

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:kathym@wpma.com). The value of items donated to the auction is tax-deductible.

**CONGRESS EYES OMNIBUS FUNDING BILL****Policy Riders Expected**

Before Congress leaves town next week, they must approve a government spending bill. Currently, the GOP-controlled House is attempting to prevent President Obama's latest immigration executive action from taking effect by funding the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through March 2015 in order to give the new Congress leverage to try and defund the new policies. All other federal agencies would be fully funded through September 30, 2015. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has voiced his support for the package.

Some policy riders that might have a chance of being included in the 2015 Omnibus package is a proposal by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) to suspend for one year the hours-of-service (HOS) restart changes that became effective last year.

The proposal would require the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to justify in a report to Congress how the changes enhance public safety. The 34-hour restart provision allows CDL drivers to restart the clock for their maximum hourly work week after a 34-consecutive hour rest period.

Originally, the HOS regulations allowed drivers to use the 34-hour restart without restrictions. However, the FMCSA adopted regulatory changes limiting use of the 34-hour restart to just once per week and requiring the restart to include two overnight rest periods between 1:00 AM and 5:00 AM. As a result of the FMCSA changes, depending on the time of day their final shift ends, drivers are now required to take more than 34 hours off duty before they can return to work. The change greatly reduces the flexibility petroleum marketers need to schedule drivers efficiently.

### **U.S. DOT CONSIDERING INCREASE IN FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY LEVELS FOR CARGO TANK VEHICLES**

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is considering a future rulemaking that would increase financial responsibility (FR) requirements for all motor carriers, including those hauling petroleum products in cargo tank vehicles. The FMCSA disclosed the possible FR increase in an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM). The potential rulemaking is important to petroleum marketers because it could result in thousands of dollars in new compliance costs in the form of more expensive insurance premiums.

The FMCSA claims current FR levels established in 1985 are no longer adequate to cover losses due to a catastrophic accident involving a commercial motor vehicle. Inflation and rising medical costs for bodily injury claims are driving the need to increase FR levels according to the FMCSA.

The ANPRM cites a recent FMCSA report to Congress recommending an increase in FR levels to \$10 million. The current FR level for petroleum marketers operating cargo tank vehicles is one million dollars. The FMCSA estimates that current one million dollars in FR coverage costs approximately \$5,000 per power unit. The FMCSA is seeking industry specific data on insurance premium rates; the adequacy of current FR levels to fully cover claims; and the impact higher insurance premium costs will have on small businesses.

PMAA is currently collecting the data and will submit it to the FMCSA by the February 26, 2015 deadline for public comment. Once the FMCSA has analyzed all data submitted, it will make a decision on whether to issue a proposed rule setting new FR levels. PMAA expects the decision whether to move forward with a proposed rule will be made late next year.

### **REPUBLICANS VOW AN ALL-OUT ATTACK ON PROPOSED OZONE REVISIONS**

Senate and House versions of legislation addressing the proposed revisions to the Obama Administration's newly proposed ozone standards are expected to advance next year. In particular, the Senate Republican leadership plans an all-out attack via Senator John Thune's (R-SD) legislation, the appropriations process and the Congressional Review Act

Senator Thune's bill, known as "The Clean Air, Strong Economies Act" (CASE Act), 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 (H.R. 5505).

The day before Thanksgiving, the EPA proposed tightening the national ozone standard to between 65 ppb and 70 ppb in which the OMB classified the proposal as being economically significant. Economically significant rules are those that are expected to have a cost of at least \$100 million or are expected to have any adverse effect on the economy, productivity, jobs, the environment, public health or safety.

PMAA, in a coalition with hundreds of other business groups, have urged EPA not to revise the standard. If the standard is lowered, it would force more counties into non-attainment, and therefore, require RFG and lower RVP gasoline which would increase the cost of motor fuels. 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. To see where your state will fall with a 65 ppb requirement, click [here](http://www.nam.org/Issues/Ozone-Regulations/) (<http://www.nam.org/Issues/Ozone-Regulations/>).

