

Families Rally to Fight for Their Homes!

Rally for Residents' Rights at the State Capitol

St. Paul, MN—Manufactured homeowners and their families filled the rotunda in the State Capitol on Friday, March 6th to fight for their homes and communities. Nearly 140 park residents, allies, legislators, and APAC staff attended, making this event the largest APAC rally at the State Capitol since the 1980s. Park residents across the state, from as far as Moorhead and Winona, made the trip to their capitol building to rally and meet with legislators to demand that they protect and preserve manufactured home communities.

The rally was full of energy as legislators and park resident leaders delivered powerful speeches, moving people to jolt out their fist and shout, "yes we can" and "fix the Trust Fund!" One speech in particular, given by Paul Wissmiller and Antonia Alvarez, both of Lowry Grove manufactured home park in St Anthony, especially motivated the crowd and created a great sense of unity. On either side of the room they introduced themselves and then came together on the stage to say, "We did not know each other until we met at an APAC meeting, where we found out that we had the same interest, to live in a better neighborhood with respect and dignity. As you can see and hear, neither language, nor race, nor fear were barriers in coming together to organize in our park, because that is the only way we can win on the issues that affect us all. We stand in solidarity!" The crowd shouted "Solidarity!" and in Spanish, "¡Solidaridad!" "The enthusiasm of the rally was really contagious, fun, and exciting," said Kristy Effinger, president of Arden Manor Resident Association, "It was great listening to all the speakers and having everybody bond together for a common cause and be excited about it."

The rally ended with a call to action, where APAC board members Paul Wissmiller and

Pablo Tapia motivated people to get commitments from their legislators as well as from the Attorney General's office to protect the rights and homes of manufactured homeowners. Families from nearly twenty communities met with their senators and representatives and distributed materials for legislators on key committees. Many of the visits were very successful and legislators made commitments to support manufactured home communities. Paul Ruby, APAC's vice president, said, "We had thirty people go to visit Senator Wiger (DFL-Maplewood). "We had such a large group and we really put some heat on him...he even offered to be a co-author." Martha Hernandez, an APAC organizer in Winona also noticed how successful the meeting was and said, "For me, the most amazing moment was to see the reaction of the representative who met with Paul Ruby and the residents. After the meeting he went to speak with Paul Wissmiller and offered his support for a bill. It was very powerful to see this representative recognize the power of homeowners."

Following the visits, people came together to share a lunch, feeling proud of their day at the capitol. Paul Westveer, (Bonnevista Resident Association, Shakopee) said, "Win or loose, at least we're mobilizing people and we are not going away!"

Con't. on page 2



Rally for Residents' Rights

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- JUNE 5 APAC Benefit Night at Ten Thousand Villages
- JUNE 20 St. Paul Saints Fundraiser
- SEPT 11-12 MHOAA National Convention (Seattle, WA)

APAC's Board of Directors meetings are generally the third Saturday of each month.

APAC's Legislative Action Team meetings are typically held the second Saturday of each month.

ANNOUNCEMENT

You can support APAC by becoming a work place donor through Community Shares of Minnesota.

To learn more contact us at
651-644-5525 or
(866)361-2722
(for Greater MN) or
info@allparksallianceforchange.org.



Capitol & Legal News

Largest APAC Rally at the Capitol since the early 1980s!

140 People Attended!	Residents, kids, allies, legislators, media, and APAC Staff.
3 Languages	English, Spanish, and Hmong.
8 Leaders Spoke	Sandy Boone, Paul Wissmiller, Antonia Alvarez, Chris Lustig, Jim Huffman, Carmen Hernandez-Rojas, Doreen Neeland, and Pablo Tapia.
17 Parks	Arbor Vista, Arden Manor, Apple Valley Estates, Bennett, Bonnevista Terrace, Croix Estates, Five Star, Jackson Heights, Lowry Grove, Mobile Manor, Northview Villa, Paul Revere, Rolling Hills, Skyline Village, St. Charles Sherwood Court, Townsedge, and Woodlawn Terrace.
3 Legislators Spoke	Representative Kate Knuth, Senator John Marty, and Representative Paul Gardner.
5 Legislators Attended	Speakers (above), Representative Sandra Masin, and Senator Sandra Pappas.
2 Media Sources Attended	Minnesota News Network (MNN) and Session Weekly
1 Radio Interview	MNN with Chris Lustig (Arden Manor Resident Association & APAC Board), which was distributed to 80 affiliates!
350 Miles Traveled	Longest distances traveled to attend the rally—243 miles from Moorhead and 107 miles from St. Charles.
IN ONE HOUR WE...	Visited 10 legislators and dropped literature off for 14 legislators!



“Quotes of the Day” from our Leaders:

Sandy Boone (APAC Board, MHOAA Board, and Lowry Grove Resident Association)

“We are APAC and we represent 180,000 park residents across the state!”

Paul Wissmiller (APAC Board and Lowry Grove Resident Association)

“As you can see neither language, nor race, nor fear were barriers to come together to organize in our park, because that is the only way we can win on the issues that affect us all.”

