

Summer Magazine 2021

*Idaho Insider* by Suzi Budge

## **IPM&CSA Annual Convention August 4-6, 2021:**

*Welcome Back to Business (Almost) as Usual at the Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley  
Idaho*

**Getting Back to Business** — Member Meeting Features Industry Trends, Business Advice & Emerging Issues

*We know you need a “get-away”* these days, so join us for our 2021 convention at the Sun Valley Resort. We have an impressive line-up of speakers for our IPM&CSA member meeting, including the state of the industry, cybersecurity, emergency practices and emerging issues. Please join us for lunch at our member meeting beginning at noon on Thursday August 5, 2021.

### **Get your Room and Registration Locked in Now**

Be sure to get your room right away and get registered early. Sun Valley is a favorite summertime escape, and our room block at the resort fills up fast. As always, we will be golfing at the Sun Valley Resort Golf Course and shooting at the Sun Valley Gun Club. A few days in the mountains will give you and your family a welcome break.

### **Reserve these dates**

August 4-6, 2021: You'll want to bring friends and family and stay awhile! Check out the facility at this link: [www.sunvalley.com](http://www.sunvalley.com).

Room Reservations must be made by phone at (800) 786-8259 (Room block closes on July 5, 2021 or whenever the block is full.)

Register for the convention at this link: [www.wpma.com/Idaho](http://www.wpma.com/Idaho)

## **Big Congrats to IDAHO WPMA Scholarship Winner!**

*Congrats to Amanda Elorrieta* of Eden Idaho who earned the 2021 WPMA scholarship for Idaho. And special thanks to IPM&CSA board member Jake Searle (Conrad & Bischoff) for presenting the award in person to Ms. Elorrieta. Her mother, Toni is employed by Black Oil Company in Eden. We wish Ms. Elorrieta a bright future for her college years and beyond, and with appreciation to her proud parents John and Toni Elorrieta.

## **Staying Engaged – Say “Thanks” to Your Lawmakers**

**Q:** When is the best time to talk to your lawmaker?

**A:** When you don't have an “Ask.” The rollercoaster of the past year has “stress tested” our systems – public and private (understatement I know) and we have had plenty of “asks” of our elected officials – here in Idaho and in WDC. Now is the time to thank them for their help to keep us open and in business during a pandemic. We know that relationships matter and staying engaged matters. We don't have big issues every year, but we do seem to have many issues every year, and 2021 was a big issue year! As always, IPM&CSA and EMA will continue to support elected officials who support our industry.

IPM&CSA PAC Golf Outings Raise Funds for the 2022 Election Cycle – We had a big election year in 2020 and supported a record number of candidates. Unfortunately, we were unable to hold any PAC golf events in 2020 due to the pandemic. As a result, we drained our PAC funds for the election cycle. Now it's time to refill the coffers!

## **Ridgecrest PAC Golf Outing** *a Huge Success*

*We started the season with a bang* and a record turnout for our PAC event at Ridgecrest Golf Course, Nampa, Idaho, with 124 golfers – We took over the course, braved a brisk morning breeze, and enjoyed a long overdue gathering with friends and business associates for the early season April 20 event. A monumental THANK YOU to Tony Stone and the Jackson Energy/Capitol Distributing crew for their tremendous support to help make our event such a huge success. (Spoiler Alert: We made up for missing out on 2020 PAC events and then some!)

### **Ridgecrest Winners:**

**More to Come with 2021 Regional PAC Golf Outings** – *Keep Your Calendar Open!*

Watch your email and the WPMA website for Idaho's PAC golf event calendar. We hope to have events scheduled in the Magic Valley, Coeur d'Alene, and Eastern Idaho soon. These outings are an opportunity to network and enjoy a casual day with marketers, business associates and friends, all for a worthy cause to support elected officials who support us. Please join us.

## **2021 Legislature Lingers into May Over Tax Cuts,**

***Transportation and Emergency Authority: Here's What Happened (And What Didn't)***

### **Legislative Review**

#### **A Session of Fits and Starts Marks One of the Longest Sessions**

“Unprecedented” is overused these days, but it's a word that fairly describes the 2021 legislative session:

First and foremost – IPM&CSA's Priority Legislation S1041 is now law, having passed the Senate 34-0, and House 61-7, and was signed into law by Governor Little on **March 17, 2021**. Successful passage of the bill marks one of the most significant legislative efforts ever undertaken by the association and has preserved the common understanding of gas pricing during an emergency.

Here is a snapshot of what did and didn't happen in the 2021 legislative session. As of this writing, the legislature is still in session with a handful of issues still in play. Stay tuned for a full legislative report upon adjournment.

