody Pearce (MHI's Financial Services Division Chairman with Cascade Financial Services), along with task force members DJ Pendleton (Texas Manufactured Housing Association) and Bruce Thelen (Sun Communities, Inc.), updated attendees about what the Task Force has been working on including data research and compiling a comprehensive document of zoning restrictions across the country. A robust discussion was held with attendees who shared examples of zoning policies in their states and towns that are currently hindering manufactured housing along with sharing successful strategies and tips they have used to overcome zoning restrictions.

Around the States

MHI's Federated States Division Chair Tawny Peyton with the Rocky Mountain Home Association and the Utah Housing Alliance lead a group discussion with MHI's state executive directors about the latest developments and issues impacting manufactured housing across the country. State executive directors updated attendees on the key issues they are focusing on in their state with many directors expressing similar issues – zoning, COVID, recent storms, transportation, and labor force education and recruitment being some of the key issues.

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Financing for Manufactured Housing

MHI's Financial Services Division Chair Cody Pearce and MHI's Finance Lawyers Committee Chair Matt Webb with 21st Mortgage Corporation shared with attendees the latest efforts to improve the availability of financing for manufactured homes including updating the FHA Title I and II programs, ensuring secondary market support for manufactured housing lending, and current and potential changes at the CFPB as a result of a new Administration. Fannie Mae's Ben Navarro shared with attendees an update on the Enterprise's duty to serve plans and MHI's CEO Lesli Gooch discussed the Association's efforts.

The 2021 Winter Leadership Roundtable concluded with the MHI Board of Directors meeting where members received a briefing on MHI's business operations, heard an overview of the main topics of discussion during each session, and discussed other areas that MHI should explore looking into to help members.

MHI thanks all its sponsors and members who participated in this year's Winter Leadership Roundtable.

Additionally, the MHI-PAC Board of Trustees also met and approved the 2022 Election Cycle Disbursements Budget. Thanks to the generosity of PAC contributors, MHI-PAC saw double-digit growth for the seventh consecutive year in 2020, enabling MHI-PAC to contribute 65% more this election cycle. MHI-PAC is a valuable tool in MHI's advocacy toolbox in that it serves to help communicate to Congress issues of key concern to the industry, elect Members of Congress that support the industry's policy agenda and increase MHI's visibility among key Members of Congress.