



Call Congress on Tax Credits

WASHINGTON – MHI is urging its national membership to contact Congress to renew the federal tax credit for manufacturers who build energy efficient homes (Section 45L).

Under the law that expired Dec. 31, manufacturers who built ENERGY STAR homes were eligible to receive a \$1,000 tax credit; modular home builders were eligible to receive a \$2,000 tax credit by exceeding the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) by 50 percent.

The House of Representatives returned to Washington Jan. 17 while the Senate reconvened Jan. 23.

MHI members are encouraged to call their representative's district office. Contact information for congressional offices is available at: http://www.manufacturedhousing.org/government_affairs/find_congress.asp.

[Click here](#) for the issue paper.



WVHI Convention Aug. 6-8 in Charleston Get your reservations completed today

Co-Presidents Kevin Wilfong of Fairmont and George Gunnell of Winfield, and the board of directors of the West Virginia Housing Institute Inc., invite you to WVHI's annual convention Aug. 6-8 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Charleston.

Please book your rooms immediately to get the special discount rate. If you can't make it, you can always cancel, so go ahead and reserve a room now.

This meeting is important for us since it is the one time we can all get together to discuss common issues. It is also the only opportunity we have to replenish the political action committee funding we need to help influence our legislation.

As always, we promise to have a strong education component this year as well as just generally having fun and giving people and opportunity to network. We are a family and our conventions feel like family get-togethers.

The all-important legal forum will feature presentations by General Counsel John R. Teare Jr. and Associate General Counsel Johnnie Brown.

(Continued on p. 4)

Package plants and PSDs?

Some manufactured home community owners have expressed interest in promoting legislation that would require public service districts to take control of small sewage package plants that service their parks.

The state Department of Health has shown an interest in the proposal advanced by a community owner in Sissonville.

"The PSDs should be responsible for sewage systems especially in those areas where they have an existing sewage operation," said one owner of communities in Kanawha and Jackson counties. He asked for anonymity.

"Some PSDs now operate package plants in areas where it may not be feasible to install lines and pumps," he said. "The public agency can regulate cost as required to operate an approved system. Additional revenue can be collected by PSD."

He said PSDs have properly trained personnel to operate the plants and at a minimal cost.

The Department of Health and the state Department of Environmental Protection both have "issues about the proper operation and maintenance and feel that the operation of small systems would benefit from being managed by a PSD or municipality," agreed Brad Cochran, director of the public health sanitation division for the state Department of Health.

(Continued on p. 3)

THE PODIUM

By George Gunnell
WVHI Co-President

This year, the manufactured housing industry in West Virginia needs your help. We need you to join our organization and become active on behalf of yourself and your industry.

We need you to attend the annual convention Aug. 6-8 this year in Charleston and to contribute to our growing and active political action committee.

We need you to help sponsor our convention. Some of you continue to be sponsors each year and we could never do it without you and we give you our sincerest thanks. You have been friends who have stuck with us in the best and worst times and we can count on you each year. You are the backbone of our group.

We have had sponsors in the past who for one reason or another have fallen away. We wish you would come back to assist us. I believe if you look at WVHI, you will see one of the most active and successful associations of its kind in the country.

I say that not because I happen to serve as co-president on a board with 13 other extremely hard-working volunteer members who receive no compensation for their work for the group, but because it is a fact. And you can check with any of your colleagues anywhere in this industry and I believe they will tell you the same.

We also have friends, good friends, who have not yet helped sponsor our convention, nor donated something to put in our fundraising auction.

WVHI depends on donated gifts in our fundraising auction. Some of you have been fabulous in what you have donated in the past and we cannot thank you enough. We hope those of you who have not donated previously will give that another look this year and will, instead, help us, which helps you in the long run.

I preach we are only as strong as our membership. Please look around and try to help us recruit your friends and competitors who have dropped out, or have not renewed their membership for some reason, or have never joined.

WVHI is a good solid bet and a place where your money will work for you.

Co-President Kevin Wilfong and the 14-member board of directors of WVHI hope to see you Aug. 6-8 in Charleston. Have a special and happy new year



Gunnell



Want to keep up on the latest with the factory-built housing industry in West Virginia? Want to be listed on our website or linked to it?

The West Virginia Housing Institute Inc. is at www.wvhi.org. Take a look at what we have on the site. Tell us what you want added or improved.

The inside scoop is in the members-only section. And you only have to call Andy Gallagher at (304) 346-8985 to join.

