

FROM THE OHWA BOARD

Happy New Year from the Orchard Heights Water Association! We hope 2016 is off to a good start for all our members and we hope you will take a moment to read this newsletter and get caught up with what is going on with OHWA.

Annual meeting held on November 10, 2015: The meeting was held at West Salem High School and board members presented an update on the activities of the association for the year, presented the budget, discussed planned incremental rate increases for 2016 and approved the number of shares for sale in 2016 as well. Board members were voted on with Jennifer Meltzer, Steve Riley and Clara Taylor agreeing to finish out their current two-year terms and Gillian Fischer stepping forward to fill one of the two vacant positions on the board. We expressed our appreciation to Leo Woods and Teresa Hire for their time served on the board.

Annual Back-Flow Testing: As mentioned previously, in order to meet the requirements of the State of Oregon, we are required to make sure all cross connections to our water main have an approved backflow or other cross-connection device that protects our water supply from potentially harmful contamination. We must submit a report to the State annually verifying that each service on the system has performed and passed the testing. Our policy requires that each member of the Association submit their test report by Sept 30 of the calendar year. If you have already arranged for testing and submitted your test report for 2016, then you are well ahead of the curve and we thank you. However, most of the membership will not have gotten this accomplished yet and we want this to serve as a reminder and also to let you know that the board is going to be considering whether to hire a testing service to perform all the back-flow testing for OHWA and just bill each member of the Association annually for this service. We will keep the membership posted if the process changes. If there are any questions or concerns about this proposed action, please feel free to contact the Association by phone or email (503-569-9731 or ohwassn@yahoo.com).

Need to fill vacancy on the Board: We still have one vacancy on the OHWA board of directors. We really need a volunteer from our membership to serve. There is no prior experience or qualifications necessary. Please consider whether you would be willing to join the board and serve for a 2 year term that generally entails attending the monthly board meeting, held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm, and being available via e-mail to address needs that require board action on a timelier basis between meetings. Please contact Mary Tucker if you are interested or have further questions. Those interested in considering the position are also welcome to sit in on a board meeting and observe and find out more details before committing. Our next board meeting will be on February 16 at the "board room" building next to the lower water tank on Orchard Heights Road.



WELCOME ABOARD MARY TUCKER

The Association has had a recent change in Office Manager. Mary Tucker of Strategy Management, LLC is the new office Manager/bookkeeper. Mary has several years of experience working with non-profits. She can be reached at **503-569-9731** for any questions related to OHWA. Please take note of the new phone number as we will be phasing out the old phone number that rings to a message recorder

in the board room. This new phone number will be listed on future billing statements and newsletters.

REMINDERS

- Have your backflow device tests completed by July in order to meet the Sept. 30 deadline.*
- Update your contact information with Mary via email: ohwassn@yahoo.com, or by phone: 503-569-9731.*