

WPMA and Member States donate \$10,000 to Maui United Way



At the October 2023 WPMA Board Meeting, in a heartwarming display of solidarity, the Western Petroleum Marketers Association (WPMA) and its state associations, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, rallied together to aid the Maui fire recovery efforts.

The generous contributions from HEMA, MPMCSA, NPM&CSA, NMPMA, OFA, UPMRA, WIDE, and WPMA collectively totaled \$10,000 demonstrating the power of unity and shared commitment to helping communities in need.

Recently, Casie Bui of Aloha Petroleum presented a symbolic check to Angela Stewart and Makana Nunes from Maui United Way.

Angela Stewart expressed heartfelt gratitude, stating, "We are deeply grateful for the generous support from the Western Petroleum Marketers Association and its affiliate state organizations, including the Hawaii Energy Marketers Association. Their collective donation of \$10,000 to Maui United Way will significantly bolster our ongoing efforts for the Maui wildfires. This contribution exemplifies the power of community collaboration in times of need, and we extend our heartfelt thanks for their commitment to making a positive impact in our community."

The funds donated will play a crucial role in supporting ongoing relief efforts, aiding families affected by the Maui wildfires, and contributing to the long-term recovery and rebuilding process.

As we reflect on this collaborative effort, it serves as a testament to the enduring strength that arises when communities unite for a common cause. WPMA and its State Associations extend their warmest wishes to the people of Maui, reinforcing the belief that together, we can overcome adversity and build a brighter future for all.

IN MEMORY OF:



RICHARD FUSCARDO, PARKER OIL PRODUCTS

Richard L Fuscardo, 75, died after a long battle with his health on January 5, 2024, at Sunrise Regional Medical Center. He was born December 28, 1948 in Pittsburgh, Ohio. The son of Nicholas and Carmella (Ciccolella) Fuscardo.

Rick graduated from West High in Torrance, CA. Following graduation, he married his high school sweetheart and had two children, Ricky and Renee. He was a dedicated husband and father who worked his way up in the shoe industry until he began working in the Petroleum industry in the 80's.

Providing for his family was always his biggest priority. In 1989 Rick moved his family to Lake Havasu City, AZ, and opened Parker Oil Products in Parker AZ. Owning and

operating his own business was always his dream. Rick turned Parker Oil into a thriving profitable business that is still in operation, family owned, and going strong. On July 13, 2007, Rick married the love of his life Sandra (Zurgilgen) Fuscardo.

Rick was an active member of Arizona Petroleum Marketers Association (APMA), served as President of APMA, was involved with the Western Petroleum Marketers Association, and was a member of the Alliance Petroleum Board of Directors. In his community, he served on both Parker and Lake Havasu Chambers of Commerce. He was a waterski racing boat driver and announcer.

Rick was full of life and loved by all who had the chance to know him. Rick spoke of his friends as family and always had a great joke to share at the drop of a hat. He was known as the one and only "Birthday King" as he never missed a birthday, anniversary, or life event on Facebook.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his Son Richard Michael Fuscardo. Surviving in addition to his wife Sandra (zurgilgen) Fuscardo, are his Daughter Renee (Fuscardo) Hudson and her Husband.



KIRK HANSEN, HANSEN OIL COMPANY

Kirk Lloyd Hansen, our beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend, was welcomed into the loving arms of our Heavenly Father and Savior on February 3, 2024. He passed away peacefully in his home, surrounded by his family after a valiant fight with leukemia.

Kirk met Debera Lynn Evans at Utah State, and they were married August 4, 1972, in the Salt Lake Temple. Kirk did his student teaching at Soda Springs High School and was a quarter away from graduating when he moved back to Soda Springs at the request of his father to help manage the demands of the growing family business. Kirk went on to own, operate, and expand Hansen Oil Company across multiple states until his retirement in 2015.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL OBITUARY](#)

The following information provided by:
EMA-Energy Marketers of America



Hotel Reservations and Registration NOW OPEN for EMA's Washington Conference and Day on the Hill 2024: May 15-17!

EMA's annual Washington Conference and Day on the Hill will be held in Washington, DC from May 15-17 at The Mayflower Hotel. Our industry continues to have many important legislative and regulatory issues to discuss and the Day on the Hill remains the primary focus of this conference.

