

Tax Credit Update

The installation of the new Secretary of the Treasurer will move the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to soon issue a list of which biomass hearth products meet the Qualified Biomass Fuel Property \$300 tax credit guidelines. Additionally, Senators Susan M. Collins (R-ME) and Mike Crapo (R-ID) have written IRS Commissioner Douglas Shulman requesting stove and fireplace inserts be tested to meet the Lower Heating Value to insure the credit is available for efficient and clean-burning wood and pellet stoves, as intended. For the latest updates, go to www.hpba.org or contact Seth Voyles at voyles@hpba.org.

Libby Hopes To Meet Air Standards

We are optimistic that Libby, MT, will meet EPA's air quality standards for PM 2.5 and no longer be designated a "non-attainment" area. This achievement highlights the effectiveness of the Libby wood stove changeout program. The final list of non-attainment areas is expected to be issued by EPA in April and is based on PM 2.5 readings over three years including 2008.

Housing Credit Update

Call your federal legislators today to support the Fix Housing First Homebuyer Tax Credit (S.253) now under debate in the U.S. Senate. Introduced by Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA), this legislation is designed to stimulate the housing market (and sales of HPBA products) and expand an earlier homebuyer tax credit for first-time buyers to include all homebuyers. For more information, contact Seth Voyles at voyles@hpba.org.

Vermont Changeout Report

Northeast HPBA, the State of Vermont, HPBA and the Vermont Chapter of the National Chimney Sweep Guild (NCSG) will join together this spring to kick off a changeout program for old wood stoves in Vermont. Vermont residents can replace old uncertified wood stoves with a gas, pellet or EPA-certified wood stove and receive a voucher from the state in return for the old stove. There is also a program to encourage the replacement of older catalytic elements. For more information, retailers should contact NEHPBA's Diane Rossi at diane@nehpa.com and manufacturers should contact John Crouch at crouch@hpba.org.

Manufacturers Gov't. Affairs Briefing

The annual Manufacturers Government Affairs Briefing will be on Wednesday, March 18 at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. This meeting is open to all manufacturers and laboratories and is the best place to learn about the activities of the HPBA Government Affairs Department on your behalf. Discussion topics include the latest

information on EPA's plans to revise the 20-year old New Source Performance Standard (NSPS) for wood heaters; details about the \$300 tax credit qualifications; the new EPA low mass fireplace agreement; and the possibility of including some woodburning appliances in the Energy Star program. For more information, contact John Crouch at crouch@hpba.org.

Technical Committee Meeting

The HPBA Technical Committee will hold an open meeting in Reno on Wednesday, March 18, from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Meeting highlights include a technical discussion of the re-opening of the NSPS and its implications; the role that ASTM standards may have in the new certification process; changes in the hearth pad standard; the new Outdoor Open Flame Decorative Appliance Standard; various "green building standards"; updates on Canadian standards, including B415; and various other technical subjects. For more information, contact Tom Stroud at stroud@hpba.org.

Renewable Heating Symposium

The Oregon Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association's *Renewable Heating Symposium: A Conference on Wood and Pellet Fuel for Residential Heating* will be held on April 15 at the Salem Conference Center in Salem, OR. Featured speakers include hearth industry, testing, EPA and DOE experts. For more information, go to www.oregonfireplaces.com/RenewableHeatingSymposium.htm or contact OHPBA directly at 503-371-7457.

Barbecue Mfg. Caucus To Meet

HPBA's Barbecue Manufacturers Caucus will meet Wednesday, March 18 in Reno. The breakfast meeting is from 7:30am – 9:30am at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. The notice, breakfast sign-up information and agenda will be mailed to all barbecue manufacturers in February.

PFI Participates in RETECH 2009

PFI and several PFI and HPBA member companies will participate in RETECH 2009, a renewable energy technology conference and expo. Held February 25-27, in Las Vegas, RETECH is sponsored by the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), of which PFI is a member.

For more information on RETECH, see <http://www.retech2009.com/> or call PFI at 703-522-6778.

Reno Entertainment Scores

Don't miss these great entertainment opportunities while in Reno! Reno's Peppermill Resort and Silver Legacy Casino are offering HPBExpo attendees and exhibitors exclusive discounted tickets on several great entertainment performances during show dates.

Comedian Howie Mandel, host of NBC's "Deal or No Deal," is performing Saturday, March 21 at the Peppermill. Tickets to his hilarious performance are discounted 20% and range from \$47.20 to \$71.20 (plus tax and fee). To order tickets, call: 1-877-525-SHOW (7469) and use the discount code, HEARTH PATIO.

