



Government Affairs Newsletter

FIRELINE



Promoting, Defending, and Growing the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Industries

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EXPO

It's officially that time of year again... EXPO! As our industry gathers, yet again, there are many exciting and informative meetings available...

Government Affairs Academy

Apply for the HPBA Government Affairs Academy (GAA) to be held in Kansas City, Kansas, July 8-11. Training will cover media, testimony, hearing, lobbying and industry issues. HPBA will cover all costs, including travel, for each participant. Contact Vanessa Golembeski, golembeski@hpba.org, or your own affiliate. Applications are due by April 6, 2007. Those interested in the GAA should join us for a Government Affairs Academy luncheon at EXPO on Friday, March 16, 11:30am - 1:00pm, Room A19.

Manufacturers Caucus Mtg. in Reno

This year's agenda will include: (i) the roll out of the Fireplace Glass Safety Initiative; (ii) a briefing on the U.S. DOE's pending rulemaking on gas appliance efficiency, and how that may affect pilot lights, (iii) the progress in the Libby, MT Changeout Program, as well as existing and pending changeouts throughout the U. S. and Canada. Larry Brockman, EPA, will join Tony Wakelin, of the British Columbia Ministry of Environment, to discuss changeout programs in both countries. Tom Pugh will brief manufacturers on the issue of grassroots organizing. The Manufacturers Caucus Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 18,

8:00am - 9:30am, at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Room A19.

Libby Changeout Update

Please join us in Reno for the Libby Changeout Update with Jerry Marquez of the Lincoln County Health Department. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet one-on-one with key players in the Libby Changeout. Held in Room D4 on Thursday, March 15 and Friday, March 16, 2:00pm - 4:00pm.

Fireplace and Stove Glass Safety Guide

The Government Affairs and Communications Committees have been tasked to address a safety issue with fireplace and stove glass burning young children. HPBA has formed the Glass Safety Task Force, and is in the process of compiling a brochure, web page, and universal symbols. These items will soon be available for full distribution to manufacturers, retailers, pediatricians, and hospitals. For further info, please contact Leslie Wheeler, wheeler@hpba.org, or Allan Cagnoli, cagnoli@hpba.org.

Grassroots Web Tool: Capwiz

HPBA is excited to introduce a brand-new online advocacy service called Capwiz for our federal, state, and local legislative efforts. Capwiz offers many Web-based tools, including, legislative monitoring, research, list building, reporting, and extensive directories of federal and state legislators and agencies, media and local elected officials.

Capwiz will be functional after EXPO. Training will be available through the Government Affairs Academy, affiliate meetings, or individual online sessions.

Changeout Program

EPA's Woodsmoke team will be holding a seminar on changeouts during EXPO. This seminar, designed for state/local/tribal air quality staff, will focus on recent changeout programs and provide information for those areas planning changeout programs. The program will start on Wednesday afternoon, and will include tours of the outdoor burn area led by graduates of the Government Affairs Academy. Over 60 air quality people, from Vermont to Alaska, are registered for this program.

New PM_{2.5} Standards

In late September, the USEPA announced a revision to its standard for particulate matter. While holding the annual standard at 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, the agency revised the 24-hour standard substantially, lowering it to 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. This change will return many of the western areas, which formerly violated the old PM₁₀ standard, to a non-attainment status. According to EPA's timeline, initial lists will be public in late 2007, although final designation of non-attainment areas will not be completed until late in 2009. HPBA will continue to monitor this process very closely with our local affiliates. For further information, contact John Crouch, john.crouch.hpba@sbcglobal.net.

2007 Farm Bill

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has submitted its 2007 Farm Bill proposal to Congress for debate and hearings. Several sections of this bill could be important to HPBA:

- Forest Wood to Energy Program- begins a new wood-to-energy program over ten years to accelerate use of low-value woody biomass resources; funding at \$150 million over ten years
- Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grant Program- to continue support for smaller alternative energy and energy efficiency projects that help farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses; funded at \$500 million over ten years.
- Various research programs- to expand USDA and university research on renewable fuels and bioenergy; funded at over \$1 billion over ten years.

