
FIRESIDE CHAT



OHPBA Annual Report 2017 Edition

Reflecting on 2017

It's that time of year where OHPBA sends out its membership renewal - a time to reflect on our accomplishments in 2017. We also want to look ahead to 2018 – there's a lot of potentially unresolved issues that will reach a conclusion next year setting the direction for the industry for years to come.



First, OHPBA's board members thank you for supporting OHPBA and HPBA. You support us with your dues, by attending our events, and by sharing your concerns and observations. I've received several calls this year from members, some of which really got the ball rolling for OHPBA on some important issues.

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 in OHPBA provides both financial support
and encouragement to our staff and board of directors.
Thanks for being a part of OHPBA!***

Oregon Government Affairs and Advocacy

In 2017, government affairs activity shifted to the Oregon Legislature. In 2016, most of our attention was placed on the Wood Stove Working Group, an ad hoc team of interested parties that crafted legislation to improve community's ability to support air quality initiatives and stove change outs. **Harvey Gail, Tim Reed** and **John Crouch**, HPBA Public Affairs Director, attended meetings in 2016 and Harvey Gail provided letters of support and information to legislators in the House and Senate Environment committees. The legislature created **HB 2748** which creates a grant process for communities to apply for government funds to improve their air quality. The bill creates a process and criteria for awarding funds to communities. The principal use of funds would be for wood stove changeouts. The bill that did not pass was the funding bill attached to the main bill which asked for about 1.2 million dollars in funding. While general funds will not be available, Oregon DEQ may have access to other funds that would support the grants.



One outcome of the legislature was its lack of action to reinstate the **Oregon Department of Energy's Residential Energy Tax Credit (RETC)** program. This program sunsets December 31, 2017. These tax credits in wood, pellet and gas appliances end. In fact, nearly all ODOE's tax credits for renewable energy were allowed to sunset. The legislature is basically going to rebuild ODOE's programs from the ground up. It is unclear if these tax credits will resurface. However, incentives with the Energy Trust of Oregon continue. We receive regular updates



on their programs at our breakfast meetings and at the Spring Conference.

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. The first full year of changeouts in Washington county has been completed. Here are some numbers for year 1:



- Received 322 changeout applications
- Assessments in 227 homes
- Released 170 projects
- Completed 134 projects (97 full replacement grants, 37 rebates)
- For grants (full replacement) the majority opted for a wood stove to replace their old wood stove.
- For rebates, the clear majority selected gas, pellet or electric options.
- Over 9.5 tons of 2.5 particulate prevented.

Recently, **Multnomah County** has drafted a similar wood smoke rules and will be working on them in the coming months. OHPBA members will be attending the public meetings on these rules starting in December. In particular, **Tim Reed** of Fireside Home Solutions and **Ed Loper** of Hearth and Home Technologies have been helpful in participating in the advisory group in Washington County.

Spring Conference



OHPBA held its Spring Conference in May at English Estate Winery in Vancouver. This year we had about **50 attendees**. Thanks go out to **Tim Reed** and **John Frankel** for providing some great presentations that both educated on the latest marketing trends and inspired conversation on a wide variety of issues. Thanks to **Ryan Carroll**, HPBA Government Affairs Director for attending and updating us in events at HPBA. We owe a debt of gratitude to our sponsors:

- **Associated Energy Systems and ICC Chimney – Title Sponsors!**



- Blaze Grills
- Valor Hearth Products
- Olympia Chimney Supply
- Tri-State Distributors
- M&G Duravent – Exhibitor
- Mongoose Metals
- Napoleon Hearth Products
- NW Natural
- Wing Sales - Exhibitor

Save the date!

**OHPBA Spring
Conference**

April 17, 2018

Location TBD

Breakfast Meetings

In August we heard about the **Workforce Oregon program**.

About 20 OHPBA members attended the program in August. Our speaker was Loren Watts, the owner of Watts Heating and a board member of Build-Oregon. He spoke on the construction industry, the lack of labor and how OHPBA can get involved. He gave many examples of how he has developed high schoolers into the trades and his business.



OHPBA volunteered to attend the monthly **Build-Oregon meetings**. A long-term goal of OHPBA is to develop the curriculum and certifications required for a fireplace installation technician. This kind of guidance would be beneficial to all OHPBA members who are looking for qualified employees. It was great to see NWHPBA lobbyist **Gary Smith** in attendance. Gary pointed out the issue of ensuring the industry has a viable path for qualified employees through trade schools and vocational high school programs is of interest across the country. OHPBA added a page to its website called "Career Info", click [HERE](#).

In September, the meeting was held at the NW Natural training facility in Sherwood. Our speaker was **Troy Olsen**, Account Executive for Napoleon. The **Hot Spots Research Study** covered results of new research that examined how key home features impact room appeal, and future home purchase decisions. This study of over 900 consumers interested in purchasing a new home or a major remodel, reveals how homeowner views and values of various rooms have evolved, and what can be done from a design standpoint to increase purchase intent or enhance the experience of their existing homes.

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 in the past year or so!**



HPBA EXPO

OHPBA once again joined in with other west coast affiliates at our West Coast Reception in Atlanta. This year we had over 300 RSVP's. A great time was had by all, despite a close call with a tornado-making weather system. **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, HPBA has completed its first full year of a new process for both providing feedback and new ideas to affiliate leaders. OHPBA must complete several important milestones throughout the year and provide documentation to HPBA. The goal is to have all the affiliates reach a similar level of organization and success



across a wide variety of programs, from education to government affairs. Harvey Gail will be working the HPBA Membership Booth in Nashville, 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.

