

## Member rights and responsibilities

Members of a resident-owned community have rights – and responsibilities. Those rights and responsibilities are outlined in the bylaws, in standard parliamentary procedure, and in local, state and federal laws. Most associations' bylaws define a member as a person who is, among other things:

*“... willing to accept membership responsibilities, including but not limited to voluntary participation in the governance of the association and in the operation of the community.”*

What does this mean? Members' participation in the association will ebb and flow, and can be as simple as handing out meeting flyers, or as involved as running for office.

### **However, members *always* have a responsibility to:**

- ✓ hold the board accountable for its actions, including obeying all bylaws and applicable local, state and federal laws
- ✓ pay carrying charges (rent) in full and on time
- ✓ ask good and thoughtful questions at annual meeting
- ✓ stay informed about issues in the community by observing board meetings and reading all association correspondence
- ✓ adhere to board-approved policies and procedures, including the meeting code of conduct
- ✓ disclose to the board of directors any conflict of interest with the association by completing a conflict-of-interest form
- ✓ vote on matters brought to the membership
- ✓ deliver valid complaints in writing to the board of directors
- ✓ pay the membership fee in full (or per the subscription/membership agreement)
- ✓ obey the community rules
- ✓ treat community members with respect and be a good neighbor
- ✓ **And, most important, be active in the community, as each member's time and talent allow.**

### **Additionally, members in good standing always have the right to:**

- ✓ be heard at a membership meeting
- ✓ run for office at association elections, in accordance with the member-approved bylaws
- ✓ inspect association records, in accordance with the member-approved bylaws, except those with personal information about members
- ✓ be given proper notice for all board and member meetings
- ✓ be treated fairly, respectfully and without discrimination
- ✓ have equal access to services
- ✓ deliver a valid petition to the board of directors when/if there is a serious issue to bring to the members for deliberation
- ✓ insist on a fair hearing before an expulsion