West Virginia Housing Institute, Inc.
PO Box 2182
118 Kanawha Blvd. East
Charleston, WV 25328-2182
(304) 346-8985

Derrek Davis Obituary

CLARKSBURG – John Derrek Farris Davis, the 22-year-old son of manufactured housing retailer Timothy Ernest Davis and Anissa Katherine Farris Davis of Clarksburg, was buried Dec. 23 in Bridgeport.

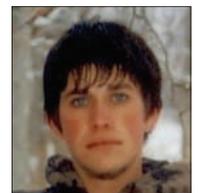
Derrek died Dec. 19 in Buckhannon.

From a toddler, Derrek loved being outdoors. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed being in the woods hunting deer; coon hunting with his dog “Cinbad;” and fishing with his family.

He loved cross country ATV riding/racing in which he won many awards and met and made several friends.

Funeral arrangements were handled by Burnside Funeral Home, Bridgeport.

Tim Davis is a longtime industry member who owns Trinity Homes of West Virginia at Smithburg.



Davis

Business tax cuts in West Virginia

By The Associated Press

New Year's Day triggered slight cuts to taxes on corporate net incomes and a business net equity in West Virginia. That latter levy is known as the business franchise tax. Officials estimate those 2012 savings at \$15 million each.

The sales tax on groceries dropped from 3 cents per dollar spent to 2 cents on Jan. 1. State officials say that will benefit consumers while costing the state \$26 million over the course of the year.

"We are very, very pleased that West Virginia's economy is in a condition that allows us to be talking about reducing tax rates for West Virginia consumers and employers," said Steve Roberts, president of the state Chamber of Commerce.

Future cuts are scheduled for each, with the food and business equity taxes slated for eventual repeal. This reflects a gradual approach to reducing taxes that has hinged on the state's fiscal health.

Both of the business taxes will continue to decline annually through 2014, with the franchise tax expiring as of 2015. Every little bit helps, Roberts said.

West Virginia began 2010 with the 11th highest corporate net rate, according to figures from the Federation of Tax Administrators. Barring changes by other states, its ranking dropped to 19th in 2011 and would sink further to 27th when its rate reaches 6.5 percent in 2014.

The 2012 rate is 7.75 percent, lower than that of neighboring Maryland and Pennsylvania. Five states either levy no tax on corporate net income or, like neighboring Ohio, tax businesses differently, according to the federation's statistics.

West Virginia Housing Institute Inc. golfing registration form
Golfing for the PAC 2012



The West Virginia Housing Institute Inc.'s golf tournament takes place Aug. 7 at Berry Hills Country Club in Charleston. We look forward to having you participate in a good cause for our industry.

The tournament funds our political action committee. As a result, we can take only personal checks that are made out to HousingPAC. We cannot accept corporate checks. This is the only opportunity each year we have to raise PAC funds.

We are asking each participant to make a donation of \$125 for the PAC fund this year, a figure we have tried to maintain at the same level over the years.

Please let us know if you plan to participate

Name _____

Company _____

Email _____

Handicap _____

Please mail to:
WVHI Inc.
Andy Gallagher
PO Box 2182
Charleston, WV 25328



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Now is the time to discover, or rediscover, Oglebay

Wilson Lodge at Oglebay recently completed an extensive expansion project adding 59 new premium rooms and the new West Spa. The lodge offers fine and casual dining, wireless Internet, business center, indoor pool, jacuzzi & fitness room.

Surrounded by 1,700 acres of picturesque natural beauty and abundant recreational opportunities, Wilson Lodge provides a unique atmosphere for corporate meetings, conferences, retreats and outings. Our first-rate facilities and professional staff allow you to relax and rejuvenate, and that inspires successful and memorable meetings.



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Countryside helps four in the U.S. House

Los Angeles Times
Dec. 19, 2011

WASHINGTON -- Four current members of the House of Representatives received special VIP loans from Countrywide Financial Corp., according to the chairman of a congressional committee, raising new questions about the extent of the company's attempts to win favor with Washington policymakers as it built its subprime mortgage business.

The disclosure came in a letter last week from Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., who chairs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, informing leaders of the House Ethics Committee about "possible wrongdoing" by lawmakers. Issa did not name the House members.

"Testimony and documents show that Countrywide used the VIP program to build relationships with government officials and others positioned to advance Countrywide's business interests," Issa wrote to the Ethics Committee's chairman, Jo Bonner, R-Ala.. The VIP loans often had lower interest rates and fees than those available to the public.

The oversight committee received about 100,000 pages of documents related to the VIP loan program after issuing a subpoena in February to Bank of America Corp., which now owns Countrywide.

