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SCOTTSDALE COUNCIL OF HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS
SCOHA NEWSLETTER

IN OUR 41st YEAR

OCTOBER 2015

Dealing with Difficult People - Horror Stories, Tips, and More

Whether it is within associations, communities, or even within the Board itself, dealing with difficult people is something we can all relate to. However, harmony is a key element in achieving a peaceful and enjoyable environment. Learn how to handle and communicate with those difficult people in your life at the next SCOHA luncheon meeting.

Attorney Adrienne Speas will be joined by a panel of board members and managers. They will not only share stories of their own experiences with difficult people, but they will also provide details on strategies with dealing with them. The **October 27** luncheon will begin at **11:45 a.m.** at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club.

Adrienne Speas is a junior partner at Ekmark & Ekmark, L.L.C. She has been a part of the firm's general counsel department since 2006 and also assists associations with CC&R enforcement matters. Ms. Speas has spoken to many community groups and organizations regarding a variety of topics affecting community associations.

Call Daniel Mckinn at 480-922-9292 or send an e-mail to dmckinn@ekmarklaw.com by 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 23 to make your reservation for the October 27 meeting.

SCOHA ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME BACK!

We are excited to welcome back the members of SCOHA, as well as some cooler weather, to the Valley!

**Additional 2015 HOA Handbooks
will be handed out at the October
27 meeting.**

SCOHA's WEB SITE:

SCOHA's web site address is
www.scottsdalehoa.com.

You can enter the member
section by typing hoamember for
the password.

**SCOHA
DATA TO
REMEMBER:**

**Tuesday,
Oct.
27th
11:45 a.m.**

**Lakeview Room
McCormick Ranch Golf
Club
7505 McCormick Pkwy**

**\$15.00
Reservations
Required**

**Call Daniel Mckinn
at 480-922-9292 by
Friday, October 23**

480-922-9292

dmckinn@ekmarklaw.com • www.scottsdalehoa.com

Scottsdale's Acting City Manager Brian Biesemeyer

Summary of the September 22, 2015 Meeting

Scottsdale's Acting City Manager Brian Biesemeyer was SCOHA's September luncheon guest speaker.

Mr. Biesemeyer has been Acting City Manager for the City of Scottsdale since June 2015 and also very passionately heads up the Scottsdale Water department, which consists of water, sewer, and reclaimed water. He and his team strive daily to fulfill their mission statement "Simply Better Service for a World-Class Community".

The community of Scottsdale, or "West's Most Western Town", comes from humble beginnings. In fact, Bell Road, one of Scottsdale's largest thoroughfares, was once filled with modest cattle ranches. Today Scottsdale has become a world-class community filled with Western art and culture.

One of Scottsdale's newest attractions is the Museum of the West. It was built by the city and is run by a nonprofit. It joins Scottsdale's already breathtaking 11 miles of parks and trails, 50 square miles of desert mountain preserve, and a vibrant downtown filled with more than 45 pieces of public art.

Our thin, long city also features the City Hall building, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The building was designed by architect Bennie Gonzalez and it was modeled after a Hopi community gathering place.

Scottsdale is governed by a seven-member City Council, which are elected at-large – they don't serve individual districts, they are elected by all of Scottsdale's residents and serve overlapping four-year terms.

Scottsdale is a council-manager form of government, which means an elected city council appoints a city manager to run day-to-day operations of the city. The city manager is the chief administrative officer, and about 91

percent of the city's employees report up to the city manager.

Mr. Biesemeyer pointed out that amongst the city employee values, one of the most important is to show caring & compassion for others. It is important to him and the city to provide quality customer service to the residents of Scottsdale.

He also was excited to share about the City Charter, which is like the Constitution of the City and defines the city's powers and functions. Amending or modifying the charter requires a public vote. To find out more on the City Charter, go to ScottsdaleAZ.gov and Search "charter".

