

OHPBA Annual Report 2015



At that time of year where OHPBA sends out its membership renewal, this is a time to reflect on our accomplishments in 2015 and the challenges facing OHPBA in the next year. Your board of directors thanks you for supporting OHPBA. Without your dues income and support of our events, Oregon would not be nearly as hospitable of a place to do business. Consumer choice would be dramatically limited and the right of people to heat their homes would be in jeopardy. While OHPBA and HPBA continue to have success promoting our products and defending them from government regulations, we do have real challenges ahead. *Your membership helps us fight these battles so you can remain in business in this state!*



Oregon Government Affairs

Government affairs efforts by OHPBA go beyond the Capitol building. OHPBA has been involved in expanding the administrative rules related to the Oregon Residential Energy Tax Credit (RETC). Starting in January 2015, direct vent gas fireplaces were eligible for a tax credit. For units at 70 percent efficiency or greater, the tax credit is **\$300**. Those 75 percent or greater are **\$500**. This program, when combined with Energy Trust of Oregon and factory incentives, will really help sell appliances. For more information on this program, visit www.ohpba.org and see the tax credits/incentives page.



Air Quality and Biomass

Statewide, OHPBA will be participating in a legislative study group on woodstove and biomass fuels. The Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3068 in the 2015 Legislature that required Oregon DEQ to hold meetings and do research related to woodstove use, biomass fuels, and woodstove changeouts. A series of a half dozen meetings will be held in Oregon in late 2015 and 2016. The committee has about 20 members representing a variety of government agencies, wood stove industry representatives, pellet fuel manufacturers, forestry and nonprofit groups. **Harvey Gail**, OHPBA Lobbyist, **John Crouch**, HPBA Public Affairs Director, **Bob Sourek** with Bear Mountain Forest Products, and **Tim Reed**, Fireside Home Solutions are on the committee and will attend meetings. Oregon DEQ must make a presentation to the Legislature in February during the short Legislative session, and again in July. It is possible the workgroup will create legislative proposals for the 2017 full legislative session. OHPBA will be monitoring those developments.



Washington County and Hillsboro have been seeing some regulatory pressure and OHPBA has been involved from the start. Prior to rulemaking, officials from Washington County, Oregon DEQ and LRAPA (Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority) were invited to speak to members at our Spring Conference.

In October the Washington County Commissioners and Hillsboro City Council approved rules that will minimize wood smoke in the region during times of air inversions. The alert system is patterned after similar notification rules in other parts of Oregon. The “Green, Yellow, Red” notification is familiar to our industry, but is new to residents in the Portland area. OHPBA and area retailers have advised Washington County and Hillsboro officials of issues related to wood and pellet stoves. **Harvey Gail** and **Tim Reed** testified before the Washington County Commissioners. **Ed Loper** provided comments to the Hillsboro City Council.



Officials have asked OHPBA to assist with community outreach activities. Look for an email inviting you as a retailer to participate in a survey of how woodstove users get their cord wood. Also, we will be gathering information from metro area retailers on how they have assisted consumers with understanding these rules.

Tim Reed of Fireside Home Solutions has been particularly helpful in participating in the advisory group in Washington County. Acting on our suggestion to see certified stoves in action, Reed was interviewed in a cable community television show called **Community Matters**. The show aired in October. The segment features **Tim Reed** and **Matt Davis**, Environmental Health Program Manager for Washington County. The video is both informative to homeowners and humorous at times. Tim did an excellent job on the air. Find the video on our website.

Klamath Falls has entered back onto the regulatory radar, but this time with good news. Governor Kate Brown earmarked 1.5 million to go toward stove changeouts and a stove replacement program in Klamath Falls. The funds were part of an economic development grant. The rationale behind that is Klamath Falls would stand to lose a great deal of economic activity if it were to fail EPA limits for particulates. The additional cost to businesses moving in the area would be considerable. OHPBA dues support **Harvey Gail**, OHPBA's lobbyist to monitor these programs which are expected to increase in the next few years.

OHPBA Spring Conference 2015

OHPBA held its Spring Conference in May at the **Holiday Inn** in Wilsonville. Despite it being an "Oregon only" event we had great attendance at over 60 attendees. It's worth noting that in 2014 when we had our conference in Olympia, WA as a joint event with NWHPCA we had about 75 attendees and that was for both affiliates.

We would like to thank our **2015 sponsors!** This year they included:

Hearth and Home Technologies - Title Sponsor
Valor Hearth Products - Lunch Sponsor
Olympia Chimney Supply - Exhibitor
Travis Industries - Exhibitor, Morning Break Sponsor
Tri-State Distributors - Exhibitor
Associated Energy Systems - Exhibitor
Hearth Classics - Exhibitor
M&G Duravent - Exhibitor
Mendota - Exhibitor
Wing Sales - Exhibitor (2 tables)
Wiseway Pellet Stoves - Exhibitor
Harness Technologies - Exhibitor



OHPBA Breakfast Meetings

In September, OHPBA kicked off the fall season with a great meeting hosted by **NW Natural**. With a great hosted breakfast, over 30 attendees



got an update from the Oregon Department of Energy and Energy Trust of Oregon. In January we are planning a breakfast meeting to gather input from our members about the state of the woodstove industry. We plan to use those comments as part of our strategic planning process in 2016.



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.

OHPBA Website - www.ohpba.org

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. In 2015 these features on the website were expanded or added:

- **Air Quality.** This section was expanded to include information on rules in Washington County.
- **Tax Credits and Incentives.** This section was updated to include information on recent tax incentives from the Department of Energy.
- **Member Map.** We added a *Google Map* of all our retailers, service companies and distributors in Oregon. Only paid members are on the map. Consumers bring up a map of Oregon and hover over the community where they live. OHPBA's members' information appears including company name, website, address and phone number.

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. If you want to know what's going on in the state of Oregon, go to our website at either www.oregonfireplaces.com or www.ohpba.org.

EXPO Affiliate Reception 2015 and 2016

OHPBA takes part in EXPO on a level that many members are not aware of. This year in OHPBA partnered with Pacific HPBA to hold a reception at BB Kings Blues Club in Nashville, TN. We had a fantastic turnout from Oregon, so thanks to all of you who attended. In 2016 the West Coast Affiliate Reception has been expanded to include Rocky Mountain HPBA, so it will truly be the entire west coast at this reception. If you're attending EXPO in Nashville, the party is Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at Fulton Alley. RSVP on our website, www.ohpba.org.



Also, **Harvey Gail**, OHPBA's Executive Director attends EXPO to take part in committee meetings including the *HPBA Affiliate Staff Meeting*, *Affiliate Leaders Committee* and various HPBA committees. OHPBA also helps out with the *HPBA Membership Booth* serving on shifts of two hours at a time. At EXPO, drop by and say hello!

Social Media – Like and Follow Us!

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

- Facebook for OHPBA: *OregonHearthPatioAndBarbecueAssociation*
- Facebook for HPBA: *Hearth-Patio-Barbecue-Association*
- Facebook HPBA Barbecue: *HPBABarbecue*
- Twitter HPBA: *@HPBA_Barbecue*



Be Involved!

While we depend on your dues to move Oregon forward, we depend on you even e 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!

If you would like to get involved in OHPBA, we are always looking for board and committee members. Contact Harvey Gail, MBA, OHPBA's Executive Director if you are interested at **503-585-8254** or **Harvey@vannattapr.com**.