Antonia Alvarez (APAC Leader and founder of La Asamblea de Derechos Civiles)

“Do not mistake diversity with solidarity; diversity is nice, but solidarity is power.”

“No confundas diversidad con solidaridad; la diversidad es buena, pero la Soliraridad es poder.”

Chris Lustig (APAC Board and Arden Manor Resident Association)

“By being able to save 30 homes, we’ve proved that no matter how small you start, if you stay united you are very powerful!”

Jim Huffman (APAC Board and Skyline Village Resident Association)

“With APAC, you’ll never walk alone.”

Pablo Tapia (APAC Board and founder of La Asamblea de Derechos Civiles)

“The Capitol is a house of power and this is where change comes from. We are here today because we are the people and this is our building.”

Capitol & Legal News (con't)

Legislative Training Energizes APAC Leaders

Arden Hills, MN—Last February, APAC leaders came together to attend a training on legislative leadership, which focused on how to pressure decision makers and build power in manufactured home communities. Here, leaders created outreach plans for neighborhoods throughout the metro area to engage manufactured homeowners in the fight to protect their rights and homes.

As part of the training, special guest Representative Kate Knuth (DFL-New Brighton) came to talk about her experience working with Arden Manor, a manufactured home park in Arden Hills. She answered questions about how to meet with an elected official and participated in a role-play, where leaders



*Representative Kate Knuth
(DFL) 50B*

The conversation was casual and provided some great tips for people in upcoming meetings with their legislators. Representative Knuth explained that you should say who you are and really tell your story. "Legislators do

practiced meeting with a legislator and getting commitments from them to protect manufactured home communities. APAC Board member, Jim Huffman (Skyline Village, Inver Grove Heights) said, "Having a state representative there was awesome!"

not often get to hear this," she said. She also urged people to follow up with their legislators and hold them accountable for the commitments that they make.

The training was energetic and motivated everyone to take responsibility. Each leader made commitments to hold outreach meetings, flier neighborhoods, and talk to people about how to fight for their rights this year.

Now, after a successful rally at the State Capitol, APAC leaders are continuing their work to ensure that homeowners have political power, and that our legislators are committed to protecting Minnesota's manufactured home communities. ■

A Look into APAC's Legislative Progress: 2009 Legislative Update

As the 2009 legislative session plows forward, APAC has been ever present pursuing its policy goals. The primary concern has been to fix the collection method for the Manufactured Home Relocation Trust Fund. In 2007 APAC successfully passed into law a fund that provides compensation to park residents in the event of a park closing. Although the law was a giant step forward, and APAC is generally happy with the program, the current collection method is simply not working. Under current law, park owners are supposed to invoice residents and collect an annual \$12 payment, which they in turn submit to the state. For several reasons this is not happening the way it was intended and although there was a slight increase from 2007 to 2008, the current report shows that only 48% of manufactured homes are paying into the fund. This presents two major concerns: 1) only 48% of manufactured homeowners are covered and eligible to receive compensation in the event of a park closing, and 2) with only 48% of homeowners paying into the fund there is only 48% of the money in the fund than anticipated and in the event of a large park closing or several simultaneous park closings the fund could be insolvent. There is a provision in current law that requires the state to loan money to the fund in such an instance, but that provision expires in July of 2009. This sun-setting provision has made fixing the Trust Fund collection a priority for APAC's legislative team.

A bill was introduced by Representative Gardner (H.F. 356) that called for a portion of each resident's rent credit refund to be used to pay into the Trust Fund, thus automatically covering every homeowner and assuring a solvent Trust Fund. There have been significant complications with that proposal including heavy opposition from the Department of Revenue. APAC's legislative



staff and legislative committee have been hard at work exploring new options and addressing the concerns with the current proposal. There seems to be enough interest from legislators to come up with some kind of fix this session. With abandoning the rent credit idea, different amendments and proposals have been introduced in the Senate and House. The Senate version, authored by Senator Tomassoni, calls for the state to invoice all park owners \$12 for each licensed lot in their park and allows them to recoup

the assessment through a fee collected along with lot rent. The house version allows a park to fail to comply with current law before the state directly invoices. This bill is getting recognition as one of the most contentious battles at the Capitol this session.

In addition to the Trust Fund, APAC has been pursuing its goal of bringing an Alternative Dispute Resolution system to Minnesota, similar to one in Washington State. Under this proposal, if a manufactured homeowner's rights were being violated under 327C, instead of hiring an attorney and waiting up to two years for a court case to resolve the dispute, the Minnesota Attorney General's Office would have an expert in the statute that could hear both sides, analyze evidence, and make a ruling under the statute. The process would consist of a small filing fee and be substantially faster than going to court resulting in more manufactured homeowners' access to justice under the law. In addition to meeting with the Attorney General's office, APAC has started garnering support from key legislators as well as drafting possible bill language. Late in the session, the possibility of using the Office of Administrative Hearings as a vehicle for ADR instead of the Attorney General's office presented itself and APAC staff and board members had a very productive and optimistic meeting with OAH. ■

Arden Manor Resident Association and APAC Save 30 Homes

Arden Hills, MN—Over a year and a half of organizing in Arden Hills as finally paid off. In a campaign that has seen many victories and setbacks, homeowners finally have some definitive answers about the Highway 10 and 96 expansion projects.

