

MONTANA MESSAGE

September/FALL 2016 ISSUE

PETRO POLLY's Final Quote: *"The reason people find it so hard to be happy is that they always see the past better than it was, the present worse than it is, and the future less resolved than it will be."*

GOOD BYE - HELLO

This particular issue of the *WPMA News* is usually representative of the "Changing of the Guard," as many of the state's officers and directors are stepping down or stepping up – whichever the case may be. In the case of the Montana Association, the officers are in the second year of their two-year commitment, with Wes Burley, Town & Country Supply in Laurel as President; Ron May, Mike's Convenience Store in Columbia Falls as Vice President; and Kary Tonjum, CityServiceValcon as the national PMAA Director. Every year, part of the remaining Board members are elected, and we are pleased that Linda Sutey, Sutey Oil Co. in Butte and Jim Kenneally, Town Pump Inc. in Butte, have agreed to serve another two-year term. In addition, we welcome new Board member Jason Rorabaugh, Rocky Mountain Supply in Belgrade! In welcoming Jason, we must say good bye and THANK YOU to Board member Todd Fickler, Fickler Oil Co. in Deer Lodge, for his many years of service to the organization. I personally thank Todd for his generous support over the years. When you have the opportunity, please thank all these individuals for their volunteer commitment to ensuring the integrity and viability of the MPMCSA.

The "Changing of the Guard" also means a new Executive Director for the MPMCSA, and we are happy to welcome Mr. Brad Longcake as the Association's new leader. Several of you met Mr. Longcake at the June convention at Fairmont Hot Springs; if not, hopefully you will have the opportunity to do so soon. Brad and I are sharing this article as a "Goodbye" – "Hello" feature ...

So on to the "goodbye" – yes, this is somewhat difficult. I am so honored and grateful to have represented one of the greatest industries in the country and will miss the people, the action and the proud feelings I experienced when a "victory" was scored. (There were many!) Thank you a thousand times over for allowing me to serve you and for the support so many of you have given me. A big thank you to Gene Inglesby and the incredible staff at WPMA for the assistance they provide to the Executive Directors. It would be a much harder job without them! While the protective, nostalgic feelings will linger I know I leave you in good hands with Brad and a very capable Board of Directors. *Stay strong and stay involved!!*

"Hello" – I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with all of you here at MPMCSA. I know that Ronna has put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to ensure that the interests of the group are heard and acted on. I plan to continue this tradition of hard work and tenacity. I wanted to share a little info about myself with everyone. I grew up in Shelby, MT, and attended MSU in Bozeman where I graduated with a degree in Biotechnology. After graduation, I went to work for Merck Pharmaceuticals in Alaska where I was responsible for sales and business operations for the entire state. During my tenure in the pharmaceutical industry, I earned my Master's in Business and continued to strengthen my knowledge of the industry. In the fall of 2013 my family and I moved back to Helena when presented with the opportunity to manage two local pharmacies in retail and long term care. During this time, I helped improve business operations and brought new business lines to the patients and providers in Helena and surrounding areas.

I look forward to what the future holds for the organization and all of our members. I plan to be very active in increasing our membership and strengthening our relationships at the legislative level. I have had the opportunity to meet some of you at previous meetings, and it has been great to put a name to a face. I know that my diverse skill set will lend itself to the group and I am very proud to be the new Executive Director.

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEES

During the time between legislative sessions, the Legislature convenes many committees that research and study issues for recommendations to the next Session. Currently the Association is involved with the Economic Affairs Committee regarding the fuel meter fee/testing issue that we have been working on the past few years. We appeared in front of that Committee a few weeks ago to report that the Association will be supporting a move to a random testing program for retail fuel meters. The Department of Labor & Industry (Bureau of Weights & Measures) has agreed to adopt language that will allow them to implement this new business model. This means a bill in the 2017 Legislative Session; if in agreement with the proposed language, the Association will work to see passage of the bill.

We also monitor the Revenue & Transportation Interim Committee as it has oversight of the Department of Transportation and the Department of Revenue. We are particularly interested in discussions regarding the Department of Transportation, as the Motor Carrier Division and the Motor Fuel Tax Division are managed within this Department. At its June 9-10 meeting, the Committee concluded the information-gathering stage of its various issues and requested legislation for some of the studies. One of interest

involves the Highway State Special Revenue Account Study. After hearing recommendations from the Department of Justice and the Department of Transportation, the committee requested draft legislation to prohibit the use of highway state special revenue account funds for the Department of Justice's Centralized Services Division and Motor Vehicles Division, and for the state crime lab. The committee also asked staff to explore whether legislation is needed to address concerns raised by the Department of Transportation about dyed diesel fraud and, if so, to draft that legislation. Both of these issues bear watching as the legislative session approaches, for any potential implications to the industry.

We will keep you updated on any other interim committee work of interest as the 2017 Legislative Session draws closer.