At the Silver Legacy Casino, actor and country singer Dwight Yoakam is performing on Friday, March 20. Discounted tickets are \$55-\$80 and can be purchased by calling 800-687-8733.

Also on Friday, Ray Manzarek and Robby Krieger of the Doors will perform at the Peppermill Events Center. Concert tickets are 2-for-1 (50% discount) and are available by calling the Peppermill 1-877-525-SHOW (7469), discount code, HEARTH PATIO.

Committees

Communications

- HPBExpo exhibitors, please fax your HPBExpo Press Contact Form (in your Exhibitor Service Manual) to Deidra Darsa, fax 703-522-0548. And please bring 50 press packets to the press room (D6 at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center) by 5:00pm on Wednesday, March 18.

HPB Education Foundation

Updated versions of two popular workbooks will be available at HPBExpo. *Hiring and Retaining Exceptional Employees* has been revised with new chapters and comes with a CD of forms that can be customized. *Hearth 101* will become a two-workbook set: *Hearth 101: Introduction to Hearth Systems* is ideal for all staff that interacts with customers, and *Using Hearth 101 for Sales and Customer Service* is the follow up workbook for sales and customer service personnel. You can pickup your new workbooks at the Member Services Center, booth 3125.

Membership

- Membership renewal and Expo registration for most 2008 non-manufacturing members is available online at www.hpbexpo.com.
- Keep the "Drive for 25" alive and call a non-member retailer today. For telephone calling scripts or other information, please contact Antonio Jackson at jackson@hpba.org.

Statistics

- The HPBA Quarterly Industry Survey of hearth appliance manufacturers has been distributed. Respondents are invited to a complimentary Statistics Invitational Breakfast at HPBExpo.
- Hearth product manufacturers that received the annual regional hearth shipments sales statistics survey should respond by February 6.
- For information on these surveys or the Statistics Invitational Breakfast in Reno, please contact Don Johnson at johnson@hpba.org.



HPBExpo Report

Reno, NV • March 18 - 21, 2009 • www.hpbexpo.com
Innovations & Ideas for Indoor-Outdoor Living

HPBExpo Registration Update. Registration is easily completed on line at www.hpbexpo.com or by fax (download the form from the website). The pre-registration badge mailing began on January 26, however, membership dues and registration fees, if applicable, must be paid to receive badges by mail. The registration deadline to receive badges by mail is February 23. International companies must pickup badges on-site. Online registration will remain open for badge pickup on-site until March 16.

Expo Housing. The HPBA Reno hotel block continues to fill up quickly. Reservations can be made online at www.hpbexpo.com or through the HPBA Housing Connection at 866-365-1113 (Domestic Toll Free) or 801-505-4139 (Int'l).

Expo Exhibit Space. For space availability and contracts, contact Amy Jackson at amyjackson@hpb.org, or visit www.hpbexpo.com and click on "Apply to Exhibit" under the Exhibitor's section.

HPBExpo 2010 Exhibit Signup. The 2010 Exhibitor Portfolio and Priority Booth Assignment will reach current and past exhibitors by mid-February. The portfolio contains 2010 booth contracts, rules and regulations, payment information (20% will be due at space selection), and the Priority Assignment Time for the Priority Booth Assignment taking place in Reno, March 19- March 21. It is important that exhibitors attend the Priority Booth Assignment during the scheduled time (during Expo) and take advantage of the priority ranking for booth space. Please note that priority housing will not be offered this year. Housing will open for exhibitor reservations on September 1, 2009.

Expo Promotional Opportunities. HPBExpo exhibitors interested in expanding their exposure at the show, please contact Betteanne Leahy at 800-404-5461.

New Expo Planning Tool. A new interactive floor plan, You Are Here®, is available at www.hpbexpo.com. This navigational tool will better prepare you, the buyer, with the barbecue, hearth and patio sellers you need to see. You can schedule exhibitor appointments in advance or search for items by product and brand. Make efficient use of your time at the show by locating the folks on the floor you need to see.

HPBExpo Important Dates

- February 13:** Last day to receive a hotel room in the HPBExpo block at the special, discounted Expo prices
- February 23:** Registration deadline to receive badge in mail. After this date, you must pick up badges onsite.
- March 16:** Final Pre-registration deadline. After this date, you must register onsite.



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HOTNEWS

Published monthly to provide Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association members with timely news and information