



**Oregon Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association**  
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December 10, 2013

Dear Friends in the Hearth Industry:

It's time to **renew your membership** in your trade association - the Oregon Hearth Patio & Barbecue Association. In case you're wondering what OHPBA has been up to, here are some highlights from 2013. OHPBA 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

Government affairs efforts by OHPBA go beyond the Capitol building. OHPBA has been involved in redrafting the administrative rules related to the Oregon **Residential Energy Tax Credit (RETC)**. The Oregon Department of Energy changed the rules for the calculation of residential tax credits last fall consumers across Oregon were suddenly told the hearth appliance they bought would no longer qualify for a tax credit. OHPBA took note of this situation and began working with ODOE to convince them to change the rules to allow more appliances to qualify. After several months of meetings and public input, OHPBA, with the help of HPBA and industry experts, arrived at a solution that will retroactively qualify wood and pellet stoves for the tax credit. New rules will go in effect by the end of the year and the back log of tax credit applications will begin to be processed.



The **Heat Smart Law passed with OHPBA's involvement in 2009**. The 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!

HPBA is deeply involved in the many negotiations, meetings and communication challenges posed by the EPA's proposed rule changes, or "**NSPS**." Of course, this work takes dedicated efforts by HPBA staff, industry experts and members. Your membership dues are a critical to help fund these efforts.

### HPBA Region 9 Spring Conference

We are planning our next HPBA Region 9 Spring Conference for **May 18-19, 2014**. The location is soon to be booked, so stay tuned! This year, OHPBA and NWHPBA once again partnered to hold our event at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver, WA. We had about 100 people in attendance with great support from our generous sponsors:

- Hearth and Home Technologies - Title Sponsor
- Associated Energy Systems - Name Badge Sponsor
- Canned Heat - Supporting Sponsor (pens and notepads!)
- ICC Chimney and Pugh & Associates - Sunday Reception
- Wing Sales/Wiseway Pellet Stoves - NWHPBA Breakfast
- Wing Sales/Breckwell Hearth Products - OHPBA Breakfast
- Olympia Chimney Supply - Dessert Break
- Tri-State Distributors - Snack Sack
- Olympus Pellets - All Day Coffee Service
- M&G Duravent - Monday Lunch
- Valor Hearth Products - Seminar sponsor
- Lightning Nuggets - Tabletop Display and door prizes
- Travis Industries - Welcome Amenity (Chocolate bars!)
- Kuma Stoves - Table top display
- North Idaho Energy Logs - Tabletop display
- HWAM North America - Tabletop Display



## OHPBA Breakfast Meetings

This fall we had two breakfast meetings. Our chair **Gail English** has been working hard to build this program by arranging speakers and topics of interest to our members. Some members have been able to participate on Skype – a fun way to be involved if you can't be there in person. Meetings have been held at the Shilo Inn Portland Airport. Our next meeting is planned for January or February. Stay tuned!



## OHPBA Website

OHPBA's website is updated weekly to make sure our members have the most recent news on industry related events. We would love to get some more ideas and feedback from our members. 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.

Our newest page is our **press room**. When articles on wood stoves, fireplaces or related topics come in from *Google Alerts*, OHPBA places links on this page of the website. As a member, if you have any news to share, please send it to us!

Also, we know the most popular pages are related to consumer information - what kind of stove to buy – and we try to keep that current. 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).

## Social Media – “Like” us!

OHPBA and HPBA are online! Check out Facebook and Twitter!

- Facebook: Oregon Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association
- Facebook: HPBABarbecue
- Twitter: @HPBA\_Barbecue

## 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. Rick Vlahos at NFI and keeps us informed on many outstanding programs for online education. See [www.nificertified.org](http://www.nificertified.org)



## HPBA Affinity Benefits

Retailers, you get five tickets to **EXPO** and discounts on education badges, but you should also look at the business liability insurance programs with **Veracity**, the **Transfirst** credit card merchant account program, and online lead generation with **HomeAdvisor**. You could save a lot of money and increase your leads. Many members already have done so. For a list of all HPBA member benefits visit [www.hpba.org/members/member-benefits](http://www.hpba.org/members/member-benefits).

## Be Involved!

We see glimmers that the economy is improving, but we still face many challenges ahead. Your membership support and personal involvement in OHPBA 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.*

