

## Winter Magazine 2019

# *Idaho Insider* by Suzi Budge

### 2020 Legislative Preview

***The Little Administration has settled in*** – Governor Little is still in the honeymoon stage with the Idaho legislature, but the road may get rougher in 2020. Budget forecasts are off the mark and the belt-tightening has begun. Agencies have been put on notice to zero out budget increases, and of possible holdbacks if revenues continue to lag. Legislators are also looking at the revenue storm clouds and are reigning in expectations. Throw in the need to reinstate all state rules in 2020, and the upcoming session may not follow traditional patterns of activity. Governor Little jumped at the opportunity (handed to him by the 2019 legislature) to revisit all 8000 pages of the administrative rules that govern state regulation. We commend the governor for his efforts to streamline and reduce government regulation, but we do expect the new set of rules to consume the early weeks of the 2020 session. And in this case, it is a very good thing.

Medicaid Expansion takes effect on January 1, 2020, despite the opposition of many legislators. The big question is how the state will pay the bill. This is the fight that will occupy the legislature in 2020. Like his predecessor, Governor Little continues to focus on education, and we can expect education funding to take a front seat next to Medicaid as a priority. Property tax relief is an emerging issue, as Idaho's growth and attendant tax burden puts a strain on existing homeowners.

Concerns about revenue shortfalls cast a pall over budget-writers, and this is likely to limit big ticket items, new or expanded, in the FY2021 budget cycle. Look for Medicaid Expansion and education to squeeze out other proposals. But where will the money come from to pay for these expensive and expansive demands on the state's General Fund? I predict that budget battles will loom large in 2020, while other initiatives (new taxes and programs) may get swept aside. Keep in mind that 2020 is an election year – which means legislators will be focused on getting home to their districts in advance of the May primary election.

### Industry Issues for 2020

***As we roll into a new election cycle***, IPM&CSA is well positioned to protect and defend our industry in the 2020 legislative session. As always, we will be on guard for new taxes and regulations on cigarettes and vaping – this year at the top of the list. And we are always on the watch for transportation and fuel-related proposals. Local option taxes have been floated, with a mention of including fuel tax – something we would strongly oppose. Proposals that provide tax and market incentives to enhance the use of E-Vehicles, renewable fuels and alternative energy are gaining ground across the country, and we can expect them to appear in Idaho. Our deep red state isn't immune to the climate change debate, and we should be prepared to explain and defend the value of liquid petroleum fuels in the energy marketplace.

### Petroleum Clean Water Trust Fund Trustees: Here's the New Line Up

***With a new administration and legislature in 2019*** come new appointments to the Petroleum Clean Water Trust Fund (otherwise known as the Petroleum Storage Tank Fund – or PSTF).

#### **Here's the line-up for 2019-2020:**

**-Robert Nonini** – Chairman – appointed by Governor Brad Little in 2019. Bob served on the PSTF as both House and Senate representatives and we are thrilled to have him return as Chairman of the board. Nonini replaces Forde Johnson, who served as chairman since the board was created in 2003.

**-Senator Steven Thayne** – Newest member of the board, appointed to represent the Idaho Senate. Sen. Thayne is from Emmett, Idaho, and is a farmer who has served in both House and Senate.

**-Representative Randy Armstrong** – Representing the Idaho House, Rep. Armstrong is from Inkom, Idaho and is a retired financial planner.

**-Kirk Clarich** is retired from Idaho Power. From Nampa, Kirk fills the role of environmental specialist on the board.

**Petroleum Marketer members include:**

**-John Jackson** – Jackson Energy. John is an original member of the board and we appreciate his many years of service. John is from Meridian, Idaho.

**-Brett Adams** – Adams Petroleum. Brett resides in Burley and is the newest marketer on the board, having been appointed by Governor Otter in 2017.

**-Dennis deRoche** – DeRoche Oil Inc/Short Stop. Dennis is an original member of the board and we appreciate his many years of service. Dennis is from Blackfoot, Idaho.

**Successful PAC Events Help IPM&CSA Support Like-Minded Candidates**

**IPM&CSA PAC Supports Our Allies at the Statehouse:**

*IPM&CSA commits time and resources to legislative* and statewide races and supports elected officials who share our philosophy of government policy and regulations. In the past 18 years, the Idaho PAC has contributed \$145,250 to candidates! Most importantly - Idaho marketers continue to build relationships with key legislators and government officials to ensure that our industry is represented in the development of Idaho laws and regulations.

**2019 Golf Outings Meet Annual Goals:** Two great events in 2019 helped us meet our annual fund-raising goal – thanks to all of you! 2019 is mid-way between elections, so this is the time to fill the piggy bank for the 2020 election cycle. As always, thanks to our members, vendors and friends who supported four IPM&CSA PAC golf tournaments that make these contributions possible! Also, a huge “Thank You” to our event coordinators (noted below the Teton Springs golf photos on previous page) who donate countless hours to making these events a success!

**Upcoming Events – Mark your Calendar:**

**Idaho Member meeting in Las Vegas: Tuesday, February 18, 2020** – Time/Mirage Room TBA ...

Come get an update on the 2020 legislative session and weigh in on issues impacting our industry. Stand by for more details to come.

**Get Your Room Reserved Early: August 5-7, 2020 IPM&CSA Convention and Trade**

**Show**, Coeur d’Alene Resort, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho ... Hold the date for a family vacation on the shores of Lake Coeur d’Alene for the 2020 IPM&CSA Convention and Trade Show, August 5-7, 2020. Bring friends and family and stay awhile. Get your reservations now, because summer is the high season and our room block sells out early. Call Coeur d’Alene Reservations at 1-855-703-4648 -- ask for the IPM&CSA room block. For more information and to register for the convention, go to [www.wpma.com/idaho/convention](http://www.wpma.com/idaho/convention). PLEASE NOTE in 2020 we return to Wednesday thru Friday convention schedule.

**Check This Out – Website Has Photos, Registration, and News!**

*Check out* the Idaho section of the WPMA Website. Register for events, find critical industry information and see your favorite photos from IPM&CSA events. Visit the updated Idaho page and let us know what you think and how we can improve the information we provide. [www.wpma.com/idaho](http://www.wpma.com/idaho).

**NACS 2018 State Report for Idaho Offers C-Store Industry Snapshot:**

NACS provides interesting statistics for Idaho C-Stores which illustrate just how important we are to the Idaho economy! Go to NACS State of the Industry Report of 2018 Data; Nielsen TDLinX Store Count (December 31, 2018).