

Arizona Hearth, Patio, & Barbecue Assn.

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Larry Grogan
Executive Director



President's Message

Dear AHPBA Members,

The page of 2009 has turned, and for many of us it is just as well. In the past few years, we have all been met with great challenges - some seemingly insurmountable. Our great state is in the midst of very difficult economic conditions, being led by the sagging new construction industry, on which many of our members rely. As families have lost jobs and homes, their ability to spend has diminished, and our businesses have struggled right along with them.

As 2010 gets under way, we must remain focused on the future. We cannot change the past; we can, however, influence tomorrow, next week, next month. We will have to work hard to capture every opportunity that comes our way. And we will have to remain diligent in fighting off those things that threaten our livelihood.

I would like to thank you all for your

support of AHPBA. I have been active on our Board for about 7 years now, and am honored to begin services as President. As our affiliate is made up of "competitors", I have always enjoyed watching how we have all worked together for the common good of our industry. This incredible servitude has been noted by many of the National leaders who watch us and the other affiliates around the country - you should take a bow!

As we move forward, we will need to continue this work together for survival. We still face many challenges - from fewer housing starts to new regulations that affect remodeling - that ultimately may change the way we look at our business models. But together, we will learn, adjust, adapt, and grow. Together - as business owners, community leaders, friends - we will succeed.
Cory Church

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ HPBA EXPO
Mar. 10-13, 2010
- ◆ AHPBA Annual Event July 30 -
Aug. 1, 2010
- ◆ NFI Certifications
Apr. 28, 29, 30

THANK YOU FRAN

The AHPBA membership would like to thank Fran Smith for all of years of service to the AHPBA. She is a person who loves to give and give. Whenever someone asks for help, Fran will always be the first person to raise their hand to volunteer. That's how she got involved in the AHPBA, and she is still doing it today in the Houston area. She has decided to step down as our Executive Director after 17 years or close to that number of years. She started doing that before I got involved in the AHPBA.

For most of those years she was a

volunteer Executive Director who worked for an associate member of our organization, Southwest Gas. For all of those years, she worked tirelessly for the AHPBA and put forth tremendous effort and heart into her endeavors for us.

Please, if you see her in the future, please thank her again for all of her help.

**THANK YOU AGAIN, FRAN
BEST WISHES!**

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

This following letter is from John Crouch concerning the ongoing NSPS effort that HPBA is doing in regards to what EPA is doing on this matter. This could affect your business in a great way depending on what EPA does in its new rules that will come out regarding all wood burning appliances. HPBA is asking for donations to help in this effort. Please check out this website for more information, www.hpba.org/government-affairs/nsps-members . If after reading this information, you would like to donate please send to me so we can keep track of the donations at AHPBA, 3348 E. Hampton Ave., Mesa, AZ 85204

The Review of the NSPS by EPA

By John Crouch, HPBA/PFI staff

As everyone in our industry now knows, the EPA is deep into the process of reviewing their program that certifies clean burning wood stoves, which is formally known as the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for Wood Heaters. A lot of retailers and reps have questions about how these changes might affect their business, so HPBA has produced a short Q & A piece for the affiliate newsletters.

What is the NSPS?

The NSPS is the EPA's wood stove certification program. It is the rule which was adopted in 1988 that requires that all wood stoves manufactured or imported in the U.S. be certified by the EPA. This current NSPS review is the first revision of this rule in 20 years.

What will this review cover?

The EPA is at least considering covering everything that burns solid fuel in this review:

- ✚ A lower passing grade for wood stoves
- ✚ Certification process for pellet stoves and boilers, as well as corn stoves
- ✚ Removal of the exemption for single burn rate heaters and furnaces
- ✚ Factory built and masonry fireplaces
- ✚ Masonry heaters
- ✚ Outdoor hydronic heaters

How will everything get certified and will there be enough time?

This is one of the key issues for HPBA. Some of these products will need more time than others to get all of the models certified. How low the passing grades are for each product will also impact how long it takes to recertify the line. It's quite possible that there will be seasons where not all of your favorite models have completed the new certification. There will be many detailed changes to both the wood stove and the pellet stove test, and it's impossible to know which units will be easy to recertify and which will be difficult.

What is HPBA doing about the NSPS process?

HPBA has retained the very best professional assistance available to us: Mr. David Menotti, of the law firm of Pillsbury, Winthrop, Shaw Pittman. David has represented our industry on air quality issues since 1985 with the state regulation in Colorado, and he was instrumental in the negotiations that lead to the first NSPS in 1988. David is now a well-known air attorney and

has represented many industries (such as the American iron and steel industry) on issues with the EPA.