The meeting will begin with an Opening Session / Issues Briefing and Region meetings in the afternoon of May 15. Our welcome reception, exclusively sponsored by EMA's Board of Directors Council Partner Federated Insurance, will include our fun and popular PAC "live" silent auction fundraiser (bidding and virtual viewing through download of the C2Auction App on your mobile phone), concludes the day! On the morning of May 16, marketers will head to Capitol Hill with their Congressional delegations, after a buffet breakfast and issues briefing for those who were not able to attend the opening session. There will be a luncheon exclusively sponsored by EMA's Board of Directors Council Partner Altria Group Distribution Company at their Corporate Offices on the Hill. On the evening of May 16, we will feature our 2024 EMA Chair Brad Bell along with honoring our other Past Chairs in attendance sponsored by HFSinclair. Our conference will conclude after the EMA Board of Directors meet on May 17 following a buffet breakfast and committee meetings.

Invitations were sent out at the top of the week to state association members, their members who have attended EMA Conferences in the past and Corporate Partners. Please make your room reservations now (at 85 percent capacity as of February 8) to attend this important and productive forum to meet with your members of Congress and network with other marketers from across the country! See you in DC in the spring!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR EMA'S DC CONFERENCE](#)

Inside the Beltway Update

With chaotic action in the House and Senate, it's been another wild week in Washington! As you know, for several months, a bipartisan group of Senators had been working on supplemental appropriations bill that would, at the insistence of House Republicans, include border security along with funding for Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan. Last Sunday, Sen. James Lankford (R-OK) released the text of the bill, and Senators blocked its passage. As a result, additional funding for the border and our allies remains on hold. At the same time, House Republicans failed to impeach DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and pass a stand-alone bill to fund Israel. The Senate is now working through a foreign aid bill that does not include the border provisions, but now Senate Republicans are demanding the ability to incorporate amendments related to the border, frustrating Democrats after the original version including border security failed.

And even with all that going on, more than 110 Republicans, and one Democrat, are aiming to overturn the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) greenhouse gas emissions rule using the Congressional Review Act. This move, spearheaded by nearly every Senate Republican and 64 House Republicans along with Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV), seeks to halt an FHWA regulation finalized in November. The rule mandates states to establish their own emissions reduction targets but lacks penalties for non-compliance. Despite the absence of enforcement, critics, such as Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR), chair of the House Highways and Transit Subcommittee, condemn it as "the heavy hand of the federal government run amok." Crawford highlights the predicament faced by small towns and rural areas unable to meet emission targets through measures like constructing metro systems, procuring electric buses, or building extensive bike lanes. The CRA move is likely symbolic as President Biden's signature is required to enact the CRA process.

In another move, 3,500 corn farmers sent a letter to President Biden urging him to support the biofuels in place of an all-out embrace of EVs. The corn growers expressed concern in their letter about two specific policies from the Biden administration. Firstly, they objected to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) newly proposed tailpipe standards, which are set to significantly increase the requirements for emissions standards for light and medium-duty vehicles. This rule is explicitly designed to promote the adoption of electric vehicles. Secondly, they raised objections to the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) update proposal from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). This proposal dictates the mileage a vehicle must achieve per gallon of gas.

Along those same lines, eleven House Republicans unveiled a bill aimed at defunding electric vehicle charger grant programs established by the bipartisan infrastructure law. Led by Reps. Eric Burlison (R-MO) and Harriet Hageman (R-WY), the proposed legislation would revoke all unobligated funds for the \$5 billion National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program and the \$2.5 billion Charging and Fueling Infrastructure grant program, which they label as "another government-forced environmental scam." Notably, Burlison previously succeeded in amending the House transportation spending bill to defund the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure program, while Hageman's attempt to strip funding from the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program faced resounding defeat.

Finally, retiring Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) has sent a letter to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to seek "clear and proactive communication" on where the agency stands regarding removing marijuana from the list of Schedule 1 controlled substances—its most restrictive level. EMA will have more information on this topic in the coming weeks.

Federal Court Grants Permanent Stay of Enforcement on Marketing Denial Order for Vuse Alto, Vibe and Solo Menthol Pods

On Monday, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals granted R.J. Reynolds Vapor Company (RJRV) a permanent stay of enforcement on the FDA's PMTA Marketing Denial Order (MDO) on Vuse Alto, Vibe and

Solo Menthol Pods. As a result of this court action, these products will continue to be allowed on the market for sale.

The permanent stay follows the Court's most recent October 2023 emergency stay ruling in immediate response to the FDA's announcement issuing an MDO for VUSE Alto menthol pods in varying nicotine strengths.

The Court also denied FDA's motion to transfer the case to another circuit. This means the 5th Circuit will decide on the merits of the case, which will likely take a significant amount of time.

