

The Uniformer

**MESSAGE FROM THE
FTA MOTOR FUEL TAX
SECTION CHAIR
MICHAEL HARRELL**

Greetings to all and Happy New Year! I am certain that 2007 will be just as challenging as the last few years have been, particularly since the "Post-Katrina general public" now has more than a passing interest in the motor fuel industry. As the current Chair of the Motor Fuel Tax section, I look forward to working with each of the subcommittees, and attending the regional and annual meetings, to continue the efforts and hard work needed to deal with existing and emerging issues.

I first want to thank the Northeast region for the continuous cooperation and camaraderie over the years. I firmly believe that our constant communication and sharing of ideas and issues have helped us all to deal with the issues that are unique to our "neck of the woods". I know that this level of effort will only be enhanced as we move forward.

Second, I certainly wish to thank the FTA for its continuing administrative support over the years. Without the coordinated training, provision of guidance in regional and annual meeting planning, and the many other things that we all have come to rely upon, we simply would not be able to effectively share information and coordinate activities on a national level.

Third, I thank the various Federal government entities and industry partners that continue to work

with the member jurisdictions, because their valuable contributions help us to make informed tax policy and law decisions.

Finally, I certainly thank all of the member jurisdictions, certainly for approving my nomination to this important position, but also for being my partners in this ever-changing landscape of fuel tax administration.

I look forward to the coming year!

**MESSAGE FROM THE
UNIFORMITY COMMITTEE
INDUSTRY CO-CHAIR
BOB DONNELLAN**

As I begin yet another year as the industry co-chair of the Uniformity committee my goal is to obtain more industry participation. In my opinion industry participation is down and needs to be increased. I strongly believe that once a member of industry attends the meetings and working groups they will see how productive these sub committees are. I also believe they will have a positive impact on the issues at hand and their knowledge will be a tremendous help to all involved. I also think that new blood will give us new perspectives on the issues at hand.

**MESSAGE FROM THE
UNIFORMITY COMMITTEE
STATE CO-CHAIR
DONNA ALDERMAN**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year and to let you know

that I look forward to serving as your State Uniformity Co-Chair for another year. It is impossible to think that another year has come and gone. For many of us last year was filled with "everything electronic" so it would only be fitting to continue the Uniformity discussions with E-Commerce.

For those of you who are on the E-Commerce Subcommittee, my hat's off to you. Over the years this subcommittee has developed a uniform 813 EDI map, drafted a uniform XML schema, identified security issues in internet-based electronic tax filing, developed the 820 ACH debit payment, developed the 826 tax information exchange, developed the 997 functional acknowledgment, and recommended standardized Motor Fuel web pages. If this wasn't enough this group also reviews all state EDI maps to ensure uniformity.

My state is in the process of implementing a Motor Fuels Tracking System. The hard work by this subcommittee was most evident during this implementation. Most of the work ensuring uniformity had been completed we just needed to follow the model laid out in the Electronic Combined Reporting Methods Implementation Guide. I am grateful to all parties involved with the creation of this guide. Most of you know that I don't have a technical bone in my body and that is true for most tax administrators. This guide has made things simple enough even I could understand and follow it.

I would like to thank this subcommittee for their hard work and dedication. I would specifically like to thank Doreen Warren for her tireless work on this subcommittee. She has stepped down as the State Co-chair however her influence and her passion for her work will remain with us. It is with great confidence this subcommittee, headed by Darrell Wissink and Kathryn McKee, will continue to push us into the "technical" 21st century.

CANADIAN FUEL TAX COUNCIL (FTC) UPDATE **CHARLES GREENOUGH**

The Fuel Tax Council (FTC) met on October 19 and 20, in Ottawa. The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), provided an overview of the web site, which the CRA will be setting up and administrating for the FTC on their Secure Extranet Partnership Web Site. The Alberta Ministry of Finance provided an update on the status of the E-Filing project, and a new EDP Audit Training course was approved by the Steering Committee. In addition, the provinces and territories met to discuss the overall form and operations of the FTC.

