

On the Road *Again*

We've finally been back on the road and have enjoyed meeting with our marketers again, now that the government overreach is near the end (I hope); but time will tell.

Since March 2021 WPMA and our eight state associations have been able to move forward again with some sense of normalcy. In May, the *Big Dogs* event was held in Las Vegas, Nevada and had record attendance. The Big Dogs bowled for \$2 bills the first night, followed by a golf tournament the next morning. Everyone had a great time. Bowling is a lot of fun where networking can take place in a relaxed atmosphere.

From Nevada we jumped into our June events, starting with the Montana Petroleum Marketers and C-Store Association's annual convention at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, located in Fairmont, Montana. Brad Longcake and Dirk Cooper planned and organized a great conference with outstanding speakers. They were able to get Montana Governor Greg Gianforte and Attorney General Austin Knudsen to speak and give the marketers some insights into how Montana's government is working with the industry to move forward.

After the Montana show the WPMA Board of Directors convened our Spring Board Meeting in Snowbird, Utah, where the WPMA Executive Committee officers for the 2021-22 fiscal year were voted in. One of the action items proposed during the meetings was to see what it would take to create a specific WPMA scholarship for a student to earn a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) for transporting petroleum products, with an emphasis on working for a marketer member.

The next week we were in Cle Elum, Washington for the Washington Independent Energy Distributors convention and trade show. There again, the attendance was up, and attendees and exhibitors were happy to be allowed to meet face to face for the first time in over a year.

After a very busy June our team moved on to our first conference with the Oregon Fuels Association. We were met with open arms by Gabriel Zirkle, OFA President and Tracey Anderson, the new OFA Executive Director. The Oregon conference had record attendance and a great lineup of speakers, including OFA lobbyist Mike Freese, who gave an in-depth review of the legislation issues affecting petroleum marketers in Oregon. Andrew Schpak of Barran Liebman LLP gave the marketers an update on new laws and continuing pandemic-related expectations.

Our team returned home for two days to reload and then head to Sun Valley, Idaho for the Idaho Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association's annual event. The Idaho marketers were fortunate to have a Meet and Greet with Idaho Governor Brad Little, who then sat in on their Board of Directors meeting to get information on the fuel sector of business in the state of Idaho. They also had a Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Disruption seminar, giving the members valuable information they could take back to their business concerning "*What to do in a Crisis.*"

Still to come, our team is looking forward to attending the New Mexico Petroleum Marketers event in Albuquerque, New Mexico and the Utah Petroleum Marketers and Retailer Association convention in Park City, Utah.

We have been planning for our next *WPMAEXPO* since we had to cancel our 2021 show due to government overreach. We have a great lineup planned. New in 2022, we're hosting a *Top Golf* event on **Monday February 21, 2022**, and a fun *Welcome Back Party* on **Tuesday, February 22**. As usual, our speakers and trade show will be exceptional. I invite you, your business associates, and families to the *WPMAEXPO*, **February 22-24, 2022**, in sunny Las Vegas.



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