

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR THE WPMA CONVENTION ENDS TODAY!

Today is the last chance to pre-register for the WPMA Convention and Convenience Store Expo. Take the opportunity to register today!

To register or for information about the convention go to: www.wpma.com/national-convention

TIME IS RUNNING SHORT FOR 2015 WPMA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS!

Time is running short for your company employees' high school seniors to send in their applications for the 2015 WPMA scholarships. Scholarship applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2015 in order to be considered. Usually, there are less than 20 applicants for each WPMA state scholarship and for the associate member scholarship, which makes the chances of receiving a scholarship very good. Applicant qualification information and the scholarship applications are available in PDF form at www.wpma.com/scholarship. The WPMA scholarships pay \$500 per semester for up to eight semesters, for a total of \$4,000. Employers, please remind your employees to download an application right away, and give their children a chance for some extra financial help in college!

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.

SENATE APPROVES KEYSTONE BILL

House Likely to Act Soon

Yesterday, the Senate approved TransCanada Corp.'s Keystone XL Pipeline by a bipartisan vote of 62 – 36 which represents a significant victory for pipeline supporters. Nine Democrats joined all Republicans to approve the legislation. Democrats in support included: Michael Bennet of Colorado, Tom Carper of Delaware, Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, Joe Donnelly of Indiana, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, Joe Manchin of West Virginia, Claire McCaskill of Missouri, Jon Tester of Montana and Mark Warner of Virginia. President Obama has promised to veto the legislation which would require 67 votes to override him. Obama has also said he wants to wait until the State Department review is completed before deciding on whether to approve construction of the pipeline. Eight other federal agencies are reviewing the Keystone project and have until Monday to finish comments.

The House has already approved their own pipeline version by a vote of 266 – 153 on January 9. Differences between the two versions will need to be resolved before the legislation is sent to President Obama. The House could just vote on the Senate bill and send it to the President's desk.

PMAA fully supports the immediate approval of the Keystone XL pipeline. Although President Obama has promised to veto the Keystone XL pipeline bill, some political insiders believe Obama might ultimately approve the pipeline in return for some concessions to Democratic priorities.

PMAA TESTIFIES BEFORE EPA ON OZONE STANDARDS

On Thursday, PMAA Director of Government Relations Rob Underwood testified before the EPA regarding the proposed National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone and how it would impact prices at the pump. Underwood highlighted that the proposed ozone standards will place an unfair economic burden on both petroleum marketers and consumers. Reformulated gasoline (RFG) and low-Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) gasoline are two of the common transportation strategies that have been implemented to reduce ozone concentrations and they carry with it – higher prices compared to conventional gasoline.

Underwood said that before RFG and lower RVP mandates were adopted during the mid-1990s, the logistics of fuel distribution were relatively simple. Gasoline was fungible. When one area of the country was experiencing higher demand, it was easy to redirect more gasoline from another area to meet it. With the mandated push for RFG and lower RVP fuels, the United States now has over 30 boutique fuels which severely disrupts fuels distribution efficiency. This disruption results in severe economic harm to retailers near the borders of designated counties. Should the agency adopt a lower standard, RFG and/or lower RVP gasoline would likely be required in more areas of the country.

The current 75 ppb ozone standard is working, but has not been fully implemented. Therefore, Underwood argued, "EPA should leave the current standard for ozone in place until at least 85 percent of counties currently in nonattainment status can comply. The economic consequences from a new lower ozone standard would be severe and will create bottlenecks and chaos in the gasoline marketplace."

Legislation has been introduced this year to address these concerns.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR PMAA'S WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AND DAY ON THE HILL SCHEDULED FOR MAY

PMAA's 2015 annual Washington Conference and Day on the Hill will be held in Washington, DC from May 13-15. Our industry continues to have dozens of important legislative and regulatory issues to discuss with members of Congress and the Day on the Hill continues to be the primary focus of this conference.