Before APAC and the Arden Manor Resident Association became involved, the Arden Hills city council was ready to vote four to one in favor of a concept plan that would have demolished nearly fifty homes (roughly the size of Jackson Heights in Shakopee or Shady Lane, formerly in Bloomington). Residents stepped up and organized, became leaders, and challenged anyone who wanted to take their homes away.

One of the slogans during the campaign has been, "Move roads, not homes!" For over a year and a half the city functionaries, Minnesota Department of Transportation, and engineers said this could not be done, and that the only way to build the roads was to destroy fifty homes. Well park resident leaders proved all of the "experts" wrong!

Thirty families will have homes this mother's day thanks to powerful leadership and community organizing.

At a public meeting for park residents, a representative from Ramsey County announced that they had come up with two new concept plans for County 96, one which takes ZERO homes and another that only takes two homes. In their original plan for 96, seventeen homes would have been taken.

A few months ago, the city approved a concept plan for Highway 10 which reduced the number of homes impacted from thirty to fifteen. Fifteen homes are still too many, but a huge improvement over thirty! The Arden Manor campaign should be seen as a huge victory for APAC and the Resident Association. Thirty families will have homes this mother's day thanks to powerful leadership and community organizing. ■

Voice Your Support For Jackson Heights!

Neighborhood leaders held a critical meeting in Jackson Heights on Saturday, March 21st about the highway project that threatens their homes. Almost every one of the sixty families in the park attended, as well as allies from Guardian Angels Church, Arden Manor Resident Association, La Asamblea de Derechos Civiles, and Bonnevista Resident Association.

At the meeting, neighborhood leaders informed new residents about the Minnesota Department of Transportation's plan to destroy their neighborhood in order to build a freeway. Many new families have recently moved into the park and were not aware about the community's uncertain future. They learned how debate over where the road will be built has been raging for years, but in December, MnDOT decided to build the highway through the Jackson Heights neighborhood. The good news is that due to protests over the fact that a baseball field was considered more valuable than this neighborhood, MnDOT has agreed to form a working group to decide how Jackson Heights residents will be compensated for the loss of their homes and community.

Inspired by the support of allies, residents decided to speak with one voice and fight for MnDOT to replace their neighborhood by creating a new manufactured home park within the same school district. "They are the ones who want the land, so they need to replace our neighborhood," said Jackson Heights resident Ms. Hernandez.



The stakes are very high, but if they win, Jackson Heights leaders will not only save their neighborhood, but also set a precedent that MnDOT must recreate what they destroy and that manufactured homes are NOT a path of least resistance. ■

Jackson Heights residents would like to invite all APAC members to be their allies in their fight for justice with this highway project. If you support them, please send a letter to 970 Raymond Avenue, Suite 105, St. Paul, MN 55114 or email it to krystal.apac@gmail.com. We will combine your letters with others and deliver them to MnDOT. See the sample letter below:

Dear Commissioner Sorel,

I live in Shady Acres manufactured home park in Mystery Town, Minnesota and I am a member of All Parks Alliance for Change.

I am writing to say that I support the residents of Jackson Heights manufactured home park in Shakopee.

If you tear down their homes and their neighborhood, then you need to replace it with a new neighborhood. The residents of Jackson Heights live there for a reason and they deserve respect and equal treatment.

Traditional homeowners are made whole when the government destroys their homes: manufactured homeowners must be too.

Relocating families to apartments, higher-cost homes, and far-away towns is wrong. Do the right thing and create a new neighborhood for the families of Jackson Heights!

*Sincerely,
Jane Doe*

Metro Area News (con't)

Burnsville Representative Will Morgan Takes Interest in Parks

Burnsville, MN—When Arbor Vista resident Patty Murra went to an APAC candidate forum last October, she made a point of introducing herself to the candidates and sharing her concerns as a manufactured homeowner. "I'm not afraid to talk with legislators," she said, "because if you don't introduce yourself, how can they help?" The incumbent candidate Representative Will Morgan (DFL-Burnsville) took time after the



Representative Will Morgan
(DFL) 40A

forum to talk with Arbor Vista constituents. He eagerly expressed support for the preservation of manufactured home communities in his district and throughout state.

When Representative Will Morgan was re-elected, he didn't forget Patty. He asked APAC to organize a meeting of Arbor Vista residents so he could hear their concerns. Over a dozen residents came to meet their representative and speak their minds. Many Arbor Vista families are long-time residents who take pride in their community. Yet, they are concerned about declining park maintenance, uneven enforcement of rules, rent increases, and overall disrespect of their rights. For example, the community used to be called Camelot Acres, but this past year the park was sold and the name was changed. Residents knew nothing of the change until seeing new signs out front welcoming them to "Arbor Vista."