HPBA is also using the services of Bob Ferguson, who was once the lead engineer with Vermont Castings, and is now a private consultant. Bob is working very hard on the details of the new pellet stove test method, and on a new ASTM test process for stick stoves, which may remove some of the 'busy work' in the certification testing process, which in turn will lower those costs. Bob is also assembling blinded data for all the test runs for all the existing certified stoves, which will help determine the new passing grades. In addition, many members have volunteered extraordinary amounts of time in meetings and strategy sessions, with the full support of their companies.

This sounds expensive; are the manufacturers paying for this?

The HPBA board of directors voted to assess solid fuel hearth manufacturers for half of the costs of this effort and match that with funds from our Government Affairs budget. Every company whose product depends on solid fuel has been assessed each quarter for their share of the actual expenses. All appliance manufacturers and importers, as well as all chimney, hearth pad, and accessory members have been invoiced. In the two invoices sent in 2009, almost \$50,000 was raised from manufacturers above and beyond their dues. This is being matched from the HPBA Government Affairs budget. Of course, existing HPBA staff assets are used wherever possible, and many key volunteers have contributed hundreds of hours of their time, gratis.

I've donated to my affiliate's NSPS effort; on what will my donation be spent?

Our team is in frequent contact with the EPA staff, including face to face meetings in North Carolina, Oregon, and Georgia. In addition, the ASTM working groups are meeting twice a month, generally by phone, to plan the new test methods. In 2009 our legal bills and meeting expenses exceeded \$200,000. Affiliate contributions are being used to support the general program and to minimize the disruption to our industry.

Your donation and sacrifice is very much appreciated!

At EXPO affiliates members who have donated to this effort will have a special ribbon, as will manufacturers who are current in their assessment payments.

Plus, all retailers and reps are invited to an **educational session at EXPO on Friday, March 12, 8:30 am, in Room N320B**. Both Allan Cagnoli and I look forward to answering your questions at that session. (Please note that this is an education event, and an Education Passport will be required to attend.)

2010 will be the cusp, the key moment, of this whole process.

What wood stoves and pellet stoves look like, and how well they operate (heat) for the next 10-20 years, may well be determined over the next 12-18 months. Even though this is a tough year for all of us, we can't let up.

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RRP Rule

This rule could have an impact on your business. The new EPA rule called the Renovation, Repair, and Painting rule takes effect on April 22, 2010. This will affect you if you do work on any pre 1978 housing especially if it involves young children living in this homes or child occupied facilities. This rule is based on disturbing lead based paint on walls of the housing you could be working on and using lead safety work practices in doing the job. If you will be doing work on any pre 1978 housing and would be disturbing more than 6' SF of interior wall surface or 20' SF of exterior wall surface including removing windows (no exclusion for square footage for removing windows); you will have to have the area tested for lead based paint and/or become a certified company and have employed a Certified Lead Renovator. Contact me or check on the web at www.epa.gov/lead .

ANNUAL EVENT NEWS

We will be having our annual event at the Amara Resort and Spa in Sedona, AZ on Oak Creek. The event will take place on July 30 thru Aug. 1, 2010. Check out the resort at www.amararesort.com . Please set aside the time to join us for this great get together. We will have a reception on Friday night and a dinner on Saturday night, and we will throw in some education too. There will also be AHPBA board meeting that weekend too, and we are always looking for input from the members.

EDUCATION NEWS

We will be scheduling some NFI training in the month of April 2010, and will include NFI review classes on gas, wood burning, and pellet. We will also offer the exams for NFI certifications. The classes and exams will be held either in Phoenix or in the area of Arizona where the most students will come from. We will go to where ever the students are. Package cost will be \$279.00 per each. Tentative dates will be
Gas: 4/28/10 Wood Burning: 4/29/10 Pellet: 4/30/10
Go to www.nficertified.org for information on NFI courses and exams.

STOVE CHANGEOUT UPDATE

SRP has donated funds to do a stove change out in Apache and Navajo Counties in Arizona. The Arizona Lung Association will be directing the stove change out and calling it the Clean Heat Exchange. This program will impact our dealers in the two counties and some dealers just outside the areas such as Flagstaff and Payson. There will be some incentives for the change out, such as \$1000.00 towards a new pellet or gas stove, or \$600.00 for a new EPA Certified wood burning stove. Income qualified residents could qualify for a \$3000.00 incentive. To be awarded these incentives, resident's old pre 1988 wood stove would have to be replaced and installed by an NFI certified professional or an equivalent professional. So get certified if you are not. The old stove would have to be properly disposed of at a recycling center. This has not been totally finalized yet so there could be some changes, and we will keep you posted.

Please check out our website at azhpba.org