

Chapter Nine: Resources

Because Housing Cooperatives are relatively uncommon in Michigan, new Board members need to know where to turn for help. Not every management company or lawyer knows how to properly assist. For that reason, this chapter provides you with resources to use when you encounter a problem that requires expertise of those who understand Cooperatives.

As noted earlier, there are associations that are dedicated to helping. The National Association of Housing Cooperatives (NAHC) is a national organization that has a useful website at www.coophousing.org. NAHC also holds annual conferences for Boards which offer great training opportunities with instructors from across the country. Printed materials may also be purchased, and members receive useful newsletters.

Like NAHC, the Midwest Association of Housing Cooperatives (MAHC) offers excellent training and networking opportunities to Boards. It also has a superb website at www.mahc.coop. A newsletter is included in the membership fee, and also offers relevant publications for sale.

These two organizations that provide education and information. It is important to belong to them, and attend their conferences. One of the benefits of doing so is the opportunity to network with other boards and to be able to call upon those you meet there to give their experience.

For Cooperatives operating under HUD's regulatory oversight, this federal agency has a useful website that should be examined. www.hud.gov.

Pentiuk, Couvreur & Kobiljak, P.C. is a law firm in Michigan that has years of experience in helping Cooperatives. Our website is located at www.pck-law.com. We have also established a special website where we make available, at no charge, informative articles that may be useful to you at www.MichCoopLaw.com. In addition, the firm publishes the "Michigan Cooperative Law Journal" on a quarterly basis and is mailed to any Board Member who wants it, free of charge. We also have an electronic Co-op law letter which is sent monthly to those who sign up for it through e-mail to us at firm@pck-law.com. Always seek advice for your specific problem, though. Each Cooperative has its own set of governing documents and they may differ materially in respect to the matter that is affecting your Cooperative.

Disclaimer

This primer is intended to provide the reader with a starting point to understand the law of housing cooperatives in Michigan. It should not be used as a substitute for qualified legal advice from a competent, experienced attorney licensed to practice law in the state of Michigan.

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