Residents want to see more substantial change, such as reasonable rents and road improvements. Luckily, residents have a legislator who is ready to listen and do his part to improve and protect their

neighborhood. A dispute resolution system outside the courts, similar to what exists in Washington State, was discussed as a potential solution. A team of residents also followed up with Representative Morgan at the APAC Rally Day. "Sometimes community leaders think negatively of us because of the reputation of mobile home parks, but I'm really impressed with Representative Will Morgan; I'm glad I introduced myself," said Murra. ■

"Luckily, residents have a legislator who is ready to listen and do his part to improve and protect their neighborhood."

Park Resident Wins Seat on Township Board

Shakopee, MN—Bonnevista Terrace, a 200 lot manufactured home community in Shakopee, successfully stopped a freeway from being built through their neighborhood. However, homeowners still believe the neighborhood is at risk. Scott County has planned for the entire area to become an industrial park by the year 2030. The Bonnevista Resident Association is not waiting around for the bad news; instead, they have elected one of their own to serve on the local township board. Paul Westveer won the township supervisor



Paul Westveer

position on March 10, with twenty-one write-in votes. Resident association leaders mobilized neighbors and residents of Mobile Manor and Jackson Heights neighborhoods to get out and vote. Westveer plans to use his position to gain insight into how the township, county, and surrounding cities operate. "One thing I want to find out," said Westveer, "is if our community has fifty-seven acres that could be developed, then what is standing in the way; I don't see why Scott County and the township won't allow this park to expand." ■



Skyline Village Moves Ahead with Rent Increase Case

Inver Grove Heights, MN—The Skyline Village lawsuit is pressing forward. Settlement talks have reopened due to the discovery process, which involves fulfilling document requests, gathering paperwork, and making endless copies. It is exciting to announce that the Housing Preservation Project (HPP) is joining on as co-counsel which greatly increases APAC's resources and legal team. HPP successfully represented Shady Oaks manufactured home park in a

2005 rent increase case when their rent went from \$225 to \$400.

Although the case also involves the park owner's failure to comply with the Relocation Trust Fund in 2007, the case is centered on the argument that the \$25 annual rent increases are unreasonable under the current statute. Aside from the fact that the size of the yearly increase has been twice the rate of inflation (when common rent increases are usually half the rate of inflation), the residents of Skyline Village also argue that

the rent increase is unreasonable due to the lack of maintenance, upkeep, and capital reinvestment the park owners have made back into the park. The case will likely end in a settlement or at a pre-trial hearing.

Many other parks are following the Skyline case with great interest, waiting to hear a court ruling on whether or not a rent increase pattern like this is considered "unreasonable" under Minnesota Statute 327C. ■

Greater Minnesota News

APAC Launches Mobile Justice Training Institute in Winona

Winona, MN—APAC is proud to have completed its first leadership training under the banner of the Mobile Justice Training Institute, a new APAC program designed to make leadership trainings a regular part of its work. Held in Winona, the training brought together emerging leaders from three parks in Goodview and St. Charles and allies from Latinos Unidos, Land Stewardship Project, and Winona State University. The group was a good mix of folks ranging from high school age to seniors, Anglos and Latinos. "I thought the training was great," said Carmen Hernandez-Rojas, a community organizer and park resident from St. Charles, "I got so many tools from the training, especially the part about running effective meetings. I look forward to taking these tools back with me in organizing my community for Latinos Unidos. I really enjoyed it." The program is designed to show people how to be leaders, build power, expand their base, and work strategically. "We thought Winona would be a logical place to start," said Ned Moore, APAC's organizer director, "in recent months, strong leadership has emerged as result of APAC's southern organizer, Martha Hernandez-Martinez's, campaigns."

The next Training Institute will be held in the Moorhead area in early May, followed by a late summer training in the Twin Cities. The cost

of the training is \$500, but full scholarships are available for APAC members. If you are interested in attending an upcoming Training Institute contact the APAC office. ■



Mobile Justice Training Institute Participants

Reaching New Potential Allies

The League of Women Voters in Winona

Winona, MN—On February 5, 2009 APAC facilitated an educational program for the Winona chapter of the League of Women Voters, focusing on the issues that residents of manufactured home communities face. APAC board member Sandy Boone, democracy project organizer Hannah Garcia, and southern Minnesota organizer Martha Hernandez-Martinez presented at the event.

APAC connected with the League last October at APAC's local candidate forum. At the forum, park residents from Red Top and APAC's organizers brought questions relating to park closures. For the first time in a local candidate forum, manufactured home park issues were recognized and candidates had the opportunity to express their views about the manufactured home park. Some of the responses given by the candidates were less than positive, and very

disrespectful to residents. These comments motivated the League of Women Voters to invite APAC to present its perspective on park issues and to learn more about APAC's work. The turnout was excellent and the presentation was well received. In the words of the Winona League's president, Lynn Theurer, "Affordable housing and having viable communities was one of the messages I took home about mobile home parks."

