



FUELLINE

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Montana Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association Newsletter

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2010 Convention a great success!

We are happy to report that this year's recently completed convention was well attended and looks to generate a healthy net income. The UST operator training class was filled to capacity and from all accounts attendees should be able to easily complete the online test and become certified. The trade show was also well attended by both vendors and marketers. We even had a nice day for the golf tournament! While we have the opportunity, we do want to thank the corporate sponsors whose participation and support insure the annual meeting is successful:

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This year's recipient of the corporate sponsor prize was *Patti Haberling, Wyoming Refining.*

The Silent Auction was also a fun success and generated approximately \$3500 to the PAC and Scholarship Fund. Thank you to these individuals and companies that contributed to the event:

DONORS

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2011 CONVENTION “Save the Date”

Please save the dates for next year’s MPMCSA Convention; **JUNE 7-9, 2011** at the **Hilton Garden Inn** in **Missoula!**

BOARD ELECTIONS

During the Association business meeting on June 9th, the membership elected four individuals to continue their terms on the Board of Directors. Serving another two-year term will be: **Jim Kenneally** – Town Pump Inc., Butte; **Doug McCracken** – EZ Mart, Harlem; **Todd Fickler** – Fickler Oil Co., Deer Lodge and **Bary Moore** – Moore Oil, Thompson Falls. **Dave Sutey** – Sutey Oil/Thriftway, Butte will continue for the next year as President and **Doug Klotthor** – Rocky Mountain Supply, Belgrade, as Vice President. Thanks to these volunteers who are willing to lead the Association!

INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

The Association is currently working with two interim legislative committees: the Environmental Quality Council and the Law & Justice Committee. The EQC is reviewing rules in development from the Department of Environmental Quality (Remediation Division) that revise the Risk Based Corrective Action (RBCA) requirements. We have been concerned about some of the proposed revisions and asked the EQC to provide oversight to the Department. The Council is also advancing a concept that the Association has been working on for some time, termed “mixing zones,” to assist in closing sites with groundwater contamination. Under certain criteria if a mixing zone could be granted, a site with groundwater contamination could be closed and receive a “no further action” letter from the Department. Monitoring would not be required and the site could then receive positive treatment from lenders and more easily transfer ownership.

The Law & Justice Committee is proposing many bill drafts to the next legislative session in regards to alcohol consumption, including mandatory server training. The Association testified to the Committee on July 7th regarding this issue and will continue to work with it to adopt a concept that all can support. We will keep the membership informed of these and other issues as they develop.

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION REFORM PACKAGE

The 2011 Legislative Session is shaping up to have the biggest debate on workers’ compensation since the early 1990’s. Montana has the second highest work comp rates in the country, and the Legislature is finally listening to the calls for reform coming from Montana businesses. Over the past three years, the Governor’s Labor Management Advisory Council has studied the work comp system and analyzed the cost-drivers. Last month the Council took its reform ideas to the Economic Affairs Committee, which unanimously approved going forward with drafting legislation for the proposals – of which there are 11. While we won’t go in to each one here, based on rough estimates the cost savings are projected to be 4.4 to 1 conservatively, and up to 8.9 to 1. The cost savings measures would become effective either upon passage or on July 1, 2011. There are some areas where benefits would be increased; these would not become effective until July 1, 2013. The MT Chamber of Commerce has led the way in pushing for savings measures during the past two sessions; all business industry groups need to lend them their assistance in seeing that reform becomes reality.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA & YOUR BUSINESS/WORKPLACE

A ballot initiative largely forgotten after the 2004 election has exploded on the scene over the past year to create problems for schools, cities and businesses all around the State. Medical marijuana use has skyrocketed at exponential levels leaving many business owners confused about their rights as employers. In the past few months, a number of cases involving medical marijuana have surfaced in our state courts that make wrongful discharge claims, human rights violations, workers’ compensation claims and more. The MT Chamber of Commerce recently organized a group of business and private sector associations that are collecting information on the issue, studying the current law, and developing legislative solutions for these problem areas. We will keep you informed of the progress of this committee as well.