#### **What Happened? — These bills passed in 2021:**

**S1041 – Price Gouging** – This bill amends the Idaho Consumer Protection Act to specify that the statute prohibiting excessive pricing during a declared emergency applies to exorbitant or excessive increased prices to the consumer rather than to the margin between wholesale and retail prices. Thanks very much to our bill sponsors Senator Jim Guthrie and Representative Joe Palmer and to our very capable legal, legislative and communications team for their excellent work. (Passed Senate 34/0, Passed House 61/7, Signed by Governor 3/17/21)

#### **Still in Play as the Session extends into May:**

**H362 - Transportation funding package** – increases the sales tax distribution to transportation from 1% to 4.5% and dedicates \$80 million annually to the Idaho Transportation Department for large infrastructure projects on the state highway system. The bill partially addresses long term transportation needs on state and local transportation systems and allows for approximately \$1.6 billion in bonding capacity over 26 years. (Passed House 59-11, passed Senate 29-6, to Governor).

**H380 Income tax rate reduction** – The 2021 Tax Relief bill reduces all income tax brackets, reduces the number of brackets, and sets the top individual and corporate tax bracket to 6.5% retroactive to January 1, 2021. This provides \$162.9 million in ongoing tax relief, and provides a one-time sales tax/income tax rebate, returning \$220 million to Idaho taxpayers. (Passed House 57-12, passed Senate 27-8, to Governor).

**H389 Property Taxes** – This bill makes several changes to Idaho Code, providing property tax relief and limiting the ability of local taxing districts to increase their budgets. The homeowner’s exemption is increased to \$125,000 from \$100,000. In 2022 the exemption for personal property tax is increased to \$250,000 from \$100,000. Local taxing district budgets are capped at 8% growth in any budget year. Changes are made to benefit low-income residents and veterans. (Passed House 48-20, passed Senate 19-16, to Governor).

### **What Didn’t: These bills & ideas were proposed but didn’t pass in 2021:**

**H363 / S1087** – These bills provided for statewide uniformity in regulation of Tobacco/E-Cigarettes. S1087 included raising from 18 to 21 the age to purchase and use these products to align Idaho with federal law. H363 provided for statewide uniformity for regulating these products and did not address age restriction.

**H72 – Powerball** – The Idaho lottery proposed a continuation of Powerball lottery in Idaho. International agreements would add other countries and this change requires legislative approval. The Idaho legislature will need to revisit this issue in 2022 for Idaho to retain Powerball as a lottery offering.

For more information on the 2021 legislative session contact Suzi Budge at [sbs@sbsidaho.com](mailto:sbs@sbsidaho.com). Full details on all legislation can be found at: <http://www.legislature.idaho.gov>.

## **Proposed Weights & Measures**

### *Fee Increase Fails for Second Year*

For the second year, the Idaho Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures' proposed fee increase was rejected by the Idaho House Agriculture committee. The action leaves the program to operate on existing fees. No word yet how the agency plans to proceed with future fee increases, but we suspect this isn't the end of the conversation. Stand by.

Two years ago, the Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures Program proposed doubling fees on dispensers. IPM&CSA engaged early to participate in the rule-making and has worked with the department and other stakeholders for the past two years to help craft a proposal we could all support. Legislators didn't agree and for the second year rejected the fee increase. As a reminder, the program is now funded 65% by General Fund dollars and 35% by fees. The department proposes to rely more on user fees by shifting to 50% fees and 50% General Fund dollars.

## **CALENDAR**

*IPM&CSA gets back to "Business as Usual" / EMA Day on the Hill goes Virtual*

**IPM&CSA back to "In Person" Board Meetings**

Thanks to Charley Jones and Stinker for hosting our first “in-person” board meeting in more than a year. We love Zoom (sort of) but IPM&CSA board members were glad to finally sit in the same room for a business meeting April 21, which came on the heels of our PAC golf outing at Ridgecrest. Our next board meeting will be held August 4 at Sun Valley in conjunction with the Annual Convention. Board meetings are open and members are welcome to attend.

### **EMA Goes Virtual for 2021 Day on Capitol Hill** — *Same Time Next Year*

After cancelling the 2020 event, this year EMA went virtual for the WDC Day on the Hill, May 10-14, 2021. Presumably the annual “in-person” pilgrimage to Washington DC will resume in 2022, but for now, we go virtual. Meantime, Idaho’s Congressional Members all have offices in Idaho and are available much closer to home if for any reason we need their help.

### **IPM&CSA Convention August 4-6, 2021** — *Back to Business as Usual*

Welcome back! Get your room and register for the convention in Sun Valley, Idaho.

**Sun Valley Resort** 2 Sun Valley Road, Sun Valley, ID 83353 Please call (800) 786-8259 to make room reservations or book room online at [www.wpma.com/idaho/convention](http://www.wpma.com/idaho/convention) *Room rates vary based on room choice at Lodge or Inn: starting at \$225. Convention events are held at the Inn*

**ROOM BLOCK ENDS** when block is FULL or on JULY 5, 2021, whichever comes first.