Many of the League's members have relationships and connections with local manufactured homeowners, but were not previously aware of APAC's work. They have shown interest in and support for park communities. The League has a desire to continue working with APAC and to keep the issue of affordable housing in its agenda. They have also expressed interest in support local park residents. ■

APAC on the Good Morning Show With Bob Sebo

Thanks to the efforts of new APAC member Gerry Haessig, staff members Justin Bell and Martha Hernandez-Martinez were invited for an interview on the 8:00 am Good Morning Show on the local Winona Radio KWNO AM 1230 last February 16th. Justin and Martha were interviewed by Mr. Bob Sebo on a live broadcast program which discusses local issues and events that occur in Winona and its surrounding area. Mr. Sebo was very interested in learning about the work that APAC is doing with manufactured home park residents in Winona. He was aware of the park prejudice form APAC hosted last October and wanted to know what impact the forum has had in the community. Mr. Sebo also knew about APAC's involvement with the Lake Village Resident Association. Martha and Justin talked

with Mr. Sebo about the APAC legislative agenda and the great impact the changes in the Trust Fund legislation will have for hundreds of residents of manufactured home communities in the county (see the Capitol and Legal News section in current issue of The Alliance). In addition, APAC's efforts for an Alternative Dispute Resolution program (similar to legislation implemented in Washington State) in Minnesota were discussed. Justin emphasized the positive impact that this program has made for Washington residents and how necessary it is to have a comparable program in Minnesota. Mr. Sebo closed his interview with words of encouragement and support, as well as an open invitation to return to his program in the future. ■

Greater Minnesota News (con't)

Gaylord Association Moving Forward, Recruiting Allies

Gaylord, MN—The Gaylord Resident Association held a very successful leadership training for homeowners in their park, at which leaders from Jackson Heights in Shakopee also attended. The training was done in coordination with APAC's allies at La Asamblea de Derechos Civiles (The Assembly for Civil Rights). Sister Caroline from

St. Michael Catholic Church attended the training, and she emerged as a strong potential ally for the Gaylord Resident Association. In the coming weeks homeowners are planning a meeting with a representative of the park owner, the South Central Multi-County Housing Redevelopment Authority. ■

APAC Teaches Organizing Workshop at Winona State University

Winona, MN—APAC organizers were invited to participate in a course at Winona State University by leading a three part workshop. The course titled Community Health is in the department of Health, Exercise, and Rehabilitative Sciences. The thirty-two students in the class are undertaking a project where they need to go door-to-door in the community to invite recently unemployed residents to a community health fair. Four APAC community organizers led workshops on topics such as:

- What is community organizing?
- What type of work are community organizers actually involved with?
- What are the best strategies for doorknocking communities effectively?
- How do you meet with community members on a one-on-one basis in order to learn what issues are important to them?
- The organizers also taught students about manufactured home park communities and the work that APAC does.

Students were engaged in the workshops, and it was an important opportunity for APAC to share its work in a college environment. Professor Peter Sternberg said, "Thanks to APAC, my community health students learned about community organizing. Now they're out there putting what they learned into practice. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to learn from the masters." ■



APAC organizers, Hannah Garcia (center) and Martha Hernandez-Martinez (right) teach workshop at Winona State University.

Fargo Park Residents Want Change!

Fargo, ND—The opening of APAC's northwestern regional office has provided the opportunity for its work to expand into Fargo, North Dakota for the first time. This makes for a very productive and progressive atmosphere as a result of the collaboration between residents of manufactured home parks in Moorhead and Fargo. The biggest challenge is the difference in state laws as they pertain to park communities and residents between the two bordering states.

APAC held an outreach meeting for Fargo park residents on February 4th. Fliers were distributed among four Fargo parks: Countryside Trailer Court, Buena Vista, Riviera Heights, and Selkirk Settlement.

This meeting brought together approximately thirty Fargo residents and had very positive outcomes. For APAC, the importance of moving forward with the Fargo parks is great, simply because incredible things can be achieved. For example, residents are

motivated to form a statewide homeowners' association and introduce new legislation protecting the rights of those in manufactured home park communities.

The community allies at the meeting reiterated the importance of organizing around the issues, maintaining a positive attitude, and putting forth a collective voice. Community



groups including North Dakota Human Rights Coalition, Fargo Human Relations Commission, Fair Housing of the Dakotas, North Dakota Legal Services, and People Escaping Poverty Project showed their support. The group of residents was thoroughly

impressed with community support they had even prior to embarking on any campaigns.

Many residents appeared to have experienced similar issues and expressed disappointment and discontent with how their communities were being treated by park management, the city, and the police department. Many also felt disenfranchised due to the poor reputation, negative perceptions, and park prejudice that have been cultivated over time with regard to manufactured home park communities. The identification of multiple park issues indicated to the residents that the root cause was insufficient legislation in the entire state. Recognition of this gave residents motivation

to engage other residents and begin an organizing campaign to address some of these issues. APAC is currently planning for its next community meeting where the hope is to double the turnout and prioritize the issues. ■

National News

Resident Leaders Join Together for Justice

Chicago, IL—The newly formed Midwestern Alliance had their first conference this past December. Leaders from Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, and Wisconsin braved winter driving to join leaders from the host state organization, Mobile Home Owners Association of Illinois (MHOAI), in Chicago.

