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# FIRESIDE CHAT

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## OHPBA Annual Report 2016 Edition

At that time of year where OHPBA sends out its membership renewal, this is a time to reflect on our accomplishments in 2016. We also want to look ahead to 2017 to outline the challenges we will face in the next year and beyond.



OHPBA's board of directors thanks you for supporting OHPBA. You support us with your dues, by attending our events, by sharing your concerns and observations and by simply asking good questions. In return we strive to support you by being good advocates for biomass heating in this state. We represent you in state agencies, allied organizations, local governments and the legislature. We promote biomass heat on our website and attend regulatory advisory committee meetings around the state. 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 and Advocacy

In 2016, government affairs activity really picked up in the state. The Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3068 in the 2015. This "study bill" required the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to hold meetings around the state to determine better ways to manage wood smoke and promote biomass heat. **Harvey Gail, Tim Reed and John Crouch**, HPBA Public Affairs Director, attended a half dozen meetings, each lasting several hours. The outcome of these meetings will be a package of bills in the 2017 Oregon legislature. We will need to monitor those bills, participate in legislative committee hearings and inform our legislators about our position.



OHPBA continues to provide input to the **Oregon Department of Energy** on the **Residential Energy Tax Credit (RETC)**. This program is scheduled to "sunset" after 2017, so for now it looks like these tax credits in wood, pellet and gas appliances will end. OHPBA may be able to save the program by lobbying to move the tax credit to a different state agency. This program, when combined with Energy Trust of Oregon and factory incentives, for the next year at least, will continue to provide consumers incentives. For more information on this program, visit [www.ohpba.org](http://www.ohpba.org) and see the tax credits/incentives page.

OHPBA has been in an advisory role with **Washington County Department of Health** and the **City of Hillsboro** over the last two years as they rolled out their woodstove changeout program and woodstove curtailment rules. In the fall of 2015 the Washington County Commissioners and the 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. In addition, OHPBA provided input on the administrative rules related to the new woodstove changeout program. This year the program's goal is full replacement for 50 low income homes and next year the program will be expanded to include a sliding scale changeout



incentives. **Tim Reed** of Fireside Home Solutions and **Ed Loper** of Hearth and Home Technologies have been particularly helpful in participating in the advisory group in Washington County.

## Spring Conference



Save the date!

OHPBA Spring  
Conference

May 15, 2017

Location TBD

OHPBA held its Spring Conference in May at the Holiday Inn in Wilsonville. For the second year, OHPBA decided to hold our “Oregon only” event. This year we had **55 attendees**. We owe a debt of gratitude to our sponsors:

- Hearth and Home Technologies – Lunch Sponsor
- Valor Hearth Products - Session Sponsor
- Olympia Chimney Supply – Morning Break Sponsor Exhibitor
- Travis Industries – Afternoon Break Sponsor
- Tri-State Distributors - Exhibitor
- Associated Energy Systems - Exhibitor
- M&G Duravent – Exhibitor
- Creative Garden Spaces – Exhibitor
- Evosus – Exhibitor
- Wing Sales - Exhibitor



## Breakfast Meetings and Education

In August, OHPBA kicked off the fall season with a sales training seminar featuring **Debbie Hannig** hosted by **Gail English** at English Estate Winery in Vancouver. Over 20 people received four hours of inspiring training on sales and customer relations. Deb was great and we hope to provide this training every year.



In July **Tim Reed** gave a great presentation on sales planning at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas. In September, our breakfast meeting was hosted by NW Natural. We thank **Lacey Garrett** and **John Frankel** for their support of OHPBA. OHPBA also thanks **Gail English**, Chair of the breakfast meeting committee, for her inspiration and work in setting up speakers and topics.

## NFI Certification

OHPBA and NW Natural partnered together to host the NFI Gas Certification exam in September and the NFI Solid Fuel Exam in October. This year Oregon can be proud that we have **over 20 newly certified NFI technicians!**



## OHPBA Website - [www.ohpba.org](http://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 resource pages and some "member's only" pages as well.

## HPBA EXPO

OHPBA takes part in EXPO on a level that many members are not aware of. This coming year OHPBA will partner with the West Coast affiliates to hold a reception at Der Beirgarten in Atlanta on Wednesday, March 1. We had a fantastic turnout from Oregon at Fultan's Alley in New Orleans. Thanks to all of you who attended!



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 HPBA's Government Affairs Committee. This year, the affiliate executives have launched three initiative projects to enhance our member's experience with



HPBA. Harvey Gail is on the Member Value Proposition committee. One of the outcomes will be a survey to be held at EXPO. Harvey Gail will be working 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!

We depend on your dues to move Oregon forward. 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](mailto:Harvey@vannattapr.com).

