

Spring Magazine 2020

Montana Message by Brad Longcake

I can't believe that we are already through the first quarter of the year. The MPMCSA has hit the ground running in 2020 and we expect to continue at this fast pace. One of our major undertakings so far this year has been our participation in the creation of the UST Tank Stakeholder Workgroup. We have been working almost weekly with several industry stakeholders including DEQ, consultants, owner/operators, and the PTRCB staff. This workgroup was originally established to help owner operators understand the new EPA regulations slated to take effect in October of 2021. After the huge success of our program in Bozeman, we decided to create three subgroups: process improvement, consultant's day, and UST regulation and communications. These three groups each have their own set of goals but are all working to the common goal of increasing communication, efficiency, and improving the entire PTRCB process for all parties involved.

The legislative audit of the Petroleum Tank Clean-Up Fund will begin soon. The MPMCSA requested this during the 2019 session and it has now been assigned a high importance ranking. This review is long overdue and will identify the areas of strength and the areas of opportunity. The Petroleum Tank Clean-up fund is vital to all our marketers throughout the state, both big and small.

As always, our time at WPMA in Las Vegas was well spent and a great investment of time and energy for our association and all those members who attended. I very much enjoyed the opportunity to meet with former Speaker of the House Paul Ryan. He is charismatic and was very down to earth. Time will tell if he continues public service. We had a great turn out for our Montana meeting with the most members to date. We discussed a number of issues and listened to presentations from Federated and Altria.

MPMCSA will be represented this coming May at the PMAA Day on the Hill by myself, Dirk Cooper, President, Kary Tonjum, PMAA Director and Scott Curry, Vice President. It is always enlightening to meet with our counterparts from across the country to collaborate regarding the issues we each face. 2020 will prove to be an especially interesting year with the upcoming elections and the threat to the global economy posed by the coronavirus health crisis. I am certain we will return home with insight for marketers across our great state.

We are in the final planning stages for our Annual Convention and Trade Show. We will be at Fairmont Resort and Hot Springs again this year June 2nd and 3rd. We will have a full agenda for education, enrichment, and some fun along the way. We look forward to golf at Old Works again, and again the non-golfers will have the option to shoot trap at the Anaconda Trap Club. There will be a raffle for an ATV again this year for all registered attendees, so bring your lucky charm! We plan to have a particular focus on the upcoming DEQ changes slated to take effect in October 2021 to ensure our members have every opportunity to prepare.

Brad Longcake, Executive Director