Residents received trainings and workshops on subjects such as grant writing, membership retention and recruitment, dealing with

retaliation, building multi-racial alliances, and more. In addition to receiving trainings, the group has started research on an exciting new project—a multi-state coordinated effort to confront egregious park lords who own manufactured home communities in multiple states in the Midwest. The project is a long term effort that could set the stage for building and demonstrating manufactured homeowner power across state lines. If you are interested in being involved in this effort, please contact Kelly Diouf at APAC. ■

New Alliances Developing in 2009!

St. Paul, MN—2009 promises to be an exciting year for leaders across the nation as new national alliances are forged and strengthened. Interested in working together on issues particular to their regions, groups of homeowners have formed new alliances based on geography—Western, Midwestern, and Eastern homeowners have been coming together for trainings, strategizing, peer to peer learning, mutual support, and goals-based planning.

With generous funding from CFED's I'M HOME (Corporation for Enterprise Development—Innovations in Manufactured Homes) program, each regional alliance will have the opportunity to meet face to face for a two day conference, hosted by a homeowners' association in each region. APAC will provide planning, support, and trainings for all three conferences.

If you are a homeowner in a state that does not have representation in these alliances, please contact Kelly Diouf at APAC. Each alliance is interested in welcoming new leaders!

Western Alliance:

The Western Alliance is growing. This alliance started out as a northwestern alliance, but has decided since its first conference (see the Fall/Winter 2008 *The Alliance* article) to expand to include all states west of the Dakotas. Current participants in the alliance are homeowners from the states of Washington, California, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Oregon, and Colorado.

This year, the Western Alliance conference will be hosted by the newly formed Colorado Manufactured Home Owners Association (COMHOA). The event will take place in Denver, CO on May 28th and 29th.

Midwestern Alliance:

The Midwestern Alliance had their first conference this past December and currently consists of resident leaders from Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota.

The Midwestern conference will be hosted by the Manufactured Homeowners Legislative Association of Michigan (MOLA) and will take place June 27th and 28th in Belleville, MI.

Eastern Alliance:

The Eastern Alliance is a newly re-formed group. Current participants in the alliance consist of leaders from New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Rhode Island. ■

The Eastern Alliance conference will take place in July. Check with Kelly Diouf for more details as they develop.

The 2009 MHOAA National Convention is Coming Up!

When: September 11th & 12th, 2009

Where: Seattle, WA

Hosts: The Association of Manufactured Home Owners (AMHO) and All Parks Alliance for Change (APAC)

MHOAA national conventions are an opportunity for MHOAA members, other manufactured homeowners, and our allies to share expertise, benefit from professional trainings, network, strategize, and gain momentum towards the manufactured housing movement in the United States.

This year's MHOAA convention is taking place in Seattle, WA. Similar to the 2008 convention, this convention will be conducted in tandem with CFED's I'M HOME (Corporation for Enterprise Development—Innovations in Manufactured Homes) annual convention.

Registration Deadlines:

Early Bird: June 15th: \$50 for residents \$90 for non-residents

Final Deadline: August 3rd: \$90 for residents \$125 for non-residents

* *Please note that any registrations received after the final deadline will not be guaranteed a hotel room.

Registration prices include all trainings, seminars, and three full meals per day.

Please check the APAC website in April for instructions on how to register.

Scholarships:

Residents living in a manufactured home community may be eligible for full and partial scholarships covering registration, travel, and lodgings. Please check the APAC website in April for application instructions. ■

Any questions regarding the convention may be directed to Kelly Diouf, kelly@allparksallianceforchange.org or Call (toll free) 1-866-361-2722



APAC Welcomes New Legal & Policy Director

St. Paul, MN—APAC is pleased to announce the hiring of Justin Bell as our new Legal & Policy Director. Justin was hired to fill the position after Margaret Kaplan left to become the operations director for the Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing.



Justin Bell

Justin received his J.D. from Hamline University School of Law and his undergraduate degree from St. Mary's University in Winona, MN. In law school, he focused his studies

on public policy and nonprofit law and worked with local government during the 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions. He worked in the Hamline Nonprofit Law Clinic where he focused on neighborhood and community groups. He has been involved with a range of nonprofit and community organizations including Phillips West Neighborhood Association (in Minneapolis), Hamline Law DFL, and BUDDIES (working with developmentally disabled individuals). Justin grew up in Winona, MN and as a young child lived in Lake Village, a Winona area park. Justin can be reached at justin@allparksallianceforchange.org. ■

APAC Welcomes New Board Members

St. Paul, MN—Park residents are the leaders of APAC. One way which this occurs is through our board of directors, which consists entirely park residents. Residents make the major decisions that set APAC's direction by choosing organizational issues, setting annual and long-range goals, approving the annual budget, and hiring the executive director. Board members attend monthly meetings, serve on committees, recruit members, raise funds, identify potential new park chapters, and provide a two-way communication link between their park chapter and the APAC board.