The General Plan was similar in nature, in that it is amended and passed by residents every 10 years or so. It is a "by the people, for the people" style statement of goals and policies that work as the primary tool for guiding the future development of the city. A new General Plan is hoped to be passed by next year. To find out more information on how to be a part of the General Plan, go to ScottsdaleAZ.gov and search "general plan".

Scottsdale is a great city for both young single professionals and for families. It has been rated the #1 place to raise children, the #6 safest city in America, and is the top Arizona city for millennial job seekers.

Some of the things that Scottsdale strives to accomplish are to continue working with residents, businesses, and SkySong to revitalize the McDowell Road corridor, provide strategic support of tourism and visitor events, develop a transportation strategy that anticipates future needs, and prepare and adopt fiscally sustainable operating capital budgets.

Summary of the September 22, 2015 Meeting

Mr. Biesemeyer also revealed the newly designed City of Scottsdale website. It is designed to be a “search-based” format, so you can easily navigate it by searching for the topic you are interested in.

He also informed us about the current affairs when it comes to drought. Although we only receive about 7 inches of rain a year here in the desert and are in a drought, we are not in a water crisis, and are, in fact, in better shape than other southwestern states. This is due in part to the 1980 Ground Water Management Act. Because of this Act, Scottsdale was the first city in Arizona to meet Safe Yield, which means that we put more water into the ground than we take out. Today, almost 90 percent of our total water supply comes from surface water, which is a renewable resource.

Finally, Mr. Biesemeyer imparted some knowledge on how to help save water and money within our communities.

The first was the Turf Removal Rebate program. The single most effective thing HOAs can do to reduce their water consumption is remove turf. Scottsdale Water offers rebates up to \$3,000 to help with conversion costs. There are some very specific steps that have to be followed to participate in the program, so call the conservation office at 480-312-5650 for more information.

Also discussed was the Sewer Rebate form, which can be found and completed online. This form is meant to help adjust your sewer rate for when you have an influx in water drainage, for example, while backwashing your pool. Filling out the Rebate form could help cut excess fees when that influx occurs. Scottsdale also offers rebates for irrigation controllers, plumbing fixtures, and removal of salt-based water softeners. More information can be found on the website, <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/>.

HOA TIP OF THE MONTH:

If you attended SCOHA’s September 2015 meeting, you may remember Nicole Sherbert. Amongst a vast knowledge of all things Scottsdale, Ms. Sherbert also has some excellent water advice for our city. To contact her for further information, call her at 480-312-5689 or email her at NSherbert@Scottsdaleaz.gov.

WATER-SAVING DEVICE
#108

**WATER DRY SPOTS BY HAND
INSTEAD OF RUNNING THE WHOLE
IRRIGATION SYSTEM LONGER.**

There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you. To learn more visit wateruseitwisely.com

**WATER
USE IT
WISELY**



Dear SCOHA Members:

It is crucial that all SCOHA members contribute to a legislative action fund in order to protect associations from harmful legislation. We anticipate a difficult challenge again this year at the Arizona legislature and will have no chance of protecting associations and the people who live in them unless we hire a lobbyist. We cannot, however, hire a quality lobbyist without the financial assistance of our membership.

During the past few years, we have seen things change for the worse down at the legislature. Last year, the legislature passed new laws pertaining to community associations. We expect similar battles this year.

The bottom line is that we need a lobbyist in order to make sure that any new laws regarding associations are good for associations and the people who live in them. We cannot hire a good lobbyist without a substantial financial commitment from our members. To that end, we are asking that every association make the best possible donation that it can. At a minimum, we are asking for \$1.00 per home from every association. Please make your check payable to SCOHA and mail it to 6720 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite 261, Scottsdale, Arizona 85253.

This is certainly a worthwhile investment when you think of the risks associated with harmful legislation. It is a small price to pay in order to ensure that we have laws that will make our communities better rather than worse.

Thank you for your consideration with respect to this important issue. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Curtis S. Ekmark
President
