

NATSO AND WPMA TAP INTO THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP FOR 2015 CONVENTIONS

WPMA and NATSO are joining in 2015 to bring you an additional attendee opportunity—TWO conventions for the price of ONE! WPMA Marketer Member attendees who register for the WPMA Convention may attend THE NATSO Show FREE OF CHARGE!

For their 2015 annual tradeshows, NATSO, the national association representing truckstops and travel plazas, and the Western Petroleum Marketers Association (WPMA) are co-mingling their events to offer attendees and exhibitors more unparalleled business and networking opportunities. By seizing the opportunity to share educational resources and access to their annual shows in February in Las Vegas, the two groups will provide their attendees with even more innovative solutions and greater access to their peers, industry suppliers, key travel plaza owners and operators.

NATSO Members and WPMA Marketer Members who register for one trade show automatically will be registered to attend the neighboring show at no additional cost. Reciprocal registration is honored for NATSO travel plaza members and WPMA marketer members only. Each show will feature its own exhibit hall, as well as unique educational programming for attendees.

The NATSO Show will be held at the Wynn Las Vegas, Feb. 16-19, 2015, and offers innovative experts focused on ahead-of-the-curve trends, a knowledge-filled human library built for a customized learning experience, and exhibitors that showcase tomorrow's hottest products and services specifically designed to meet the unique needs of travel plaza and truckstop leaders.

WPMA's National Convention & Convenience Store Expo will be held at the Mirage Convention Center Feb. 17-19, 2015. The Expo offers two-and-a-half days of industry-expert speakers, seminars and networking events, and access to more than 90,000 square feet of tradeshow space with exhibitors displaying and selling the latest in technology, services, c-store innovations, and truck and trailer displays to meet the needs of the petroleum industry.

NATSO truckstop and travel plaza operators can register for the two events at www.natsoshow.org. WPMA Marketer Members can register at <http://www.wpma.com/national-convention>. Reciprocal registration is honored for NATSO travel plaza members and WPMA marketer members only. Exhibit partners must be registered for each event separately to participate.

**Contact Jamie Wood at WPMA for additional questions: jamiew@wpma.com

PLEASE SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION SILENT AUCTION!

In May 2015, the WPMA Scholarship Foundation will award \$32,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors. The Foundation receives a large portion of its working capital through income from the annual Scholarship Silent Auction held at the WPMA convention in February. Please support the Scholarship Foundation by donating an item to the 2015 Scholarship Silent Auction.

Past Silent Auction donations have included tickets to sporting events, vacation packages, decorator items, electronics, sports equipment, logo clothing, jewelry, tools, accessories, etc. If you would like to donate an item, please fill out the Silent Auction Donation Form available under the Scholarship tab on the WPMA website: <http://www.wpma.com/pdf/scholarship/SA15-DonationFrm062414w.pdf> or e-mail Kathy Michaelis at kathym@wpma.com. The value of items donated to the auction is tax-deductible.

EPA PLANS TO FINALIZE OZONE RULES BY OCTOBER 1

Janet McCabe, EPA's acting assistant administrator for air and radiation, indicated this week that EPA plans to issue a final rule on a new national ozone standard by the court-ordered deadline of October 1, 2015. Before the Thanksgiving holiday, EPA issued a proposed rule on ozone to tighten the standard to 65 to 70 parts per billion (ppb), down from the 75 ppb set by a George W. Bush-era rule. EPA is also seeking comment on possibly setting it as low as 60 parts per billion or maintaining it at its current standard.

If EPA succeeds in adopting this new standard, it will have a significant negative consequence for gasoline refiners and retailers. The United States could see over 200 new counties impose RFG and/or lower RVP requirements for gasoline which would increase the cost of gasoline and stifle economic growth.

API has cited weaknesses in data to support a lower standard and is encouraging EPA to maintain the current standard of 75 ppm since it hasn't been fully implemented. Congress plans to hold multiple hearings over the issue in 2015. Last year,

GOP Conference Chair, Senator John Thune (R-SD), introduced "The Clean Air, Strong Economies Act" (CASE Act), which would block the EPA from revising its ozone standard downward until 85 percent of the current non-attainment counties comply with the current standard. Representatives Pete Olson (R-TX) and Bob Latta (R-OH) introduced companion legislation in the House.

PMAA and like-minded associations are opposing this controversial rule.

