

Spring Magazine 2021

## *Utah Update* by John Hill

*The 2021 UPMRA Convention* is scheduled for the Sheraton Park City, formerly the Park City Marriott on Sidewinder Drive, **September 15-17, 2021**, where we wanted to be in 2020. Following the success of our current convention schedule, we will begin with a board meeting on Wednesday from 4:00-5:30 PM prior to an opening reception, followed by a big day of education and the Trade Show on Thursday, and end the Convention with golf on Friday morning at Mountain Dell Golf Course.

## **Blain Boelter continues as UPMRA President and EMA C-Store Committee Member**

*UPMRA president Blain Boelter* has accepted a one-year extension as UPMRA President, and as the Western Region EMA C-Store Committee member. Carl Hunt (EMA Director) and Dave Jardine (VP) will also continue in their State Executive Committee roles for an additional year.

## **UPMRA Legislative Update** *(after three weeks)*

*The Utah Legislature's* 2021 General Session began on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> and will end on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Notwithstanding public safety limitations, and four COVID-19 positive tests among legislators after one week, legislative leadership is determined to conduct the public's business with all committee meetings streamed and the public given an opportunity to speak.

Newly-elected **Governor Spencer Cox** gave a very short **State-of-the-State address** (17 minutes), focusing his remarks on **"foundational" issues, including education and bringing unity and civility to the political process.**

By January 28th, the Legislature had passed a **\$21 billion base budget**, which includes \$400 million in new funding for public education. This allows state government to continue to operate in case the Legislature must end the General Session early. Appropriations sub-committees continue to meet, since \$1.5 billion is still on the table and will flesh out the final budget.

**Each legislator has a Zoom account and is conducting constituent meetings remotely**, which UPMRA leadership took advantage of, meeting with DERR and Senator Hinkins about **SB40**, a bill that would require AST registration (by July 2022) and financial assurance (by July 2023). DERR and Senator Hinkins agreed to a proposed ten-year phase-in for above-ground storage tanks that want to get their financial assurance from the PST Fund without a full site assessment and soil samples.

There are **three "price control" bills** currently being considered: Senator Anderegg's SB 74 sought to repeal all price control laws but was considered too extreme by a Senate Committee and was "held." Senator Fillmore's 2nd Sub.SB 86 passed out of Committee this week and includes a definition for *"margin"* as the difference between the sales price and total cost, defined to include the sum of all costs associated with obtaining the good or service, but does not include costs incident to operating the business. Representative Brook's HB 157, similar to SB86, was scheduled for a committee hearing, but has not been heard.

## **Zoom Day on Capitol Hill – February 24, 2021**

*UPMRA members joined State Legislators* on Zoom for our annual "Day on Capitol Hill." It was held during the legislative session on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, members and legislators discussed the current legislative issues.