

December 16, 2011

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WP-12-16-11

2012 WESTERN PETROLEUM MARKETERS CONVENTION & CONVENIENCE STORE EXPO LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Start planning now to attend the 2012 WPMA Convention and Convenience Store Expo. It will be held at the Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada. Our keynote speaker will be Ben Stein. Mark your calendars for February 21-23, 2012.

Access the WPMA National Convention page by scanning the QR code on the left with your smart device.

WPMA CONVENTION SMART PHONE APP ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

WPMA is offering a unique way to give your company more visibility at the WPMA 2012 Convention and Convenience Store Expo, with an exclusive Smart Phone App sponsorship. For a \$3500 sponsorship fee, the smart phone app sponsor will receive a full-screen ad displayed for ten seconds every time the app is accessed. Included with this sponsorship is a scrolling banner ad, one of only ten ads that will scroll at the top of the screen when the WPMA convention app is in use.

The scrolling banner ad is a second advertising opportunity. Each banner ad will display on the smart phone for five seconds in random order while the WPMA convention app is in use. Only ten banners will be sold, so your name will be very visible to all who use the app. The WPMA Convention app received great reviews at the 2011 show, and we look forward to even more users this year.

For more information, to sponsor or to purchase a scrolling banner ad, please contact Jamie Wood at 801-263-9762, or e-mail jamiew@wpma.com.

MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATION FOR THE WPMA CONVENTION NOW WHILE THERE IS STILL AVAILABILITY

Now is the time to make your room reservations at the Mirage hotel for the 2012 WPMA National Convention and Convenience Store Expo. The rooms are filling up fast because of high demand. The early bird room rate of \$145 has been extended through January 18, 2012 and is available for all WPMA dates except Tuesday, February 21st and Wednesday, February 22nd. The regular WPMA group rate of \$175 will be effective on those dates.

YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE!

WPMA welcomes industry-related articles, editorials and comments for publication in *Western Petroleum Marketers News* magazine. All members and associate members of WPMA are eligible to submit items for publication. Articles will be included as space allows, and no self-promoting articles or editorials will be accepted. WPMA reserves the right to edit and make adaption of such contributions to accommodate the magazine's space and style. Please submit articles or content to Jan Roothoff, WPMA Administration/IT Director at janr@wpma.com, or mail to Jan Roothoff, Western *Petroleum Marketers Association*, PO Box 571500, Murray, UT 84157-1500.

CONGRESS SET TO VOTE ON GOVERNMENT SPENDING BILL

Today, the House is expected to vote on a year-end omnibus spending bill known as the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2012 (HR 2055) which provides funding for the nine remaining spending measures for FY 2012. Both House and Senate conferees signed off on the deal Thursday night. The spending package totals \$1.043 trillion which is within the parameters of the FY 2012 discretionary spending cap set by the Budget Control Act earlier this year. The federal government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) which expires at midnight tonight, so Congress must act quickly to avoid a government shutdown.

The spending package includes: \$104.3 million in LUST funding; \$3.5 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); \$8.5 billion for general EPA programs and management; \$10.1 million for the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve for storage, operations and management; \$105 million for the Energy Information Administration; and \$193 million for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Congress was scheduled to adjourn for the year today, but the omnibus spending bill was held back due to partisan politics. Two more legislative issues need to be completed before Congress leaves town for the holidays, including extending the Social Security payroll tax cut and expiring energy tax credits. The House recently passed an extension of the payroll tax cut extension for one year (as reported by PMAA earlier this week); however, the bill includes provisions that would force the President to make a decision on the Keystone XL Pipeline within 60 days. Most Senate Democrats and the Obama

Administration oppose the Keystone XL Pipeline language; however, GOP leadership is hopeful that the final bill to extend the payroll tax cut will also include the Keystone XL Pipeline provision. The pipeline will improve US energy independence and security, and it will increase domestic supplies of gasoline, diesel and heating oil for decades to come.

Extending expiring energy tax credits, which includes the biodiesel and ethanol blender's tax credit, still faces an uphill battle although Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) continues to reiterate his intention to extend the energy tax breaks into next year. PMAA does not expect the ethanol blender's tax credit will be included in the final deal.

PMAA will continue to monitor the situation unfolding on Capitol Hill and will report on details once they become available.

SENATE PANEL APPROVES TRANSPORTATION SAFETY MEASURE

On Wednesday, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee approved the "Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Enhancement Act of 2011" (S. 1950) by a partisan vote of 13 - 11 that includes language to require commercial trucks to be equipped with electronic recorders to improve hours-of-service rules. S. 1950 will likely become part of the surface transportation legislation that Congress will need to act upon before March 31, 2012 when the current transportation infrastructure law expires. There is significant opposition to the unwarranted and costly trucking safety provisions in the House and PMAA will be asking Representatives to oppose them.