Members of the board often start out as active leaders in their park or with their resident association. Any resident is eligible to serve on APAC's board by recruiting members, forming a chapter, and running for election. Recently, APAC welcomed a few new members to its board:



Chris Lustig

Chris Lustig and **Duane Sheaser** joined the board in 2009 as residents of Arden Manor (Arden Hills). Their park is bordered by three highways that form a triangle around their community: 35W, 96, and 10. They have been leaders in

the fight to protect their homes from highway



Duane Sheaser

expansion plans proposed by the city; taking the fight from their community to city hall to the State Capitol. They have formed a resident association and have begun to flex their voting power by organizing a candidate forum with the candidates for state representative.

Pablo Tapia joined the board in 2009 as a resident of Paul Revere (Lexington). His park is one of four resident-owned park cooperatives in Minnesota. Pablo has been an APAC member and leader since 2003. He was part of the effort to form first a resident association and then the park co-op. Pablo has been a community organizer and trainer for over fifteen years. He is a founding leader of La Asamblea de Derechos Civiles (The Assembly for Civil Rights), a faith-based organization that fights for civil rights for immigrants, and previously served on the board of the Headwaters Foundation for Justice. ■



Pablo Tapia

Save the Date! APAC's 14th annual St. Paul Saints Fundraiser is Saturday, June 20th

St Paul Saints vs. Wichita Wingnuts

Join us for an evening of tailgating and baseball, while supporting the work of APAC! Burgers, hotdogs, side dishes, and beverages will be served. Tickets are general admission so enter the Midway Stadium before game time to get a good seat! ■

Schedule:

Tailgate:	5-7 pm	Game:	7:05 pm
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Ticket Information:

\$13 for adults	\$7 children (under 15)
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Raffle Prizes:

Buy a ticket and attend the game and you will be automatically entered to win St. Paul Saints merchandise.

For more information, call APAC at 651-644-5525 or toll free 866-361-APAC.



They are other parks eligible to form chapters that have not yet elected board members. If you are interested, contact Julia Wells to find out more at 651-644-5525 or julia@allparksallianceforchange.org.

APAC News (con't)

APAC Partners with Ten Thousand Villages for Benefit Night

Friday, June 5, 2009 join APAC at Ten Thousand Villages for an evening of shopping to support APAC and park residents around the state. Through this partnership, twenty percent of sales from 5-8 pm on June 5th will go directly to APAC.

Ten Thousand Villages is a nonprofit, fair trade gift shop located in St. Paul (and nationwide) with the handicrafts of artisans from developing countries across the world. They say that "as one of the world's oldest and largest fair trade organizations, we build long-term relationships with artisans that are based on mutual understanding and respect." This working relationship allows artisans to receive a fair wage for their work, and creates a better quality of life for the artisans and their families.

Ten Thousand Villages is also committed to supporting local communities by partnering with nonprofit organizations through benefit shopping nights. Through this program, twenty percent of the evening sales on June 5th will be donated to APAC. This event is also a great opportunity for APAC to teach others in the community about manufactured home parks and the challenges park residents face.



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES®

So mark your calendars, Friday, June 5, 2009, invite your friends and family members,

Note from Ten Thousand Villages' Store Manager:

I'm looking forward to the Benefit Event for All Parks Alliance for Change. It's always a win/win to host these events. Our customers get the opportunity to learn about the worthwhile work of nonprofit organizations, such as APAC, in our community, and we introduce the organization's staff, volunteers, friends, patrons, and clients to the fair trade partnerships of Ten Thousand Villages with artisans in 37 developing countries around the world.

We'll do all we can to make this a successful and fun event. See you soon!

Kathy McGinley

Manager-Ten Thousand Villages

and enjoy an evening of shopping where your purchases will benefit manufactured home park residents!

Ten Thousand Villages is located in St. Paul at 867 Grand Avenue (at Victoria Crossing West), St. Paul, MN 55105. For more information, visit their website at www.stpaul.tenthousandvillages.com. ■

Questions? Contact Julia at 651-644-5525 or julia@allparksallianceforchange.org.

Membership

APAC Invites Your Community to Become a Chapter

An APAC chapter is a group of members from the same manufactured home park or the same city who join together to affirm and support APAC's mission. Chapters are a way for your communities' concerns to be heard by the larger community. They provide your community an opportunity to be represented on the APAC board of directors, which is in charge of APAC's affairs. The board chooses APAC's issues, programs, and projects. Chapters provide the leadership of the mobile justice movement in your community, across the state, and throughout the nation.

