



KMHI's connection to its members

On The Home Front

A publication of the Kentucky Manufactured Housing Institute
"The Voice of the Manufactured & Modular Home Industry in Kentucky"
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2170 US 127 South, Frankfort, KY 40601~502-223-0490~800-467-6590~Fax: 502-223-7305~www.kmhi.org

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 15 - 5-Hour Installer Continuing Education Course

April 16-17 - 15-Hour Initial Certified Installer Course

KMHI Office, Frankfort

May 15 - Executive Personnel Meeting, KMHI Office, Frankfort

July 17-19 - KMHI Annual Conference, Covington, KY

KMHI Strategic Plan Available

As reported in the March 24th On the Home Front, the board of directors approved the KMHI Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2008-2011. The new strategic plan is designed to guide KMHI for the next three years. KMHI thanks those members and project facilitator Diane Korte of The Balance Group for their participation in the development of the plan and to all the committees and the Board of Directors for their careful review, revision and approval. This was a three-month project.

Every KMHI member is encouraged to access the entire 2008-2011 strategic plan by visiting the KMHI web site at www.kmhi.org and clicking on to the Member Highlights box on the home page at "KMHI Strategic Plan Report 2008-2011." The plan can be printed on your own printer. For members that do not have Internet access, just call KMHI at 800-467-6590 and request a copy to be faxed or mailed to your business. It is important that all members be familiar with the plan, which is a "road map" to KMHI's activities over the next three years. Please let us know of any questions or concerns you may have about the plan.

A brief summary of the plan is attached to this newsletter. More to come during the next few months.

Community Advisory Committee to be Revised

KMHI is promoting the passage of legislative bills, HB 193 and SB 43, which would transfer the regulation of manufactured home land-lease communities from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to the Office of Housing, Buildings and Construction under the State Fire Marshal. In spite of some hard work, the changing of key personnel in both cabinets has rendered the chance of passing the bills this session very unlikely. Budgets and a few other details must be worked out. KMHI will continue to work toward the transfer between now and next year. In the meantime, the health services cabinet has agreed to reconstitute the statutory manufactured home community advisory committee that will give the industry more leverage in the regulatory process. KMHI is working on its recommendations for members to serve on the community advisory committee.

Save the Dates - KMHI Annual Conference

July 17-19, 2008 are the dates for the KMHI Annual Conference and General Membership meeting. The 2008 conference at the Radisson Hotel in Covington promises to be outstanding with educational, informational, social, golf events and kids activities. Lot's of fun'n games for all and you can be a part of conducting the business of KMHI. Details to be mailed out soon.

KMHI Web Traffic & Search Traffic

Larry Korte, of The Balance Group, reported that 11,274 searches went to specific members looking for specific services during our first 6 months of the site's revisions to connect prospects to KMHI members at no cost as a member benefit. We don't know if they actually called or contacted each member, but the searches are very hot leads looking for a specific service in their area. We have available details of these searches. If you are interested in getting this report, please contact us. Disposal is still the most popular, followed by the previous member lookup process. The new member search facility actually had more traffic than any of these. If you haven't sent in your application for web advertising, **do it today! Web ads will really enhance your traffic.**

Kentucky State Legislation

The Kentucky General Assembly has only two legislative days left to take action on bills that have seen some activity. April 14th and 15th are the final days with sine die on the 15th. So far very few bills have passed both houses and been sent to the Governor. Generally, that might be a good thing. This year almost a record number of bills have been introduced after a very slow January start. KMHI is monitoring 10 Senate, 47 House bills and 1 House Concurrent Resolution for a total of 58 bills, about 15 more than usual. Of the bills monitored about 20 were seriously considered and directly would have an affect on the industry.

Here are the highlights of the session with respect to industry related bills to date:

SB 22 - Home inspector licensing with favorable KMHI amendment - Passed House, now in Senate. KMHI supports.

SB 43 - Transfer land-lease community regulation from Health and Family Services Cabinet to State Fire Marshal. In Senate - No action KMHI supports.

SB 76 - Requires Certified Installer seal to be placed on manufactured homes prior to the home being energized. Passed Senate and House. To be enrolled and sent to Governor. KMHI supports.

HB 2 - Relates to use of efficient energy. Provides that manufactured and modular home retailers will get tax credit for sale of Energy Star homes as allocated by the state. Passed House-In Senate. KMHI supports.

HB 149 - Provides efficient energy savings to homeowners as incentive from utility providers. In House-No action-KMHI supports.

HB 153 - Provides low-income heating energy assistance to needy. In House-No action- KMHI supports.

HB 156 - Mandates manufactured home retailers to provide weather radios to purchasers of new and pre-owned homes. Two favorable floor amendments for industry. On House orders for passage, but KMHI is trying to keep it from passing without amendments. KMHI opposes.

HB 193 - House version of SB 43. In House-No action. KMHI supports.

HB 434 - Sets standards for technical companies that are required to be licensed to remediate mold in residential and commercial properties. Passed House-In Senate- KMHI supports.

HB 552 - Regulates residential mortgages and brokers, low and high cost homes loans - manufactured homes sold as chattel are exempt. Addresses predatory lending, etc. Best of several bills, agreed to by interested parties. Passed House, on Senate orders, pending floor action. KMHI supports this version sponsored by Representative Thompson.

HB 651 - Clarify and correct arbitrary removal of blanket transport permit for violation of over dimensional vehicle regulations. Provides due process and fair sanctions. In House-No action. KMHI supports except for long process to get resolved. KMHI is working with Transportation Cabinet to adopt regulations under current law to take care of this matter. Regulations are drafted and should be ready for submission soon.

HB 765 - Technical amendments to law passed last year on methamphetamine contamination and clean up. Passed House on Senate Consent calendar for floor action. KMHI supports.

HB 533 - Small Business incentive program (ICARE) for offering health care insurance to employees was re-authorized as passed in 2006 except the program will include employers with 2-50 employees. Appropriations, however, may not be available-pending state budget. Passed House-In Senate. KMHI supports.

KMHI and other interested organizations were instrumental in the defeat of several bills that would have been devastating to the home selling and lending industries. Many other "predatory" lending and "high cost" home loan bills were not considered.

Currently the General Assembly is devoting its energy to the state budget including reductions in spending and whether there will be some type of increase in new revenue. Members will be provided a full report on industry related bills in the 2008 Kentucky General session after the "dust" settles.