

# Direct to You

Wednesday  
5/5/21

Patricia Wells, OHA Executive Director



Hello OHA!

Its been a while since I have reached out, so we are using May, a month full of celebrations, to reconnect. We kicked-off this month with several special occasions on deck that began with May Day (May 1) and go through Memorial Day (May 30), I am hoping you all will join me in celebrating a turn toward beautiful Spring weather, longer days and a more optimistic future after 14 months of challenging times.

**Christmas in May** is OHA's way of reminding us all that we can celebrate the holidays on any day of the year. After a few delays, we have been delivering the gifts and prizes won at the Virtual Holiday Party (back in December). Each gift/gift card is being left on your desk or at your work site and will be waiting for you the next time you come to work or visit in person.

**Cinco de Mayo**, or the fifth of May (today), commemorates the date of the Mexican army's May 5, 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War. In the United States, the day which is also known as Battle of Puebla Day, has evolved into a celebration of Mexican culture and heritage.



**Mother's Day** is this Sunday, May 9. It's a perfect time to recognize your own mother or any woman (or person) who has served that role in your life or the life of your child(ren). As many of you know, Mother's Day is the day I honor my dear mother, and "celebrate" my Daddy, the "mightiest of men," who raised my siblings and I as a "single" dad with laughter, high expectations and a sense of responsibility for our neighbor. We always joked Mothers Day was Daddy's day also. So in that spirit, I am feeling very grateful as I wish a very Happy Mother's Day to all the "mommies" out there. Hopefully, we can all agree that mothers, and mothering, takes many forms and it's the nurturing and care that we celebrate the most.

**Memorial Day**, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in military service for the United States. The Memorial Day weekend is seen as the unofficial start of summer, and as such, it is a popular holiday enjoyed with outdoor events and picnics, as well as solemn ceremonies filled with patriotic reverence for those who have served our country with honor. I hope you all will join me by taking a moment to lift up a thought of gratitude to all the men and women who we will celebrate this upcoming Memorial Day – and each remember that each day we benefit greatly from their service and sacrifice. This year Memorial Day is Monday, May, 31.

**National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day** is May 15. Since it falls on a Saturday, it seems only fitting that we pick another day during the week when we can celebrate the wonders of America's most popular cookie. Next week, employees who are working on site on the 'surprise cookie day' will be treated to freshly baked chocolate chip cookies, helping set the tone for another positive week.

...And as if you needed any other reasons to kick up your heels and be excited about the positive energy in the air, check out all these other May celebrations. In addition to so many of our area businesses starting to reopen as coronavirus cases decline in California and the number of people who are fully vaccinated increases, the list of specially recognized holidays provides a way to be festive nearly every day of May.

Remember to be safe and have a wonderful week and weekend!

Patricia



**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.**



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.

