

Winter Magazine 2019

Utah Update by John Hill

A Great UPMRA Meeting:

UPMRA Legislative Lunch, November 22 at Hotel RL members joined the gas tax and vaping discussion that was held at noon in Salt Lake; with the Legislative Tax Reform Task Force recommending a sales tax on motor fuel and diesel, and the Department of Health ordering flavored vape products out of grocery and C-stores, members had a lot to talk about with State Legislators. All members and key employees were invited to attend lunch and the UPMRA Fall board meeting held before lunch, also at Hotel RL.

Upcoming UPMRA Meeting: Day on Capitol Hill – February 26, 2020

Join UPMRA members and State Legislators at our annual “Day on Capitol Hill” held during the legislative session. This year, on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, plan to invite your key employees to lunch at noon, and meet with State legislators to discuss current legislative issues. Depending on what issues are being debated by the legislature, we may lobby State legislators after lunch.

Thank you UPMRA PAC Fund Contributors!

Heading into the 2020 election year, numerous legislative fundraisers have already been announced and plenty will follow. To assist in State candidate election campaigns, UPMRA members and associates contributed approximately \$28,000 to the State PAC Fund at three events in 2019:

Successful 2019 Convention & Golf at Zermatt Resort!

The 2019 UPMRA Convention had the best attendance since prior to the recession. The great speakers: Doug Haugh with Parkland USA and Greg Miller really drove attendance. Comparing results to 2018, we had a 15% increase in convention attendees (123 vs. 107), a 34% increase in registered golfers (103 vs. 77), but only 95 played, and we had 23 trade show booths vs. 19 in 2018, with total income of \$61,540 vs. \$50,460 in 2018, a 22% increase! After expenses, we should net about \$31,000.

Sheraton Park City to Host 2020 Convention & Trade Show

The 2020 Convention will be at the Sheraton Park City, formerly the Park City Marriott on Sidewinder Drive, **September 9-11, 2020**. Following the success of the current convention schedule, we will again begin with a board meeting on Wednesday from 4:00-5:30 PM prior to an opening reception, have a big day of education and the trade show on Thursday, and end the Convention with golf on Friday.

YOU TOO CAN SERVE on the 2020 Convention Committee! Email John Hill at: johnhill@upmra.com.

State Bans Flavored E-Cigarette Products from C-Stores

On October 2nd, the Utah Department of Health enacted an “emergency rule” that banned the sale of flavored vape products by general tobacco retailers, beginning October 21st. Then on October 28th, Third District Court Judge Keith Kelly ruled that Utah cannot immediately enact an emergency ban on flavored e-cigarette products for general retailers, so Utah retailers can once again sell flavored vaping products.

The judge noted that the state had time to follow the regular 120-day procedure for enacting new rules, and also sided with retailers’ assertions that the emergency restriction would cause their businesses harm.

However, the Department of Health is drafting a new rule that mimics this emergency rule and they will go through the traditional rule making process, where public comment is allowed. And during the 2020 legislative session, UPMRA members will again face proposed legislation that would ban flavored E-Cigarette products from general tobacco retailers.