The House and Senate differ on a plan for a long-term reauthorization of the Highway bill. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has already approved a two-year, \$109 billion reauthorization that would maintain current spending indexed for inflation. However, the Senate Finance Committee will still need to find an additional \$12 billion to offset the gap between funding authorization and actual revenues expected from the Highway Trust Fund. Meanwhile, the House Transportation Committee has proposed a six-year, \$230 billion bill that would cut highway programs by more than 30 percent.

STATE PROGRAMS CRITICIZED BY EPA INSPECTOR GENERAL

State environmental enforcement programs do not meet the national goals set by the Environmental Protection Agency, according to an inspector general report released December 12. The agency, for example, set a goal for states to inspect 100 percent of major air pollution emitters every two years, but only eight states did so. The average inspection rate was 89 percent.

The EPA inspector general also found that enforcement is not consistent among states. Some states conducted inspections, identified violations, and assessed penalties more often than other states.

"National consistency ensures that all Americans live in states that meet minimum environmental standards," the report said. "National consistency is also important because it levels the playing field among regulated entities, ensuring that those regulated facilities that fail to comply with the law do not have an unfair economic advantage over their law-abiding competitors."

EPA officials defended state programs emphasizing the value of applying local on-the-ground knowledge and necessary ongoing relationships to solving specific state and regional environmental issues.

BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION WOULD CRACK DOWN ON CIGARETTE SMUGGLERS

The Smuggled Tobacco Prevention (STOP) Act, introduced by Congressman Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) and by Senators Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) would crack down on tobacco smuggling and help states and the federal government collect lost revenue from tobacco products purchased on the black market. The legislation includes stiffer penalties for smugglers who avoid taxes.

Congressman Peter King (R-NY), a cosponsor of the STOP Act, wrote in an op-ed to POLITICO that states are losing almost four billion dollars annually and the federal government is losing five billion dollars each year in revenue to tobacco excise tax evasion. King said that cigarette sales on tribal lands in New York are estimated to account for up to one-third of all cigarette sales in the state, sales which are supposed to be limited to tribal members.

Over the past decade, PMAA has repeatedly urged Congress to end excise tax evasion by Native American tribes.

PMAA COOKBOOKS ARE GREAT FOR HOLIDAY MENU PLANNING AND AS PARTY FAVORS!

We all need a simple distraction to take our minds off of the holiday festivities and challenges. The PMAA PAC official cookbook makes for great holiday reading and family fun. Use the recipes for all of your holiday menus! Contribute to the PMAA Small Business Committee (SBC) PAC and plan your holiday meals at the same time. Furthermore, the books make excellent gifts. Buy many copies, give them to your friends and give them as party favors during your company Christmas party.

To preview the cookbook and to download an order form, go to pmaa.org and follow the links on the home page in the left column.

MEMBER SERVICE SPOTLIGHT: STAPLES ADVANTAGE

Offers valid through December 31, 2011:**

- Custom Gifts: 20 percent off! Visit StaplesPromo.com for our full holiday selection. Please use code Holiday11.
- Personalized holiday cards: Celebrate in Style.

You don't always have the time to search for the best values on supplies, so we're bringing them to you. When placing orders, certain products may have a lower-cost alternative. We'll show you when another option is available. The choice is up to you. For more information, visit Staples Advantage.

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- Green Guide
- Breakroom Catalog

Getting what you need has never been easier. To find out more about making Staples your one source for all of your business needs or to check for further discounts or a custom program when ordering large ticket technology, furniture, bulk purchases and custom printing, please contact PMAA's National Account Manager Rod Thomasson or 888.224.3784 extension 4512. You can also call Staples Customer Service at 877.826.7755 or Order.StaplesAdvantage.com.

*Most offers have disclaimers. Please refer to information in each catalog.

**Or while supplies last and cannot be combined with any other offer(s) or promotion(s).

WPMA MEMBER SERVICES



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2012

May 9-10, 2012 – NPM&CSA Convention – Las Vegas, NV

June 5-7, 2012 – MPMCSA Convention – Billings Hotel and Convention Center – Billings, Montana

June 18-21, 2012 – WOMA Convention – Suncadia Lodge – Cle Elum, Washington

June 21, 2012 – UPMRA Summer Golf Classic – Old Mill Golf Course – Draper, UT

August 1-3, 2012 – IPM&CSA Convention – Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

August 15-16, 2012 – UPMRA Convention – Zermatt Resort (tentative), Midway, UT

August 27-29, 2012 – NMPMA Convention and Trade Show – Embassy Suites – Albuquerque, New Mexico

Petro Pete: "I know that people say, "It's the thought that counts, not the gift... but couldn't people think a little bigger?"

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If you do not wish to receive information via fax or e-mail, please contact WPMA at: (801) 263-9762, Fax: (801) 262-9413, or e-mail: janr@wpma.com. Thanks.