Package from p. 1

But they have concerns about any forced takeover. Some companies now are operating the plants well and efficiently.

Some public service districts might resist taking over the system because of higher costs and manpower concerns, Cochran said.

"But, of course, we continue to encourage PSDs and municipalities to consider taking over small systems, and some already have," Cochran said.

How do you feel about it? Let WVHI know.

Convention sponsors needed

Thirteen companies and nine hotels or state parks sponsored the 2011 West Virginia Housing Institute convention.

WVHI cordially extends an invitation to you to participate in our two-day convention Aug. 6-8 as a sponsor.

Last year, companies donated between \$500 and \$5,000 to support a convention that drew more than 100 people to Charleston. Hotels and state parks gave away a range of weekend getaway and golf packages that were given as prizes or were auctioned to support our political action committee.

The convention is the only time WVHI raises money for the WVHI political action committee, which is vital to have our voice heard in Charleston and in Washington.

Please consider becoming a sponsor this year. There's much need and always room for help. If you are a past sponsor, please contribute again. We love that you have helped us in the past and we surely need your help in the future.

We will be sending you more information, or call Andy Gallagher at (304) 415-4187.

Home on the Road Newsletter

Editor: Andy Gallagher

WVHI

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Home on the Road is a publication of the West Virginia Housing Institute Inc., published four times a year (March, June, September and December).

Free subscription with paid membership dues. All advertising must be paid in advance. *Home on the Road* reserves the right to reject any advertising. Make checks payable to WVHI. Send ads with payment and news to Andy Gallagher.

Advertising rates

Full page: \$200

Half page: \$100

Quarter page: \$60

Classified: \$30 for each 3 lines

These rates are double for nonmembers.

No increased fines in communities legislation for 2012

No new fines or increases in current ones are planned under legislation the West Virginia Housing Institute Inc. is supporting in the 2012 legislative session.

The Department of Health had submitted a proposal that will rewrite the rules for the first time since they were enacted into law in 1971.

WVHI, through Co-President Kevin Wilfong, owner of Middletown Home Sales of Fairmont, was a key member of the stakeholders group that worked on the proposal. Additionally, Wilfong owns several communities in the Fairmont area.

"The Department of Health invited us to take part in the rewrite," Wilfong said. "This was a perfect example of how the regulated and regulators can work together for the public good."

The bill streamlines current law and eliminates archaic language that has become outdated by time.

The bill goes to the Legislature in January.



Appalachian Power Park in Charleston

Convention, From p. 1 They will also answer questions for you as long as you like. Here is your opportunity for some free legal advice. You would like you to submit any questions you might have in advance so they can begin working on them. Please email me at andy@wvhi.org.

Events get under way Aug. 6 with a reception and dinner and drinks at the baseball game at Appalachian Power Park, only a few blocks from the hotel.

Our statewide meeting and elections open the work on the morning of Aug. 7. We will have educational sessions until it is time for golf.

For those of you who play, the game is scheduled that afternoon at Charleston's premier golf course at Berry Hills Country Club. Nongolfers can enjoy the Town Center Mall, across the street from the convention site; the nearby state Capitol; or gaming at Mardi Gras Casino & Resort. Shuttles are available to take you to the casino.

The banquet takes place that evening, followed by our fundraising auction for our political action committee, which is emceed by board member Judy Ritchie of Elkins.

As always, we strive at our nonprofit convention to have a strong educational component to help you and your business, while offering you a wide range of fun activities, too.

Please join us.

We have special discount rate on our rooms at The Embassy Suites Hotel at only \$134 per single or double. Call (304) 347-8700 or (1-800) EMBASSY or go online at www.embassysuitescharlestonwv.com

Use the "HSG" three-letter code when making your reservation to obtain our discount rate. Please make your reservations IMMEDIATELY to get this best rate.

We look forward to seeing you in Charleston. Call if you have questions. (304) 415-4187.

West Virginia Housing Institute Convention 2012



Return this form to WVHI

REGISTRATION FORM

Aug. 6-8

Embassy Suites Hotel, Charleston, WV

Contact: Make your room reservations at (304) 347-8700 or (1 800) EMBASSY
Or email at www.embassysuitescharlestonwv.com

Company Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Names of Those Attending as it Should Appear on Name Badges: *(please print)*

_____ Adult _____ Child _____
_____ Adult _____ Child _____
_____ Adult _____ Child _____
_____ Adult _____ Child _____

REGISTRATION FEES:

WVHI Member & Spouse/Guest \$125.00 per person if paid by June 30, 2012
\$150.00 per person after June 30.

