



Oregon Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association  
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Dear Friends in the Hearth Industry:

It's time to **renew your membership** in your trade association. The Oregon Hearth Patio & Barbecue Association and HPBA continue to have success promoting our products and defending them from government regulations. But we have challenges ahead and your membership helps us fight those battles. We also have events in Oregon and are working to provide consumers with information. All these activities are paid for with your dues and that's why we need your ongoing support! Here's a sample of some of these activities:

### Government Affairs

HPBA has filed a lawsuit against the Department of Energy. The DOE's rules called, "**Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Water Heaters, Direct Heating Equipment and Pool Heaters**" has threatened to ban all decorative gas appliances. Obviously they aren't heating appliances so HPBA is spending thousands of dollars fighting DOE.

The proposed rule draft called **NSPS** (New Source Performance Standards) has been delayed. It is now scheduled to be released in 2013. HPBA is deeply involved and the delay just ends up costing the association more money, so your dues are critical to help HPBA continue to be able to provide input. These rules will have a substantial impact on your business because they will limit what you can sell.

The **Heat Smart Law** requires all uncertified stoves to be removed when homes are sold in Oregon. But, along with removals are service calls, stove replacements and inspection work which is all good for our business!

The Oregon **Residential Energy Tax Credit** (RETC) program for premium efficiency biomass stoves continues. You can thank OHPBA for maintaining a list of qualifying stoves and for working with Oregon DOE on the program. But, we'll need to keep our eye on the program because it may not be around forever.

In addition, our members in Lane County helped with the **woodstove changeout program** in Eugene, Springfield, Cottage Grove and Oakridge. Members in the area worked with LRAPA to coordinate the program. The program was successful.

OHPBA Board members Fred Kirkpatrick and John Frankel were interviewed by members of the Portland City Club for an **Air Quality Regulation Study**. The study is of how air quality regulations have impacted residents and businesses in the Portland Metro Area. Needless to say their understanding of the role of certified woodstoves and pellet stoves benefited from the perspective we brought to the study.

Our members have started talking more about **hearth appliance installation licensing**. In the coming months the OHPBA board will be exploring this kind of program and your input as members may be needed. Turns out the state of Iowa will soon be rolling out a hearth installation license and several counties in states across the U.S. have licensing programs. Will Oregon be next?

### OHPBA Events

We are planning a conference for **May 19-20, 2013**. The location is soon to be booked, so stay tuned! OHPBA had an awesome **Spring Conference** this last May at Spirit Mountain Casino. We had about 65 people in attendance with great support from our sponsors:



- Hearth & Home Technologies
- Breckwell/US Stove
- M&G Duravent
- Valor Fireplaces
- Blaze King
- Lucky Distributing
- Rinnai
- Tri State Distributors
- Wing Sales & Marketing
- AES
- Western Outdoor Wholesale
- And... Lightning Nuggets



### OHPBA Breakfast Meetings

This fall we have had two breakfast meetings. Our chair **Gail English** has done a great job promoting the meetings and arranging speakers. Some members have been able to participate on Skype – a fun way to be involved when Topics have been on NFI certification and licensing of installers. Meetings have been held at Elmer’s Restaurant on NE Sandy Blvd in Portland.



### NFI Certification

HPBA has invested heavily in certification programs that you use to market your business. **National Fireplace Institute** certification and **Hearth on-line** are excellent programs. We just had a live chat meeting at our OHPBA Membership Breakfast with Rick Vlahos at NFI and he reported on some outstanding programs for online education that are coming up.

**HPBA provides a lot of benefits.** Retailers, you get five tickets to **EXPO** and discounts on education badges, but you should also look at the **liability insurance programs** and the **Solveras Payment Solutions** credit card merchant account program. You could save a lot of money. Many members already have done so. Also, if you haven’t been there, check out:

- HPBA’s website [www.hpba.org](http://www.hpba.org)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TheBBQSource](http://www.facebook.com/TheBBQSource)
- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/TheBBQSource](http://www.twitter.com/TheBBQSource)

### New Website

OHPBA rolled out a **new website** last spring. The website allows for online registration and convenient updates and industry news. There are many resources pages and some “member’s only” pages as well. The most popular pages are related to consumer information - what kind of stove to buy. There’s also a **search feature** and only paid members show up there.

If you want to know what’s going on in the state of Oregon, go to our website at either [www.oregonfireplaces.com](http://www.oregonfireplaces.com) or [www.ohpba.org](http://www.ohpba.org).

### Be Involved!

We will continue to look to our members to be involved in the coming months and we will let you know about those opportunities. We know it’s a tough economy, but hang in there. We are confident business will pick up and your membership support will allow us to continue the work we do for you!

*Sincerely,*

*Harvey Gail, MBA, Executive Director, OHPBA*

*NOTE: If you plan to go to EXPO, renew your dues first. It will make that process a lot smoother. You can renew your dues directly through HPBA’s website if that is easier for you.*