

Winter Magazine 2021

Montana Message by Brad Longcake

Fall greetings from Montana! After a record-breaking summer for temperatures and visitors to our state, we have enjoyed a beautiful fall. The weather has been mild, and we have had plenty of opportunity to get out and enjoy.

In October I was able to attend our annual EMA meeting held this year in Chicago. As always, it was good to network with our associates from across the country. The political shift in Washington, DC has amplified pressure on our members and industry partners. Collaborating regarding our challenges, strategies and accomplishments holds tremendous value. I always appreciate coming back to the MPMCSA having strengthened our strategic framework.

Many of the MPMCSA delegation were able to attend the WPMA fall board meeting in Scottsdale. We always enjoy seeing our WPMA colleagues. Coming off the 2021 Montana Legislative session, we were excited to share some of our accomplishments. We were successful moving some very important legislation for our members and hope to see that momentum carry across our industry.

The Petroleum Tank Compensation Board's Legislative Audit has finally been completed. This process has been in the works since the previous legislative cycle in 2019. The audit committee has provided four suggestions/recommendations to help improve the performance of the fund and process. The MPMCSA will begin to work with DEQ, PTRCB staff, consultants, owner/operators, and other interested parties to provide input and feedback for each suggestion. MPMCSA is confident we will be able to find workable solutions to move this long-standing program forward and improve the process for all parties involved.

As we close out 2021, we would like to thank our amazing members and reflect on all that we withstood and accomplished over the last year. It has been tumultuous to say the least with all the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic along with a shifting political landscape. We are so fortunate to have an engaged group of members working to advance our industry from the grassroots. The relationships we have built in our communities and across our state are more valuable than ever and we are grateful for the hard work and dedication.