Children Under 12 \$ 50.00 per child if paid by June 30
\$75.00 per child after June 30.

Children Under 1 year old FREE

Non-Member Registration \$300.00 per person attending

*****Registration Fees Must Accompany Registration Form and are PER PERSON attending*****

Please return completed registration form and your check to:

**WVHI Inc.
PO Box 2182
Charleston, WV 25328-2182
Questions, please call Andy (304) 346-8985**

Embassy Suites Registration Form

WV Housing Institute Inc.

Aug. 6-8, 2012

Embassy Suites Hotel

300 COURT STREET ~ CHARLESTON, WV 25301

www.EmbassySuitesCharlestonWV.com

The Embassy Suites Hotel has reserved a block of suites at the rate of **\$134.00/single, \$134.00/double \$144.00/triple, \$154.00/quad**

To reserve a suite at this rate, **please make your reservation by 06/01/12** by calling 1-800-EMBASSY or 304-347-8700, and ask for reservations, or go online to www.embassysuitescharlestonwv.com. **After 06/01/11 date the rooms will no longer be available @ the rate listed above.** Please note that the Embassy web site details points of interest in the Charleston area.

You must use the **HSG 3-letter code** name when making reservations in order to receive the discounted rate. Online you will enter this **HSG 3-letter code** in the group/convention code space.

Check-In time is **4:00 PM** and Check-Out time is **12:00 PM**. Requests for early arrival, late departure, room type or floor assignments cannot be guaranteed. Reservations must be cancelled by **4:00 PM** the day of arrival to avoid charges.

Self Parking for \$12.00 is charged nightly to your room if you use our parking garage

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www.EmbassySuitesCharlestonWV.com

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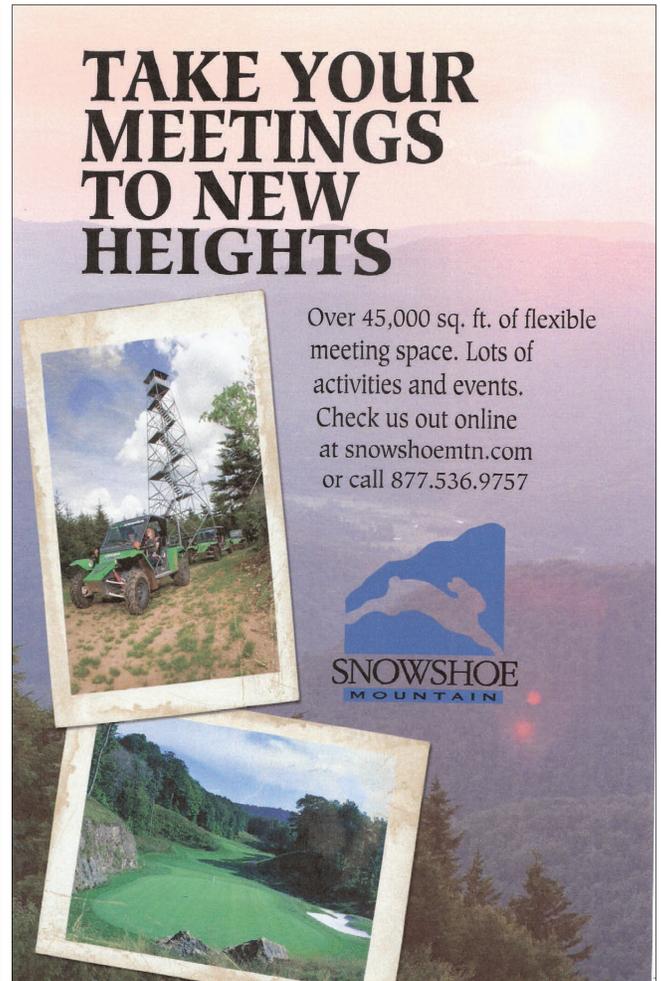
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DUES STRUCTURE:

MANUFACTURER: Dues shall be One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per floor for each home shipped within the West Virginia to dealers, contractors, retailers or sales locations in West Virginia. These dues shall be remitted to the West Virginia Housing Institute Inc. on a monthly basis.

_____ We will send \$100.00 per floor shipped to West Virginia on a monthly basis.

RENTAL COMMUNITY AND CONTRACTORS:- Per Annum
\$100.00

ALL OTHER CATEGORIES: - Per Annum
\$250.00

_____ Title _____ Signature

Please Remit To:
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Charleston, WV 25328-2182