Small Business Tax Relief

Small Business Tax Relief has taken the forefront through legislation to increase to the minimum wage from the current \$5.15/hr. to \$7.25/hr over two yrs. The Senate overwhelmingly passed its minimum wage bill by providing tax relief to small businesses within the measure. The House of Representatives is working on its version of small business tax credits. The bill still needs a lot of consensus. Additionally, HPBA is watching the potential repeal or change of the LIFO (Last In, First Out).

Los Angeles to Finalize New Rules

In February, John Crouch, Steve Pulone, Jerry Scott, and members of HPBA Pacific attended a South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQD) meeting in Los Angeles, CA, regarding Rule 445 that will limit the types of hearth appliances in new homes. The Air District's staff is considering allowing "gas log fireplaces", i.e., masonry or factory-built woodburning fireplaces that contain a gas log set

permanently installed. The new rule may also recognize woodburning fireplaces that meet the as yet to be identified target for the new Voluntary Fireplace Program. For more information, local members should contact Steve Pulone, steve@hamgmt.com, and manufacturer members should contact [John Crouch](#).

California Energy Commission

Representatives of major hearth manufacturers joined Tom Pugh, Govt. Affairs Committee chairman, Tom Stroud and John Crouch, at an informal meeting with CEC staffers in January, and were told that possible limits on wood burning fireplaces, pilot lights, and B-vent fireplaces are not on the short list for the 2008 State Energy Code. For more information, contact [Tom Stroud](#) or [John Crouch](#).

CODES & STANDARDS

LNG Testing Program

GAMA has begun testing LNG and gas fired appliances, regarding combustion behavior and changes in efficiency caused by gas interchangeability. Data from these tests should be available later this year. For further information, contact Tom Stroud, stroud@hpba.org.

Low Mass (Manufactured) Fireplace ASTM Standard

The Fueling Protocol has gone to ballot and should be finalized at the April ASTM meeting. The next step will be to hold a stakeholders meeting with EPA to determine an emissions limit that will be utilized in a voluntary partnership program. This will be as close to EPA certification for fireplaces as there will be. For further information, contact Tom Stroud.

Outdoor Wood Hydronic Heaters Partnership

A voluntary new partnership between the U.S. EPA and HPBA regarding outdoor wood-fired furnaces was announced in January. The partnership is a result of more than two years of collaborations between EPA, HPBA, outdoor wood furnace manufacturers, state regulators, testing labs and other stakeholders. The Phase I Partnership Agreement has been signed by a number of manufacturers, and is designed to reduce emissions. This effort, combined with proper installation and best burn practices, will provide consumers with cleaner heating appliances. [\[Tom Stroud\]](#)

Pellet Stove Efficiency and Emissions Testing

PFI and HPBA are funding a project to look at the true clean burning capability of pellet stoves. This project will look into how clean the emissions are when the heavy particulate (which typically falls to the ground) is removed from the sampling train. This testing will begin soon. [\(Tom Stroud\)](#)

Corn Testing

HPBA will facilitate the investigation of corn stove emissions. HPBA will fund a report, based on third party test data funded by manufacturers, which addresses the basic assumption within the industry that corn burning stoves are at least as clean as pellet stoves. [\(John Crouch\)](#)

Outdoor Decorative Gas Products

A Technical Assistance Group (TAG) is being formed to work on a standard that would cover outdoor decorative gas products, such as gas campfires, outdoor firepits, outdoor fireplaces, etc. There has been a concern over the proliferation of the product lines and the lack of a current standard. The TAG will be having an organizational meeting during EXPO on Friday, March 16 at 8:00am – 10:00am, in room D10. All interested industry stakeholders are invited. [\[Tom Stroud\]](#)