

Career Opportunities

Community Association Management: A Growth Industry

(NAPSA)—Community associations across the U.S., including planned communities, condominium developments and cooperatives, come in all shapes and sizes but most of them have one thing in common. These communities benefit from expert management.

According to U.S. Census reports, the number of community associations grew from 10,000 in 1970 to more than 205,000 in 1999. With this growth has come an ever-increasing need for qualified community managers.

The community association manager's responsibilities include managing the funds of the association, obtaining and maintaining insurance, managing contractors, maintaining the physical property and ensuring homeowners adhere to the rules. An experienced manager can be responsible for communities with thousands of residents.

An effective community association manager has a wide range of knowledge and skills, from excellent communication skills to exceptional problem-solving ability; from knowledge of property construction and maintenance to managing a budget; from personnel management skills to knowledge of real estate law, from reading a financial statement to managing multiple projects.

Not everyone can be an effective community association manager. The job is a very complex one, requiring substantial knowledge and skill to practice effectively. While the laws and regulations governing the practice of community management association management vary from state to state, it is crucial that community associations and their boards



Community association members may feel more secure in the place they live in if their manager has been certified.

of directors be assured that managers have the fundamental knowledge to manage effectively.

One way community associations ensure this is by hiring managers who have been certified. The National Board of Certification for Community Association Managers developed and administers the national Certified Manager of Community Association (CMCA) certification program to provide consumers with a level of confidence regarding a certified manager's knowledge. The CMCA certification program is the only national certification program designed exclusively for community association managers.

To make it easier for busy professionals to earn their certification, there is now a computer-based exam.

For more information, visit www.nbccam.org or call 1-703-836-6902.