The requirements to form a Chapter:

A chapter can be formed when 10% of the occupied households in a park are members of APAC, with the following exceptions: (a) parks with twenty or fewer households require two households; (b) parks with over 100 households require fifteen households; and (c) parks with over 300 households require twenty households. Members living in the same city but residing in different parks can also form a city-level chapter. ■

How to form a Chapter:

<u>Step 1:</u>	Identify park concerns that APAC's support could address
<u>Step 2:</u>	Recruit households to become APAC members
<u>Step 3:</u>	Invite APAC member households to a chapter meeting
<u>Step 4:</u>	Appear at an APAC board meeting and receive certification as a chapter
<u>Step 5:</u>	Maintain an ongoing link between your chapter and the APAC board to create the changes you would like to see in your community!

**Note: This and much more information can be found at: www.allparksallianceforchange.org/?q=chapter.
Want to form a Chapter? Give APAC a call at toll free 866-361-2722!**

Membership (con't)

Why Become an APAC Member?

APAC needs its members. They are APAC's foundation. They legitimize APAC and create strength and power through numbers. Joining together shows the solidarity that exists within and between parks. Our members give us guidance and ideas. APAC is the only organization of its kind in Minnesota and needs your continued support.

That is why we ask you to become a member. Joining APAC is simple and inexpensive. The cost for membership is \$20 per household per year. We also provide the option of a volunteer membership program. Members receive our quarterly newsletter and important updates and fact sheets; but most importantly members support APAC and the residents of parks across Minnesota.

What APAC Members think:

Membership is about being informed.

"Thanks to APAC's community involvement, I was informed of the MN Statutes for mobile homes. This enabled me to recover some home equity losses, experienced due to not being able to sell my home in its place as provided for by the Statutes."

It's about community.

"It's about being a part of the family of homeowners who keep working to make people look at manufactured homes as the same as stick-built homes, so people can live there here by choice and not face any judgment."

It's about creating positive change.

"We can get rid of the negative images and have everyone see the fruit of our labor. I'm proud that we passed a state law, it made all the struggles over the year worth it."

Why APAC Membership is Important

By Jim Grundmeyer, President of
Bonnevista Terrace Resident Association



Jim Grundmeyer

Shakopee, MN—I feel anybody who owns a mobile home has a place in APAC so that they can have a broader scope for what is happening in the political world. APAC has the ability to alert us of things that are up and coming related to our homes

and our rights. I have been a member since 2007 when I attended an APAC legislative summit that took place at the site of the recently closed Shady Lane Park in Bloomington. The membership fee isn't all that much, so I think it should behoove anybody who has a mobile home to join. ■

"It's about winning legal justice for people residing in mobile home parks. We need to make the laws understandable, enforceable, and respected by park owners. I can't wait to face the park owners in person and see what they have to say."

It's about being involved.

"I'm proud to be part of a group that was set-up by people who know where I've been; I have to keep being involved...as long as there are still issues that need be fixed, I am going to stay involved."

To find out more about becoming a member call APAC's office or visit our website at www.allparksallianceforchange.org/?q=member to become a member online.

Membership

Yes, I want to join APAC! Enclosed are my annual member dues:

- \$10 minimum dues \$20 regular dues
 \$30 \$_____

I cannot afford dues, but I still want to be a member. I have volunteered a minimum of two hours to earn membership:

Date _____ Hours _____

Volunteer work _____

I want to join as a:

- Regular Member (current park resident) At-Large Member (former park resident)
 Associate Member (non-resident)

Name _____

Address _____

Park _____

City _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Involvement:

I want to become involved with APAC by:

- Working to form a resident association
 Establishing an APAC chapter
 Becoming involved in an APAC program
 Promoting APAC in my park
 Providing assistance in the APAC office



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 970 Raymond Ave., Ste. 105
 St. Paul, MN 55114
 Phone: (651) 644-5525
 Fax: (651) 523-0173
 Toll free: (866) 361-2722

Northern Regional Office

116-12th Street South • Moorhead, MN 56560
 (218) 236-7322

Southern Regional Office

111 Riverfront Bldg., Suite 109 • Winona, MN 55987
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A MEMBER OF



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All Parks Alliance for Change (APAC) is a non-profit organization that works to provide an effective voice for manufactured home owners and other park residents in the state of Minnesota. Through action and communication APAC serves as a vehicle to promote meaningful social change and to improve the quality of life in manufactured home parks.

APAC Staff:

Executive Director Dave Anderson
National Project Director Kelly Diouf
Democracy Project Organizer Hannah Garcia
Office Manager Julia Wells
Legal and Policy Director Justin Bell
Organizing Director Ned Moore
Community Organizers
Twin Cities Krystal Klein
Southern MN Martha Hernandez Martinez
Northern MN Sureshi Jayawardene

APAC Board of Directors:

President Bev Adrian
1st Vice President Paul Ruby
2nd Vice President Pat Therrien
Treasurer Paul Wissmiller
Secretary Sandy Boone

Other Members

John Freeman, Pat Freeman, James Huffman, Chris Lustig, Duane Sheaser, Raye Steiner, and Pablo Tapia. Alternate: Phillip Jarosz.

Supporters:

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 Training
 Institute
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St. Paul
 Saints
 Fundraiser
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