

Spring Magazine 2019

Montana Message by Brad Longcake

2019 has started out fast and furious with the biannual meeting of the Montana Legislature. It has been a record-setting year for the number of bills brought forth, and the MPMCSA has been impacted by a wide range of topics. A number of bills have involved the current social climate focusing on the use of plastic straws, plastic bags and Styrofoam containers. Local option tax for prepared food has been a common theme with three separate bills proposed. Tobacco and alcohol tax continue to be in the forefront of a push to increase revenue for the state. One of our more imperative issues has been a proposal to eliminate the state-appointed Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board that functions as a checks and balances system when there has been a release. Our membership rallied, and feedback from legislators was that they have never received so many emails. The bill was defeated in the initial committee thanks to our concerted effort. However, we were thrown a curve ball when this bill was blasted back to life and on to the house floor for debate. I worked with many key legislators throughout the day and into the night to help ensure all members of the body had accurate information. In the end we were able to table the bill for the second time in two days.

The Montana contingent at the *WPMAEXPO* was disappointed with the unusually cold weather in Las Vegas, but not with the conference. Despite the freezing temperatures we enjoyed the golf, meetings, speakers, and trade show. The Montana MPMCSA delegation is looking forward to the upcoming Day on the Hill with our national colleagues. Montana is fortunate to have a Congressional delegation well represented in some key committees and we look forward to bringing forward the concerns and issues facing their constituents. This is also always such a great opportunity to network and collaborate with our peers from across the country.

Event Reminder

Our annual Convention and Trade Show will again be at the fabulous Fairmont Hot Springs Montana Resort June 4th-6th. Last year was a huge success with some new activities and an ATV drawing. We will again be offering both golf and trap shooting on Tuesday. Golfers, be ready for some curveballs on the course! All registered participants will again have a chance to win an ATV, and the silent and live auction items will be enticing. We are still looking for sponsors and looking to expand our vendors. If you have ideas for any of these items, please let me know.