

## FROM THE OHWA BOARD

Summer has officially arrived and it is a good time to touch base with the membership on a number of things happening with OHWA. Enclosed with this newsletter, you will see the 2016 Annual Water Quality Drinking Report and it is particularly timely as it addresses a couple of key issues. As we head into the warmer months of summer, it is important to keep water conservation tips in mind. We do not anticipate a need to curtail water use at this time, but longer and hotter summer days are coming so please take note of some conservation tips discussed in the report.

Lead levels have been in the news across the country and locally around our own State. If this topic is of concern, please take note of the information and resources listed in the report.

**Annual Back-Flow Testing:** The Board of Directors for OHWA is moving forward with plans to contract out the back-flow testing for the Association in 2017. We have decided that it will be easier to be compliant in our required annual testing if we hire out the testing and charge membership a one-time testing fee annually. We will keep you informed of the process when it officially changes, but need everyone to arrange to complete their own annual testing this year and submit a copy of the report to OHWA by Sept 30, 2016.

**Meter Change-outs:** The final phase of changing out water meters is occurring in 2016 as well. Toby Cothran is an employee with OHWA who has been working to change out the meters. He tries to make contact with homeowners when he is out on the property and may also be doing a quick test of water pressure at the hose bib.

**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 at 503-569-9731 if you are interested or have further questions.



### MEET DAVID SIMMONS

David Simmons is a fourth generation farmer who has farmed 250 acres in the West Salem hills for the past 40 years. He has been a certified organic grower and processor for 21 of those years and mainly grows Italian plums, small grains and legume seeds. He also has served on multiple boards, including the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District for 13 years, the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts as well as the Glenn and Gibson Creek Watershed Councils.

When he is not keeping busy with all of these commitments, he is working as a Water Operator for OHWA. He has been with OHWA for 12 years and his duties include day to day operations of the system, repair and maintenance of the pumps, pipelines and infrastructure, handling water emergencies, water quality sampling and testing and reporting to the state. David is married to Ginger and has two grown daughters, Mary and Marina. If you see David out and about on the system, say Hello and thank him for his service to the Association.

### REMINDERS

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