

Direct to You

Friday
3/3/22

Patricia Wells, OHA Executive Director



Good Afternoon OHA Family

Each month of the year provides opportunities to observe many global subjects to promote awareness, commemorate and honor specific groups, and to celebrate culture. During March, we officially welcome spring and daylight savings, and there are a variety of observances, some serious, some personal, and some whimsical, that touch many of the OHA family. Several of note include Irish-American Heritage, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness, Development Disabilities Awareness, and National Plant a Flower Day, a reminder to think about protecting, preserving and beautifying our planet.

In this DTY – we are highlighting Women's History Month, which also includes International Women's Day on March 8th and National Employee Appreciation Day on March 4th. I selected this March observance to honor the women who are making a positive impact on this world—here at OHA, in our homes, in our communities and around the world—who start each day ready to make a difference in the lives of those they meet on their daily journey.

Earlier this week, we listened to President Biden deliver the State of the Union Address before a joint session of Congress, flanked on the left and the right by two women who hail from California—one of which got her start right in here in Oakland. On this memorable day we lived in the moment, as history was made during the first State of the Union with two women behind the dais – a visual celebration of Women's History Month! Throughout my career, I have admired women who rose to the highest levels of professional achievement in their fields, and I have been graced to be mentored by a few. Yet, this week, at the sight of that dais, I was bursting with gratefulness and pride as I watched two leaders serving in the highest level of leadership for our nation, and realizing that the younger generation watching were affirmed that leadership roles can be part of their journey also.



In the president's comments he remarked on his Build Back Better agenda, now framed as "building a better America," which includes more funding for housing. By continuing to make the need for affordable housing a national issue, he is reinforcing the importance of the work we do here every day.

With a staff made up of a diverse team of individuals—nearly half of whom are women—I want to honor you, and celebrate us **all** for coming together as we move forward. March 4th is National Employee Appreciation Day, and it is in the spirit of acknowledging everyone's contribution to OHA's success, that I remain inspired by the greatness of the people I am privileged to work with on a daily basis.

Patricia

"I raise up my voice not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard."

—Malala Yousafzai



All past issues of Direct To You are available on the OHA website for 24/7 access. In addition to the messages sent directly from the OHA executive director, you can also find links to other resources, articles, and up-to-date information about OHA operations and the ways we are addressing the current health crisis.





From Bettye Lou with Love~

The following letter was sent with love to all staff from OHA Commissioner Bettye Lou Wright. It is her fervent wish that you all read it, think about it and heed her advice and take action:

February 17, 2022

To My OHA Family,

My life's journey has taken me to some great places, some really scary places, and some very beautiful places. One of my favorite places has been here, at OHA.

My years working alongside so many of you through my volunteer work at West District greeting our residents at OHA; calling our seniors and the sick and shut in; my role as resident ambassador with the RAB; and in my Governance Leadership role with my Commissioner family have been some of my happiest and most fulfilling. I love my OHA family, and so I am sending this letter expressing my love for you all and my concern about your health and well-being.

During these past few years, I have also been on a journey with my battle with cancer. I have had highs and lows with this battle, but I have tried to fight a strong fight. I want to use my experience to share with others the importance of taking care of yourself, especially with regular health screenings.

My dear OHA family, this past week, I asked Pat (only I get to call Executive Director, Patricia Wells that), to help me write you a love letter. This letter of love is to make sure each and every one of you takes advantage of all the good health care benefits at OHA, especially the ability to have all routine health screenings, health care workshops, and health care apps. But those only work if you use them. I encourage everyone to love yourself and your family and show it with good, regular health care. Don't wait to get your checkups or visit a doctor when something doesn't feel quite right!

I love working with each of you, serving our residents, serving each other as an OHA family, and making our communities wonderful places for everyone to live and work.

With love,

[Your dedicated Commissioner, RAB member and OHA Volunteer]

Bettye Lou Wright

PS... Don't forget, I want you to love yourselves by taking care of your health.



Learn a little bit more about the holidays we celebrate
and how they came to be.



Prepare to set clocks ahead **Sunday, March 13, 2022 (spring forward).**



Have an idea to save time or money? Figured out a way to make work a little easier and more efficient? Or perhaps you want to share your team's success with the entire agency? Well, now it's easier than ever to share your ideas! No matter what's on your mind... **Direct From Me** is the easy way to have your ideas delivered to OHA's Executive Director, Patricia Wells.



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REMEMBER: if you have reasonable suspicion that you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or if you are experiencing symptoms of fever (100.4 Fahrenheit or higher), coughing, or shortness of breath, do not report to work. Immediately contact your primary care provider and then your supervisor for instructions on what you need to do next. If you have any questions regarding your schedule, please contact your supervisor or Director. If you have questions in regards to pay or leave time, please contact Human Resources at (510) 874-1575.

