

Hello Everyone:

In the midst of a fantastic fall we are excited for what the remainder of the year has in store for us. At the time I am writing this we are just a week away from the conclusion of this historic presidential election. Both candidates have had their share of issues and successes, but this race has proven to be highly confrontational in many aspects. This is also an election year for many of our top officials here in Montana including the race for governor and our lone seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as a number of important races within our state legislature. Once the races are finalized and the winners determined, the real work of getting out and meeting with them begins.

The second half of this year has been flying by and I have had the pleasure to get out and meet many of our members through executive meetings and conferences. I have enjoyed interacting and learning about everyone's businesses and the challenges you face on a day to day basis. The determination and tenacity that you all possess as business owners is tremendous and is a statement as to why the Montana Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association (MPMCSA) is such a strong and respected association. This is why I need your help. I am currently out recruiting new members to join our great association. As I work through the state, I will be looking for assistance from you to share the value the MPMCSA to these new potential members.

This new membership drive will be focused on smaller retailers and those owners that in the past may have thought that because of their size their voice would not matter. I want to change this perception. I have created a new member packet that highlights the value of joining the association, why it's important to share their voice, what the association has done for its members locally and nationally, and the power that the group has to advocate for its members. If there are store owners that you know who could benefit from our association, please share my contact info with them and I will gladly follow up. They are welcome to email me directly at longcakeconsulting@gmail.com.

The 2017 legislative session is soon approaching and we have been busy in preparation. We have been attending all of the committee discussions focused around the issues pertinent to the association. These have included numerous meetings with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, the Weights and Measures Bureau, including a number of town hall meetings to discuss the proposal of a new fuel meter fee/testing process. I am working closely with them regarding the language pertaining to a potential bill for the 2017 session. We also continue to monitor the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee and have an ongoing dialogue with the Montana Department of Transportation in its Motor Fuel division. There are a number of potential issues we are following that may have future implications for the industry.

The approach to the upcoming legislative session will be different from past years. My strategy will be focused on more individual interactions as opposed to a broader group based approach. I plan to meet with as many individual legislators as possible and welcome members to attend. Please let me know if there are individuals or issues you are interested in addressing. I will be happy to facilitate a meeting.

Sincerely

Brad Longcake

Executive Director

Montana Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association