



# FUELLINE

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Montana Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association Newsletter

Volume 37, Issue 1

*The Association newsletter* published periodically will no longer be sent in a printed, mailed format. It will be sent to the membership electronically and will be available on the Web site at [www.wpma.com](http://www.wpma.com). At times the "Fuel Line" will be faxed if contents are deemed essential.

## Political Action Committee

Contributions to the Association's political PAC continue to come in as we prepare for the 2010 election cycle. We want to thank the following individuals for "stepping up" and assuring success to our efforts:

Steve Hanson – Finest Oil Co.

Larry Fickler – Fickler Oil Co.

Dean Clinkenbeard – DC Petroleum

Bary Moore – Moore Oil Co.

Roy Morris – Morris Marketing

Greg Taylor – Taylor's Inc.

Pat Simons – Simons Petroleum

Dennis Whitmore – GM Petroleum

Bill Nooney Sr. – Hi-Noon Petroleum

Greg Cross – Cross Petroleum

Dallas Herron – CityServiceValcon

Jim Kenneally – Town Pump Inc.

Doug Alexander – Story Dist.

Jerry Breen – Breen Oil Co.

Dave Campbell – Crossroads Truck Stop

Dave Sutey – Thriftway Stores

Hal Tremper – Tremper Dist.

Frank Tabish – Great Western Petroleum

Lary Poulton – Ezzie's Wholesale

Frank Barnes – Westside Gas

If you don't see your name on this list there is still time to be part of the PAC "Club". You will find the PAC form attached to this newsletter. Your support is appreciated.

## CONVENTION!

We are now approximately 60 days out from the annual meeting & trade show scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> in Billings. We would encourage you to secure your room reservation at the Billings Hotel & Convention Center, (800) 537-7286, as the Association room block is filling up. Check out the Web site at [www.wpma.com](http://www.wpma.com) to see the complete schedule and featured highlights of this year's meeting. An opportunity is being provided UST owners & operators at the afternoon session of the conference which will include a class for the UST operator training that is required to be completed by August 1<sup>st</sup>. The Department of Environmental Quality's Underground Storage Tank Section will provide two-hour training for Class A and B operators. The intent of the class is not to certify during the workshop but to introduce operators to the State's online training, demonstrate how it works, and answer questions using the tests from TankHelper II. TankHelper II is an online training webinar offered at no cost to tank owners. The workshop should make it easier for an operator to then go home, enter their facility number and take the online test. The Department plans to make the workshop fun by having attendees work in competitive teams to answer questions that are on the test. Don't miss this opportunity to help you meet the August deadline.

## ALCOHOL SERVER TRAINING/PENALTY SCHEDULE

As noticed earlier, the Associations' efforts to enact a separate penalty schedule for employers experiencing violations of alcohol sales to minors and conducting regular training of their employees, have been denied by the Department of Revenue. The issue became twisted and confused with the escalating concern regarding DUIs, accidents relating to alcohol consumption and resulting deaths. Unfortunately the venue for the rules hearing became a venting session for those individuals and groups who are campaigning for more strict law enforcement of DUIs. While we believe the Department could have deflected some of the negative comments and explained the situation better, they justify their actions due to the public outcry. At this point, we cannot



argue with them. Disappointingly, after reviewing the submitted comments (some 200) I find that only TWO Association members filed comments in support of the rule change. Apparently, this issue was not as important as the Board thought it was prior to last Session. At any rate, there is no one to blame but ourselves. In looking ahead, we can also report that the Law & Justice interim legislative committee is considering many different draft bills for next Session that now includes mandatory server training. We will be working with the committee and Senator Carol Juneau who wishes to propose the legislation. In the meantime if talking to customers, members of the press or elected officials, some key points could be made:

- a. HB211 and the proposed rule package addressed ONLY sales of alcohol to minors, not to over-served individuals.
- b. The rule package did NOT reduce penalties; it created a separate penalty schedule for businesses that were doing the right thing.
- c. While HB211 included both on-premise and off-premise sales, the Legislature should perhaps consider the two differently.
- d. If the affected industries are going to accept mandatory training then stricter sanctions against the employee who commits a violation should be considered.

We would predict that the two biggest issues to be debated next Session will be DUI laws and the state budget.

### **MONTANA SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**

We are happy to announce this year's winner of the WPMA/MPMCSA scholarship is Ashleigh Ogolin from Butte, MT. Ashleigh's mother is a bookkeeper for past President, Roy Morris of Morris Marketing. Ashleigh joined four other graduating seniors vying for the award. We appreciate all the students who participated!

### **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL**

As previously reported, the Association/Board of Directors is continuing to urge the Department of Environmental Quality to adopt a more "risk-based" approach to petroleum cleanups in Montana. The Board has hired legal counsel and enlisted the aid of an environmental consultant to assist with a presentation being made to the interim legislative committee, the Environmental Quality Council. We will be asking the Council to adopt our ideas and direct the Department to adopt them as well. The presentation will be made on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the Capitol in Helena and will be aired on public cable television.

If you would like to view the hearing (there will be three of us speaking) here is the list of channels in your respective communities:

Anaconda – Ch 63	Baker – Ch 97
Billings – Ch 8, 63	Bozeman – Ch 63
Broadus – Ch 98	Butte – Ch 61
Choteau – Ch 15	Circle – Ch 62
Conrad – Ch 15	Conrad – Ch 15
Cut Bank – Ch 15	Deer Lodge – Ch 63
Dillon – Ch 63	Ekalaka – Ch 97
Eureka – Ch 46	Fairview – Ch 62
Ft. Benton – Ch 15	Glasgow – Ch 15
Glendive – Ch 62	Great Falls – Ch 70
Hamilton – Ch 17	Harlowton – Ch 97
Havre – Ch 43	Helena – Ch 19
Jordan – Ch 37	Kalispell – Ch 67
Lavina – Ch 97	Lewistown – Ch 59
Lincoln – Ch 46	Livingston – Ch 22
Malta – Ch 37	Miles City – Ch 64
Missoula – Ch 67	Pablo – Ch 97
Polson – Ch 97	Ronan – Ch 97
Roundup – Ch 97	Ryegate – Ch 97
Savage – Ch 62	Shelby – Ch 13
Sidney – Ch 62	Stevensville – Ch 37
Terry – Ch 62	Townsend – Ch 95
Wibaux – Ch 62	Wolf Point – Ch 15