

MONTANA MESSAGE SEPTEMBER ISSUE

PETRO POLLY..."thought for the day"

"The difference between a successful career and a mediocre one sometimes consists of leaving about four or five things a day unsaid."

After a long legislative Session, travel to regional and national meetings and of course, the June convention, it has been a refreshing summer break. No doubt the MPMCSA Board of Directors has enjoyed their downtime from association business as well. Speaking of the Board, we need to recognize a couple individuals now that the new Association year commenced on July 1st. First, we need to thank outgoing President, Doug Klotthor for his time in the Chair. Doug stepped into the "main man" position somewhat early due to the untimely passing of previous President, Dave Sutey, which meant for one thing, presiding over three conventions. Doug will remain on the Board as the director to the national federation, Petroleum Marketers Association of America for a few years, but in the meantime, THANK YOU Doug for your selfless time and efforts. We also need to thank Val Jeffries with Holiday Stores for serving several years on the Board, as her term ended on June 30th. As the publication indicates, there are several continuing Board members and we thank them for their service! Along with thanks to these volunteer leaders, we need to recognize incoming President Kary Tonjum with CityServiceValcon who will serve as the "main man" until June 30, 2015. Finally, we welcome new Board member Tom Savas with Cenex Zip Trip. I look forward to working with our officers and directors in the coming year and can assure they are a quality group!

INTERIM COMMITTEES

Even though the Legislature has adjourned, our work in that arena doesn't end. After the end of each Session, leaders from both Houses appoint legislators to serve on "interim" committees. There are many committees that meet several times over the next year and a half to monitor rule proposals from state agencies, make recommendations on policy and even sponsor bills to be presented at the next session. Therefore, it is important that the Association stay involved with this process. At this time we know we will be involved with the Environmental Quality Council (EQC) that monitors the status of the Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Fund (Petro Fund), and the Economic Affairs Committee. The Economic Affairs Committee oversees the Department of Labor and will be reviewing a rule proposal by the Bureau of Weights & Measures to increase meter licensing fees by 26%. We will present information in opposition to the proposed fee increase and urge the Committee to recommend an alternative plan of action to the Bureau. There may be other issues that arise for the industry in other committees such as the Revenue and Transportation Committee or Law & Justice Committee. At any rate, the Association will remain diligent in monitoring this process.

ONE STOP LICENSING

Going from one state agency to another to obtain, fill out the form, and renew all the licenses a business needs to operate in Montana can be a time-consuming process for owners and managers, as well as cutting several checks for each of their fees. That's why Montana lawmakers enacted a bill in 1997 that launched the "one-stop business licensing" project. The project consolidated the application and renewal process of seven state licenses under one roof at the MT Department of Revenue. Through "One-Stop", businesses can obtain these seven different licenses administered by five different agencies. Currently, there are over 6,300 business locations in the state with one or more licenses issued through the program. In looking at the seven types of licenses issued, it is clear that the convenience store industry benefits significantly

from the One-Stop program. Here's a breakdown of the types of licenses offered, along with the total number of each license that is either active or pending:

Food Purveyor: 848

Tobacco Retail & Wholesale: 1,840

Off-premise Beer & Wine: 885

Nursery: 866

Petroleum Dealers (meters): 1,488

Weighing Devices (scales): 3,999

Underground Storage Tank: \$1,321

The licensing process will soon become even more convenient. The Department of Revenue is currently developing software that will allow businesses to apply for, pay for, and renew licenses online. The software should be ready to use by the end of the year. For more information about One-Stop Licensing, please visit

http://revenue.mt.gov/forbusinesses/onestop_licensing/default.mcp.x.

NEW MEMBERS: The MPMCSA welcomes new associate members: Jim Rolle with West Central Environmental Consulting in Missoula and Jon Keippel with Express Trailer & Tank Services in Billings.