LEGISLATION WOULD BLOCK EPA RULES THAT WOULD HURT ECONOMY

This week Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) reintroduced legislation that had significant GOP support last Congress, the Energy Consumers Relief Act (S.1363).

The Act (H.R. 1582) passed the House in August 2014, but stalled in the Senate. The bill would block the EPA from finalizing rules that would cost more than one billion dollars and that the DOE determines would significantly hurt the economy. In July the White House issued a statement of administration policy that threatened to veto the bill.

PMAA continues to support the Energy Consumers Relief Act.

HOUSE PASSES SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT

Last week, the House approved legislation which would change the definition of the Affordable Care Act's full time employee from a 30 hour work week to the standard 40 hour requirement. The bill known as the Save American Workers Act passed by a vote of 252 – 172. The GOP-controlled Senate is expected to consider an identical measure introduced by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME), Joe Donnelly (D-IN), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) this year. The White House has issued a veto threat which means the Senate would need 67 votes and the House would need 290 votes to override a Presidential veto.

Last year, the Obama Administration decided to delay employer mandate fines for employers with 50 to 99 full-time workers until January 1, 2016 if they fail to offer workers health insurance. Companies with more workers could avoid some penalties in 2015 if they show they were offering coverage to at least 70 percent of full-time workers. The move came after PMAA and other associations pressured the Obama administration to peel back the law's insurance requirements. Some companies had trimmed workers' hours to below 30 hours a week to avoid paying a penalty if they didn't offer insurance.

PMAA strongly supported the delay but remains concerned about long term consequences of the mandate for PMAA members.

SENATE CONSIDERS KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE BILL

House Cleared Similar Measure Last Week

This week, the Senate voted to consider legislation that would green-light construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline. It is expected that several energy related amendments will be attached to the Keystone pipeline legislation given Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's (R-KY) promise to allow an open amendment process. It could take a few weeks before a final package is passed in the Senate. The House cleared a similar measure last week by a vote 266-153. [Click here](#) to see how your House member voted.

Meanwhile, the Nebraska Supreme Court tossed out a legal challenge to the Keystone pipeline which removes one of the last legal hurdles and brings a final determination one step closer. The legal challenge in Nebraska gave the White House and Senate Democrats some cover to delay action on Keystone. However, President Obama has indicated that he would veto the Keystone XL pipeline and it is unlikely that Congress has the necessary votes to override a Presidential veto.

PMAA fully supports the immediate approval of the Keystone XL pipeline. Some political insiders believe Obama might ultimately approve the pipeline in return for some concessions to Democrat priorities.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

February 17 – 19, 2015 - WPMA Convention & Expo – Mirage Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada

May 14 – 15, 2015 - Nevada (NPM&CSA) BIG DOGS 4 – JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort & Spa, Nevada

June 2 – 4, 2015 - Montana (MPMCSA) Convention – Northern Hotel, Billings, Montana

June 22 – 25, 2015 - Washington (WOMA) Convention – Suncadia Resort, Cle Elum, Washington

August 5 – 7, 2015 - Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention - Sun Valley Lodge - Sun Valley, Idaho

August 17-19, 2015 – New Mexico (NMPMA) - Marriott Pyramid North – Albuquerque, New Mexico

September 15-17, 2015 - Utah (UPMRA) Convention - Park City Marriott - Park City, Utah

August 3 – 5, 2016 - Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention - Coeur d'Alene Resort - Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

2015 WPMA CONVENTION & CONVENIENCE STORE EXPO – LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Don't Miss **Frank Caliendo**, comedian/actor/impressionist as Wednesday Keynote during the WPMA Convention. Mark your calendars for February 17-19, 2015. Make plans now to attend the 2015 WPMA Convention and Convenience Store Expo. It will be held once again at the Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Win - US Open Package - June 18 – 21, 2015 – The US Open Golf Tournament will be held at Chambers Bay Golf Course in University Place, Washington. Package includes gallery tickets for four to the Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, June 21 tournament days, three nights' lodging, and \$2,000 spending cash. Contact your state executive director for the Scholarship Raffle Tickets.

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Register Now: <https://associations.mynpp.com/myNPP/memberSavings.shtml?guid=RB3WUOFG>

WPMA MEMBER SERVICES



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Petro Pete: "It bothers me when I see tax money wasted on signs telling deer where to cross the road."

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