

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.

PMAA MEETS WITH ADMINISTRATION OVER UST RULE

On Wednesday, PMAA met with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to express marketers' concerns over a pending EPA rule that would add costly new inspection and testing requirements for underground storage tanks (USTs). The OMB is part of the Executive Office of the President and reviews all proposed federal rules before they are made final. PMAA met with the OMB in a final effort to voice concerns over the UST rule that is both procedurally flawed and imposes unacceptable compliance costs. The PMAA UST Task Force has had significant concerns about the UST rule since it was first proposed in 2012.

Bruce Garrett of Volta Oil in Massachusetts and Matt Bjornson of Bjornson Oil in North Dakota attended the meeting along with PMAA Regulatory Counsel Mark Morgan and Director of Government Relations Rob Underwood. PMAA asked the OMB to withdraw the rule due to the EPA's failure to accurately calculate the economic burden it would place on small business marketers as required by law. The EPA calculated the rule would impose \$900 in compliance costs annually. PMAA's own estimate showed those costs to be \$6,960 per year. In addition to the cost burden, PMAA voiced concern that the rule imposes new inspection and testing burdens that are not only unnecessary and duplicative but could also damage piping systems and sumps already in the ground. PMAA presented both cost and technical data to support its concerns.

OMB is not allowed to comment on rules under review but they asked a number of questions regarding compliance costs. PMAA does not know which provisions made it to the final rule currently under review at the OMB, but it likely contains some of the cost saving alternative measures PMAA recommended. PMAA thanks both Bruce Garrett and Matt Bjornson for the time and effort made to voice marketers' concerns at the OMB meeting.

HOUSE ELECTS LEADERSHIP AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

During this lame duck session, the House held elections for leadership and committee chair posts. With little change among Republican and Democratic leadership positions, some Committee chair posts will see new faces next year. Due to the retirement of Chairman Dave Camp (R-MI), Representative Paul Ryan (R-WI) will take the lead over the House Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over taxes.

Meanwhile, Democrats held their elections and some drama unfolded between Representatives Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Anna Eshoo (D-CA) who were vying to replace retiring House Energy and Commerce Committee ranking member Henry Waxman (D-CA). The Democratic Steering Committee supported Eshoo by a vote of 31 – 19, however, Pallone pulled the upset among all Democrats later on the floor.

REPUBLICANS SEEK OZONE COMPLIANCE COSTS

Twelve Republican members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee sent a letter last week to EPA requiring additional data on meeting a potentially stricter ozone standard. Furthermore, the House approved a bill yesterday by a vote of 238 - 172 that would accelerate EPA's issuance of implementation guidance for meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee concluded late June that EPA should lower the 75 ppb ozone national ambient air quality standard to 60-70 ppb. Furthermore, the committee suggested a 60 to 65 ppb range that a standard of 70 ppb would offer only a "limited margin of safety" for human health. Lowering the standard would force more counties into non-attainment, therefore, requiring RFG and lower RVP gasoline which would increase the cost of motor fuels.

PMAA believes the economic consequences from a lower ozone standard would be severe and must be considered.

Senator Vitter (R-LA) and Representative Smith (R-TX) have also asked EPA how it plans the further economic review that is required by law. They urged EPA to allow its independent expert advisors to conduct a full evaluation of the adverse effects of the agency's upcoming proposal. By EPA's own estimates, the new regulations would cost taxpayers up to \$90 billion per year, making them the most costly regulations ever proposed. Worse still, according to the National Association of Manufacturers, the proposed rule will cost over one trillion dollars per year from 2020-2030.

SMALL BUSINESS LEADERS PRESS FOR TAX CREDIT EXTENDERS

The Small Business Legislative Council (SBLC) is ramping up efforts to lobby Congress asking for an expedited extension of the Section 179 deduction and Bonus Depreciation. Since 2003, there have been nine temporary increases or extensions to the Section 179 limits. In 2013, the American Taxpayer Relief Act temporarily increased the Section 179 deduction limit to \$500,000 and increased the cap on the amount of capital assets that a business can purchase in a given year before their eligibility to take the Section 179 deduction is reduced or eliminated. On January 1, 2014, these limits reverted back to the pre-2003 levels which, without inflation indexing, are a deduction limit of \$25,000 and an asset purchase cap of \$200,000. Similarly, bonus depreciation, which was first introduced in 2002, expired altogether on December 31, 2013.

If Congress allows the Section 179 limits to stay at the pre-2003 levels and does not extend bonus depreciation, it will be striking a significant blow to small business growth and, in turn, job creation. SBLC says this is an issue that cannot wait. Every day that the Section 179 limits and bonus depreciation are not resolved means another day of uncertainty for small business owners who are being forced to plan for their business' future without being able to assess what their annual tax liability will be.

PMAA is a member of SBLC and is supporting their lobbying efforts.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE FALLS ONE VOTE SHORT IN SENATE

Following last Friday's House passage of H.R. 5682 which would approve the Keystone XL pipeline, the Senate considered an identical bill (S. 2280) yesterday. Unfortunately, the Senate fell one vote short of the necessary 60 votes to approve the pipeline. Every Senate Republican voted in favor of S. 2280 along with 14 Democrats. Meanwhile, the failed vote in the Senate did not help Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA), a Keystone supporter and cosponsor of S. 2280, who is in a runoff against Rep. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) who sponsored H.R. 5682.

PMAA fully supports the immediate approval of the Keystone XL pipeline. The Keystone XL pipeline enjoys overwhelming support from Americans, with 60 percent saying it should be approved and 25 percent opposed, according to a USA Today poll released Monday. Some political insiders believe that because the Obama Administration did not issue an official veto threat to either bill has fueled speculation that Obama may want to use the pipeline in negotiations with the incoming Republican Congress next year. Keystone XL pipeline supporters will be close to the necessary 67 votes to override a Presidential veto when the GOP takes control next year, plus nine pro-Keystone XL Democrats.

NOEL ROLLINS COOK 1936-2014



Noel Rollins Cook passed away on Nov 19, 2014 in Heber City Utah. He is survived by his wife ReNae Layton and their seven children: Scott (Stef); Kendell; Paul (Janelle); Clayton (Mary); Douglas (Trisha); James (Shannon); Carolyn Cook.

He began his career with Texaco Corporation and in 1970 moved his family to Heber City, Utah and started Cook Oil Company, and later Tri-Valley Distributing. He taught each of his children at a young age the value of hard work. Through his exceptional work ethic he and his family directed the business into a very successful enterprise, which provided employment for many. During his career he served in many industry leadership positions, including **president of the Western Petroleum**

Marketers Association.

Funeral Services will be held November 22, 2014 at 11 am at the Heber 7th ward, located at 400 South 240 East, Heber City, Utah. Viewing will be held November 21, 2014 from 6pm -8pm and prior to services from 9:30-10:30 am at the Heber 7th ward. Condolences and memories may be sent to the family at www.olpinhoopes.com

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

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

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

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 - Four US Open Tickets - June 18 – 21, 2015 – Chambers Bay, University Place, Washington – Contact your state executive director for the Scholarship Raffle Tickets

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WPMA MEMBER SERVICES



Petro Pete: "I don't flirt with disaster. It's more of a long-term relationship."

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