Earlier in November, twelve Republican members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee sent a letter to EPA requiring additional data on meeting a potentially stricter ozone standard. Furthermore, the House approved a bill that would accelerate EPA's issuance of implementation guidance for meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). 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.

### **SENATORS RULE OUT GAS TAX HIKE DURING LAME DUCK**

Senators Tom Carper (D-DE) and Bob Corker (R-TN), two of the Senate's staunchest gas tax hike supporters, ruled out any lame duck action on raising the gas tax after being told by Speaker Boehner (R-OH) that there is no chance the House could consider such a measure this year. Earlier this year, Senators Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Bob Corker (R-TN)

proposed a 12 cents-per-gallon (cpg) tax increase for both gasoline and diesel fuel over the next two years and indexing to inflation in order to replenish the Highway Trust Fund (HFT). It was expected to raise \$164 billion over 10 years. Although a gas tax hike won't be considered this year, the Murphy-Corker proposal might serve as a bipartisan starting point for highway funding negotiations next year.

Since 2008, Congress has transferred \$54 billion into the Highway Trust Fund, mostly from the General Fund, to maintain solvency. Congress has looked at other alternatives to improve the HFT, including a user fee based on the number of miles driven (VMT), however, this proposal has been unable to gain momentum. The motor fuels tax hasn't been raised since 1993.

### **HOUSE PASSES TAX EXTENDERS PACKAGE**

On Wednesday, the House overwhelmingly approved a one-year tax extenders package (applies to calendar year 2014 only) that would revive over 50 expired tax incentives by a vote of 378 – 46. The extender's package includes the one-dollar-per gallon biodiesel blender's tax credit, a 30 percent investment tax credit for alternative fuel pumps, bonus depreciation, and Section 179 expensing.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has not indicated how the Senate will move forward on tax extenders. However, due to the overwhelming bipartisan support for the one-year deal in the House, the Senate will most likely follow suit and pass tax extenders for calendar year 2014 before leaving town.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Ranking Member Orrin Hatch (R-UT) have expressed their support for a two-year retroactive extension deal, but a Wyden spokesperson indicated following the House vote that "at this point there doesn't appear to be a procedural path forward for a two- year deal." The Obama Administration has said it could support a retroactive short-term extension.

PMAA urges quick action on tax extenders and supports at least extending the biodiesel blenders tax credit along with the other provisions noted above.



### **AUSTIN LEONARD OF TWIN FALLS, IDAHO PASSES**

We are saddened to announce the passing of Austin Avery Hurd Leonard, 34, of Twin Falls, Idaho. The son of Steven and Marion Leonard, owners of Leonard Petroleum Equipment, Austin was the third generation to work in the family business. For over a decade he acted as the office manager, working alongside his father, extended family, and close friends. Austin passed away on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 while visiting friends in Lawrence, Kansas.

The Board and Staff of WPMA extend our heartfelt condolences to the Leonard family at this difficult time. An obituary for Austin can be found by following this link:

[http://magicvalley.com/lifestyles/announcements/obituaries/obituary-austin-avery-hurd-leonard/article\\_94029b65-a3fb-5e61-ad6e-faa6cd91d460.html#.VH9ST8CewhY.email](http://magicvalley.com/lifestyles/announcements/obituaries/obituary-austin-avery-hurd-leonard/article_94029b65-a3fb-5e61-ad6e-faa6cd91d460.html#.VH9ST8CewhY.email)

### **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: "For years I thought hitchhikers were complimenting my driving."**

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# Webinar Invitation



**Ignite or Fire: Know when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em**

**Tuesday, December 16, 2014 1:00pm - 2:00pm EDT**

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- **Human Resources**
- **Business Owners**
- **Directors**
- **Managers**
- **Supervisors**

## WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- Tips for retaining your stars
- Terms of termination
- State and federal laws regarding termination
- The importance of checklists

[Read the full description >](#)

**After registering, you will receive a confirmation email and can add the event to your calendar.**

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