

MONTANA *Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store*

Association State Report -- Spring 2017

Hello Everyone,

This winter in Montana has been a wild one already. The bi-annual meeting of our 65th legislature convened in January and is proving to be as fast paced and action packed as always. There are a number of issues we are closely following. Already we have had success on a couple of key topics. Early in the session we were able to collaborate with the Bureau of Weights and Measures to continue with our current metering fees and change to a biannual review as opposed to annual. We were also able to partner with our colleagues from the Montana PMA to repeal the ethanol mandate and to eliminate the biodiesel credit. Both of these bills were tied to older legislation that had requirements that are no longer feasible, and by eliminating them we were able to clean up the current code.

One of the hot button topics this year is infrastructure funding and a proposed increase in the gas tax. It has been 20 years since it was last increased, and Montana's aging infrastructure certainly needs to be addressed. Our primary concern is to ensure that if a tax increase is enacted, our membership is equally affected. This is one that we continue to monitor and follow.

Over the last few months we have traveled the state, giving us the opportunity to meet with members and elected officials. This has allowed for valuable networking and has given audience to the issues that impact each community. Through our travels and relationship building we have recruited a number of new members, which will increase our collective voice. Moving forward we will be sending out a regular newsletter that includes a Member Spotlight. This will allow us to feature our new and current members within the group.

It has been enjoyable to roll out the MPMCSA's entry into the age of social media. Our Facebook page allows another avenue for communication within the association and keeps us closely connected on a regional and national level as well. Please follow us on Facebook at /MPMCSA406 or search *Montana Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association*.

I had the pleasure of attending the *WPMAEXPO* in Las Vegas this month with members of the association. The conference was well done and a wonderful opportunity to network with our regional affiliates. The keynote speaker Rudy Giuliani was especially enjoyable. He focused on six key items to becoming a successful leader: have a goal, be an optimist, have courage to try new things, relentless preparation, good teamwork, find people to balance your weakness, and strong communication. Our association's donation of the "Ultimate Montana Fly Fishing Package" raised \$550 dollars to support the scholarship fund. Thank you to those who participated in the auction.

We are looking forward to this year's annual convention in Billings at the Northern Hotel. This is always a great week to cover what is new in the industry, network and have a little time for fun. We are really looking forward to all that Billings has to offer, welcoming our newest members, and connecting with old friends. You can register online at www.wpma.com/montana. The early room block closes **May 5th**, so don't delay!

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