EMA Involvement in FEMA and CISA Private-Public Partnership Summit

Last week, EMA presented to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 4 and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Region 4 Southeast Private-Public Partners Summit that was held in Pearl, Mississippi. The conference brought together private sector partners with federal, state, and local emergency management agencies from across the Southeast, as well as the states of New Jersey, Indiana, and Idaho. FEMA Deputy Administrator Eric Hooks attended the summit and invited EMA to meet with him separately along with representatives from the shipping, airline, cellular and package delivery industries. The Deputy Administrator thanked energy marketers for their hard work during disaster response and recovery.

The summit included discussions about the challenges of aging infrastructure and supply chain disruptions, Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) escort availability during disasters, economic recovery strategies, capabilities of the private sector, and private-public coordination success stories. In addition, two activities simulating an activation of a state Business Emergency Operations Center were performed to get a better understanding of public and private sector emergency management operations.

EMA addressed how the fuel supply industry works with emergency management agencies and other stakeholders to prioritize fuel distribution to ensure a continuous and reliable fuel supply to support emergency response and recovery efforts. Finally, EMA made suggestions as to how public-private partnerships can contribute to more effective contingency planning and response strategies during supply chain failures.

Continue to Urge Congress to Support the Credit Card Competition Act!

EMA continues to urge all jobbers and retailers to reach out to their Senators and ask them to **VOTE YES** on the Credit Card Competition Act. This bill would reduce swipe fees and allow retailers a choice of network to handle the transaction through competition which would save Americans and businesses around \$15 billion in swipe fees per year. Our industry's share of that comes to around \$9,000 per store per year.

[CLICK HERE TO URGE SENATORS TO SUPPORT THE CREDIT CARD COMPETITION](#)

WEEKEND READS

[Stopping Biden's Radical Forced EV Transition | Energy & Commerce](#)

[Farmers Accuse Biden of Overlooking Biofuels in Race to EVs | Bloomberg](#)

[Oil Swings as Powell Chills Markets With Hawkish Rate Comments | Bloomberg](#)

[Proposal would add a "Category 6" as hurricanes get stronger | Axios](#)

WEBINAR It's Our Business to Protect Yours®

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Thursday, February 15, 2024
1 p.m. CST

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Federated Insurance® Launches 2½-Day Risk Management Academy Offerings for 2024



Petroleum: April 30-May 2 and August 20-22
All Industries: June 4-6 and November 5-7

Federated Insurance® is excited to formally invite business owners to attend one of our complimentary 2½ - Day Risk Management Academy (RMA) offerings which began in January 2024. These industry-specific sessions are held at Federated®'s Home Office in Owatonna, Minnesota, and are led by risk management professionals.

Often, business owners may find themselves so busy in the day-to-day workings of their company that they may have less time to focus on the overall safety of their business. The RMA sessions can help business owners learn how to prevent losses impacting their bottom line by developing risk management best practices, connecting with industry peers facing similar challenges and insurance professionals who are committed to helping owners, and applying what is learned to make a difference at their businesses.

Building a culture of workplace safety starts with business leaders. [Learn more and sign up today](#) to attend one of these valuable 2½-Day RMAs to help take risk management to the next level. Need answers to questions or would you prefer to speak with one of our Risk Management Resource Consultants? Call 1-800-533-0472 or please contact your **Federated** regional representative or EMA's National Account Executive **Jon Medo** at 800.533.0472. **Federated is a Partner in EMA's Board of Directors Council.**



The **WPMA NEWS** currently serves EIGHT independent petroleum and convenience store associations.

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EMA JOURNAL - The Official Publication of the Energy Marketers of America

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The EMA Journal fall issue is now available.

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PLEASE NOTE UPCOMING DATES FOR WPMA EVENTS

February 13, 2024 - Utah UPMRA Day on Capitol Hill - 12:00 - 1:30 pm - Salt Lake City, UT

February 20-22, 2024 - WPMAEXPO - Mirage/Hard Rock Resort - Las Vegas, NV

April 1, 2024 - Hawaii (HEMA) Golf Tournament - 11:30 am - Oahu Country Club - Honolulu, HI

April 25-26, 2024 - Nevada (NPM&CSA) Big Dogs - Red Rock & Siena Golf Course - Las Vegas, NV

June 4-5, 2024 - Montana (MPMCSA) Convention - Fairmont Hot Springs Resort - Fairmont, MT

June 17-19, 2024 - Washington Energy Convention - Suncadia Lodge - Cle Elum, WA

July 14-16, 2024 - Oregon (OFA) Conference - Sunriver Resort - Sunriver, OR

August 7-9, 2024 - Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention - Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, ID

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WPMA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

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Petro Pete: The trouble with getting to work on time is that it makes the day so long.

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