



Brad Longcake  
MPMCSA Executive Director



## Greetings from the Big Sky State!



*In May the MPMCSA participated* in the EMA Day on the Hill. Roger Schmechel, Montana EMA Director and incoming President, and I made the trip to meet with colleagues from across the country. We were able to spend time with Congressman Ryan Zinke to discuss several key issues facing our members, including the Underground Storage Tank (UST) System Compatibility Upgrades and RVP Summertime Fuel Opt-Out Act. This bill would appropriate an additional \$500 million to support small to medium-sized companies who need to make upgrades to ensure system compatibility. We continue to work on and discuss the Credit Card Competition Act, as well as a few other topics. We also met with the Chief of Staff for Senator Daines. Senator Tester did not have time to meet with us again this year.

Our annual convention and trade show was a huge success again this year. We spent three days in the beautiful Fairmont Resort and Hot Springs in June. Day one included trap shooting, golf, and a social hour. The winners of the trap shooting were Mike Burback in first place and Alan Ankrum took second. Kaleigh Brewer from Marketing Specialties Inc took first place for the ladies. Benjamin Agosto from CHS Mountain West Co-op took home the best shooter award as well as winning the Annie Oakley shootout, and was rewarded with lottery tickets from Montana Lottery Director, Bob Brown for his quick shooting. Our morning at the Fairmont golf course was on the chilly side but enjoyable nonetheless. The winning golf team was Mike Piatchek, Scotty Owens, Brad Nelson, and Jerry Dryer. The second-place

team, only 2 strokes back, was Kirk Brumfield, Dan Sampson, Arnold Osmun, and Dan Bakken. We had two \$10,000 Hole prizes this year. Many golfers were close, but unfortunately no one came away with the cash.

Our annual members meeting on Wednesday included a business and financial overview of the association, legislative predictions, and 2024 officer and new board member elections. Roger Schmechel will serve as State President, Vice President will be selected at a later meeting. Jim Kenneally, Jason Rorabaugh, and Kirk Brumfield were each reelected for another two-year term as board members. Scott Curry will move to EMA Director. Newly elected board members include Earl Allen and Jerry Breen. Cole Mort and Chris Rindal both stepped down from their positions on the board. We thank them for their time and service.

We started the education sessions with Jeff Steeger, MCSAP Manager from the Montana Department of Transportation. Jeff reviewed why DOT investigations are initiated and what is covered. He discussed several items that are often reviewed and provided additional insight into information that is often overlooked. He gave examples of what businesses need to be aware of and talked about the importance of keeping good records.

John Monahan, chairman of the PTRCB board provided an overview of the issues and challenges from the 2023 legislative session. He highlighted the progress that the board has been making regarding this new legislation. He provided examples of the changes they are proposing and the work that has already been





done with the board, PTRCB staff and numerous members of DEQ. The interactions and communication between all the stakeholders continues to improve.

Duane Williams, Executive Director for the Montana Trucking Association, discussed key issues from the trucking perspective. He echoed the statements from Jeff and talked about how his organization works to help members stay on top of issues. A variety of topics were discussed and included driver shortages, CDL issues, driver retainment, and much more. MPMCSA will continue to work with the MTA and look for areas of synergy, as many of Duane's members are also members of the MPMCSA.

Jack West from Federated Insurance talked about Federated's triple protection plan. Federated has been a trusted partner for decades for the MPMCSA. Jack and his team's dedication to the petroleum industry is second to none. They continue to provide solutions to our members' needs and challenges. If you haven't had an opportunity to talk with someone from Federated, you should.

Scott Askin, Senior Market Manager at Altria Group Distribution Co. discussed the Montana tobacco landscape. He gave an overview of how the product landscape is changing and how the FDA is reviewing and approving the products that are now able to be sold. New products are entering the market and traditional products continue to be strong but as customer preferences change, so will the market. Altria continues to be a strong partner and we thank them for their continued support of the MPMCSA.

Tim Sheehy, GOP Senate Candidate, spoke to the entire convention group after lunch. He discussed his reasons for running and what his key values are. He took several questions from the audience and stayed after to mingle with everyone. He seems to be passionate about small business and wants to ensure that companies can operate in an environment that works for Montana and its varying businesses. Dinner on Wednesday night is always a good time and did not disappoint again this year. As always, there was fabulous participation in both the live and silent auctions. Aaron Bethke won the heads and tails game this year and walked away with a sweet prize. We are very grateful for the donations of auction items and for the group's ongoing dedication to the scholarship fund.

We hope to see everyone again in Fairmont June 3rd and 4th, 2025.

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