

Autumn Magazine 2019

Montana Message by Brad Longcake

Greetings from the sunny Big Sky state. We hope this finds everyone well and enjoying this wonderful time of year. Since our last writing the MPMCSA has been busy. In May, Wes Burley, PMAA Director, along with his wife Mary and grandson Devin joined me in Washington, D.C. for the PMAA Day on the Hill. This year was everything we have come to expect. The value of spending time with our colleagues from across the country tackling the challenges that face us all is immeasurable. The MPMCSA group was able to meet with both Senator Tester and Representative Gianforte to discuss the issues facing C-stores and marketers across our great state.

June brought our annual convention and trade show in Fairmont Hot Springs. It is like a fine wine, just getting better every year. We had a record number of attendees to enjoy three days of networking, learning, and fellowship. We had the biggest number of golfers and they were subjected to some surprises along the course with the grand finale, toilet putting. Tom Bears was the big winner from the throne. MPMCSA presented our annual scholarship to Quinn Corbin, from Butte. Mark your calendar for next year, June 2nd – 4th, again at the lovely Fairmont Resort and Hot Springs.

At the annual membership meeting held at the convention, elections were held for the 2019-2021 term for the Board of Directors. The new President is Dirk Cooper, Hi Noon, Missoula; and Vice President is Scott Curry, BTI, Valier. Roger Schmechel, CityServiceValcon, Billings; and Dave Williams, Agland, Wolfpoint, were elected to serve as Board Members joining Chris Rindal, Rindal Oil, Lewistown; Jason Rorabaugh, Rocky Mountain Supply, Bozeman; Jim Kenneally, Town Pump, Butte; and Steve Haase, Holiday, Spokane Valley, WA, who will serve another term. Kirk Brumfield, Marketing Associates, Billings, will also serve another term as an Associate Member. Kary Tonjum, CityServiceValcon, Kalispell, will transition into the role of PMAA Director. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Wes Burley for all of his years of service as he terms out of his role as PMAA Director. Wes has brought so much to MPMCSA and will be greatly missed on the Board. We are grateful for his leadership and grateful to Mary and the grand kids for sharing him with us.

On a more serious note, we continue to monitor the \$1 million that was transferred from the PTRCB Fund during the 2019 legislative session. It was a long drawn-out battle to protect this funding and we want to ensure that it is used appropriately and no additional funds are redistributed. We have been working closely with the newly formed work group to better collaborate with DEQ, consultants, and MPMCSA members moving forward.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Georgia in October and hope you soak up every second of summer!