Web Site

The web site is currently planned to be launched in Mid-February. This is a secure web site, with password access, and will be restricted to Steering Committee and Sub-Committee members. It will be located on the *Canada Revenue Agency Secure Partnership Intranet Web Site*. Postings for the web site will

include meeting minutes, training calendar, common definitions, contact lists, and FTC Binder. The sub-committees will be able to post work in progress (for review by other members of the team) documents on the site.

E-Filing

The Alberta Ministry of Finance provided a status update on the e-filing project. As you may recall from my previous report, Alberta Finance will be the first Jurisdiction in Canada to offer e-filing for fuel taxes.

The sub-committee held a meeting in December and finalized the business rules document and planned the project milestones for the next 12 months.

Field Audit and EDP

Audit Training

The Field Audit Training course is on schedule and will be holding the mock session in Toronto, June 19 to 21.

The Steering Committee approved the EDP Audit Course for Field Auditors. The course is still in the development stage. Current plans are for the course to be held over 3 days. The course will provide attendees with hands on knowledge of ACL and IDEA.

Basic Training

Basic training sessions have been held in Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. A session is being planned for March 6 to 8, in Toronto.

UNIFORMITY COMMITTEE

The FTA Motor Fuel Tax Section Uniformity Committee met at the Hyatt in Albuquerque, New Mexico on October 7, 2006. Vice National Chair Michael Harrell (DE) called the meeting to order. Fifty-three (53) were in attendance.

Minutes

The minutes of the June 2006 Uniformity Committee meeting in Oklahoma City, OK were approved.

Presentation

Herman Wisneski (MN) gave a presentation on Bio Diesel.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Compliance Subcommittee

Rick Shirk (OH) reported the committee discussed the following:

- Best Practices Manual (disclosing sensitive information)
- Dyed Fuel Issues
- Current trends in evasion
- Railroad Issues
- Training

Electronic Commerce Subcommittee

Darrell Wissink (NE) reported the two sessions and discussed the following:

Not Too Technical

(32 in attendance) (this was combined with Forms Management meeting).

- Inventory by Position Holder
- EDI Implementation Guide
- ExSTARS Review Team
- 2006 Survey

Technical

(17 in attendance)

- XML Schema Update
- Best Practices Manual

Forms Management**Subcommittee**

Herman Wisneski (MN) reported that this committee met with Electronic Commerce. There were thirty-two (32) in attendance. The subcommittee discussed the following:

- Product code request
IRS
Kentucky
Michigan
- Ultra-low sulfur product code discussion
- Schedule code request from Kansas
- Forms approval request
State of Maryland
State of Louisiana
- Railroad STCC and FTA product codes

Communication and Coordination Subcommittee

Bob Crawford (MD) reported that eighteen (18) were in attendance. The subcommittee discussed the following and the October 2006 *Uniformer* was passed out. (See minutes for the publication).

- White paper/issue paper on bio diesel and other alternative fuels
- Definition for Diversion
- Define Racing Fuel

Old/New Business

Bob Donnellan (Global) gave out certificates to all subcommittee chairs. Carol Player gave Jeff Farish (ExxonMobil) a National Chair's award for all his hard work.

Cindy Anders-Robb requested that all minutes, agenda and project tracking forms be submitted to her no later than December 1, 2006.

The meeting adjourned.

UPCOMING MEETINGS 2007**Uniformity Meeting**

January 19-20, 2007
Renaissance Portsmouth
Portsmouth, Virginia

Advanced Investigation Training

January 28-February 1, 2007
Austin, Texas

Pacific Region

April 29-May 1, 2007
University Marriott
Tucson, Arizona

Northeastern Region

May 20-22, 2007
New Jersey

Uniformity Meeting

June 1-2, 2007
Pittsburgh Marriott
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Southern Region

June 17-19, 2007

Wilmington Hilton
Wilmington, North Carolina

Uniformity Meeting

September 28-29, 2007
Baton Rouge Hilton
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Annual Meeting

September 30- October 3, 2007
Baton Rouge Hilton
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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