



Wednesday 7PM April 13, 2016

Member Circulation

## SHARING INFORMATION – INCREASING KNOWLEDGE

-----Reply Message-----

Subject: Community Governance Fundamentals Inquiry  
Date: Tue, 29 Mar 2016  
From: Fishbein Associates, Inc.

Dear Ms. Briscoe:

On behalf of the Montgomery County Commission on Common Ownership Communities, I wish to thank you for your kind and generous comments about our work. I am able to say, with total confidence, that your words buoyed the spirits of our commissioners, panel chairs and staff -- all of whom labor tirelessly to improve the quality of life in our common ownership communities and believe that only through good governance can communities anywhere hope to prosper. Like you, we strive to educate our governing boards and residents alike in the importance of incorporating best practices in all aspects of community management. This includes instilling a sense of respect for the rules that bind communities together as well as for the principles of civility, transparency, accountability, and integrity in all business operations.

It is extremely heartening to know that the work we are doing in Montgomery County is helping to benefit communities in West Virginia. To that end we would be pleased to share any resources we might have that could aid you in your important work. Should you or any of your colleagues on the EPOHOA find themselves in Montgomery County, we would be honored if you would stop by our office to speak with our staff, attend one of our monthly meetings or make time for coffee with our Commissioners. Please contact us in advance to schedule an appointment.

It always is good to hear from a sister organization dedicated, as the CCOC is, to good governance. In uncertain times such as these, the values of democratic governance that Americans hold dear, begin at the local level. Knowing that you and so many others around the county share this bond, surely is an inspiration to us all. Good luck to you in all of your endeavors. Thank you again for your uplifting and complimentary e-mail. Please stay in touch.

Best wishes,  
Randy  
Rand H. Fishbein, Ph.D.  
Chair, Montgomery County Commission on Common Ownership Communities

P.S. If you would allow me a personal sidebar.... I used to serve as a Professional Staff Member on the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee under the distinguished chairmanship of the Honorable Robert C. Byrd. My grandmother grew up in Waynesburg, PA, just across the border from Morgantown, W.V.



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-----Original Message-----

From: Nance Briscoe  
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2016  
To: CCOC  
Subject: Community Governance Fundamentals Inquiry

Good Afternoon Commission on Common Ownership Communities,

Several HOAs in West Virginia are very pleased to be able to freely learn, share information and increase knowledge. The Eastern Panhandle Organization of Homeowners Associations (EPOHOA) has followed your progress and couldn't wait for January 2016. Today one of your chapters, ETHICS, was demonstrated to our group at our regularly scheduled meeting. We have encouraged not just HOA Board of Directors to take your training but also individual homeowners so they too may have a grasp of what is expected in HOA leadership.

While we are aware of referenced MD laws & regulations we do look into what WV has in comparison, sadly not much at all. WV has no oversight.

We try very hard to reach out to our legislators, local and state. Our organization was developed due to the lack of representation, advocacy, mediation, mitigation and simply where can a WV HOA go for assistance in running the business of the association. EPOHOA has tackled several issues by holding hands so-to-speak with our HOA members. We've joined Community Associations Institute (CAI) as a board of directors and literally eaten the words of many CAI publications, sharing what we've learned and going forward with a proactive stand.

The seeds that Montgomery County is planting for the good of the whole are flourishing with optimism and much needed guidance in West Virginia.

As one of the original founders of our Organization I personally thank Montgomery County for stepping up to the plate.

With sincere appreciation,  
Nance Briscoe, EPOHOA Vice President & Membership Chairman  
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SIDE BAR: after our family relocated from Los Alamos, NM in 1982 our first home was in Seneca Forest, Germantown MD.