The meeting will commence with an opening session / issues briefing followed by region meetings on the afternoon of May 13. The last event of the first day is our welcome reception including our PAC silent auction fundraiser! On the morning of May 14, there will be a buffet breakfast and a supplemental issues briefing in case you were not available to attend the opening session briefing on May 13. Marketers and association executives will then head to Capitol Hill for visits with their members of Congress. Please be sure to make these appointments at your earliest convenience. There will be a hospitality suite and luncheon on the Hill. On the evening of May 14, we will honor our 2015 PMAA Chair, Grady Gaubert. Our conference will conclude after the PMAA Board of Directors meet on May 15 following a buffet breakfast and committee meetings.

You can find the registration forms and instructions along with all related details for Washington Conference and Day on the Hill [here](http://www.pmaa.org/pmaameetings/upcomingmeetings.asp) (<http://www.pmaa.org/pmaameetings/upcomingmeetings.asp>). If you plan on attending PMAA's annual Washington Conference and Day on the Hill, now is the time to make your room reservation as we have had an excellent response in attendance. See you in DC in the spring!

TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR SAYS GAS TAX INCREASE IS POSSIBLE

Senate Environment and Public Works, Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Chairman David Vitter (R-LA) reported during a hearing on Wednesday that a gas tax increase could pass "if paired with a lower-middle class and middle-class tax cut" to offset the costs for consumers.

Otherwise repatriation or additional domestic energy production with the royalties directed to the Highway Trust Fund are the other viable solutions according to Senator Vitter.

Transportation Secretary Anthony Fox told panel members that with regards to the last Highway extension bill, "It was not the first short-term measure that has been passed. It was, by my count, the 32nd in the last six years. And as former mayor, I can tell you these short-term measures are doing to communities across America what the state DOT says they're doing in Tennessee: killing their will to build...At this point, we must concern ourselves with the cumulative chilling effects of these short-term measures and this policy uncertainty. I urge you to make a hard pivot now, from the rearview mirror to the front windshield. Look at our aging system...In order for the system to be as good as the American people, we must do something dramatic. To hell with the politics."

BILL FILED TO BLOCK FEDERAL "WATERS" EXPANSION

Last year PMAA joined with a coalition representing a broad range of businesses, industries, and commercial interests to voice strong opposition to the revised definition of "Waters of the United States" proposed by EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE). Many petroleum marketers with bulk storage will be adversely affected by the revised definition. At the most fundamental level, the proposal as written represents an unjustified expansion of Clean Water Act jurisdiction far beyond the limits of federal regulation explicitly established by Congress and affirmed by the courts. The proposal would, for the first time, give federal agencies direct authority over land use decisions that Congress has intentionally preserved to the States. It would intrude so far into traditional state and local land use authority that it is difficult to imagine that Congress intended this outcome.

This week Representative Gosar (R-AZ) introduced legislation to address our concerns. H.R. 594, the "United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act" would prevent the EPA and Corps of Engineers from improperly expanding the Clean Water Act (CWA) and seizing jurisdiction over water that is currently under control of states and private ownership. The bill has broad support and garnered 114 bipartisan cosponsors in less than 48 hours.

Upon introduction of his bill, Gosar stated, "This blatant federal overreach would assert federal jurisdiction over nearly all areas with any hydrologic connection to downstream waters, including man-made constructions such as ditches, pipes and farmland ponds. Contrary to claims made by the EPA and the Corps, this would directly contradict prior U.S. Supreme Court decisions, which imposed limits on the extent of federal CWA authority."

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.

Thank You 2015 WPMA National TOP SPONSORS

As of January 9, 2015

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NPP WPMA Member Service

WPMA has partnered with NPP to provide members discounts on many products and services. NPP negotiates the rates, and makes them available to WPMA members. Membership with NPP is free, and there is no obligation to purchase. Discounts through Verizon, Expedia, Fastenal, Cradlepoint, and more.

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

WPMA MEMBER SERVICES



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Petro Pete: "Don't play dumb with me. That's a game you can't win."

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