

# The Uniformer

## Message From The FTA Motor Fuel Tax Section Chair Cristy Dixon

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for allowing me the privilege of serving as the FTA Motor Fuels Tax Section National Chair for 2005.

I anticipate the upcoming year being very busy as the FTA Motor Fuels Tax Section continues to work towards achieving uniformity, improving state fuel tax administration, and minimizing fuel tax evasion. The goals and challenges before us **cannot be achieved** without the FTA Motor Fuel Uniformity Project, the continuing support and success of the partnership between industry and government, and communication between governmental agencies.

I will strive to do my best in the following year to follow in the footsteps of my predecessors and to work with the Executive Committee and the Motor Fuel Uniformity Subcommittees to ensure the success of the FTA Motor Fuels Tax Section.

Thank you again for the privilege, honor, and confidence of serving as your FTA Motor Fuels Tax Section National Chair for 2005. I look forward to working with each of you in the coming year. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## Message From The Uniformity Committee Industry Co-Chair Bob Donnellan

As I assume the responsibility of representing the industry I would like to extend a thank you to Bill Gray, the former Uniformity Industry Co-chair, for all of his hard work and dedication to Uniformity. It is my goal to try and live up to the Industry representation that Bill has done over the last several years. I know this will be a difficult task and I will do my best to maintain the high standards that my predecessors have set. At this time I would like to extend a formal invitation to industry to attend the upcoming uniformity meeting. Your participation is wanted and needed. I know that not all of you can attend these meetings, however those of you who can you will be surprised at how rewarding it is to work with a great group of Tax Professionals throughout the country. For those of you who can't attend you can still participate by contacting me. I will present any issues that you may have and will respond to you directly. I look forward in representing you in the coming year.

## Message From The Uniformity Committee State Co-Chair Patricia Platt

2005 has arrived and the Uniformity Committee has many projects planned. The sub-committee chairs for this year are: **Communication and Coordination:** Bob Crawford and

Jan Zahn. **Compliance:** Bob Bray and Sharon Templin. **Electronic Commerce:** Doreen Warren and Kathy Mckee. **Forms:** Herman Wisneski and Vickie Babcock. Thank you for accepting or continuing this role.

We made a lot of progress in 2004 and I look for 2005 to be even better! The work on the Uniformity projects helps keep Motor Fuel Uniformity advancing. I look forward to working with each of you in 2005. It takes all of us working together to accomplish our goals. Thank you and keep up the great work! If you are new comer to the committee welcome! We are glad to have you as a member of the Uniformity Committee.

If anyone has projects you feel would benefit Uniformity or stop evasion, please bring those ideas to Bob or myself and we will see that it is given to the proper sub-committee or committees to work on.

I wish you all great success in 2005!

## Uniformity Committee

The FTA Motor Fuel Tax Section Uniformity Committee met at the Quincy Marriott in Quincy, Massachusetts on October 2, 2004. Uniformity Chair Patricia Platt (KS) called the meeting to order. Fifty-one (51) were in attendance.

## Minutes

The minutes from the June 2004 Uniformity Committee meeting in

Cincinnati, Ohio were approved as written.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

#### **Compliance Subcommittee**

The Compliance Subcommittee Carol Player (South Carolina) reported twenty (20) attended the meeting. The committee presented the final draft of the best practices catalog for approval. The committee also discussed the alarming number of "black fuel" samples being found on road and the installation of fuel storage tanks in truck beds that are disguised as toolboxes. The committee also discussed the upcoming training classes.

#### **Electronic Commerce Subcommittee**

Doreen Warren (Idaho) reported the two sessions and discussed the following:

#### **Technical**

##### **(15 in attendance)**

- ◆ EDI Implementation EDI Guide  
XML state to state schema  
997 Format  
Definition for "Substantially Compliant"
- ◆ Changes to the EDI Implementation Guide were discussed
- ◆ Review States EDI guide  
Minnesota  
Mississippi
- ◆ Promoting Uniformity Participation
- ◆ Reviewed Action Plan

#### **Not Too Technical**

(35 in attendance - this was combined with Forms Management meeting)

- ◆ Reviewed the blenders report
- ◆ Canadian Update
- ◆ Product Reclassification and Roll-up codes
- ◆ EC 2004 Survey
- ◆ Reviewed NC forms for uniform compliant
- ◆ Review of ND electronic filing process
- ◆ Document on Paper returns translated to EDI
- ◆ Multiple report types

#### **Forms Management Subcommittee**

Herman Wisneski (State of Minnesota) reported that this committee met with Electronic Commerce. The subcommittee discussed the following:

- ◆ Uniform blenders report
- ◆ Paper returns translated to EDI
- ◆ Discuss Product Codes differences between FTA and IRS
- ◆ Nebraska request for a product code for Natural Gasoline

#### **Communication and Coordination Subcommittee**

Jan Zahn (ExxonMobil) reported that eleven (11) attended the meeting. The subcommittee discussed the following and the October 2004 Uniformer was passed out. The deadline to submit articles for the next Uniformer is January 1, 2005. (See minutes for the publication)

- ◆ Monitoring the Federal Energy Bill
- ◆ Bio Diesel White Paper and Model Legislation
- ◆ Definitions for the following:
- ◆ Dyed Kerosene
- ◆ Carrier
- ◆ Review of 11-Point Plan and update of brochure
- ◆ Report of accomplishments of the FTA Uniformity Committee

**FHWA Update** No report was given.

#### **Canadian Update**

No report was given.

**IRS Update** No report was given.

#### **Old/New Business**

Robynn conducted a discussion on the by-laws that are being considered for adoption at the Annual Business meeting on Tuesday. Robynn went through the three amendments proposed. Cindy mentioned that all information and minutes would be put out on FTA's website. She also requested that all subcommittees have their minutes from this meeting and agendas for January 2005 be submitted to her no later than November 12. The Uniformity Booklet and EDI Guide have become so large that the Uniformity Booklet, EDI Guide and the ExSTARS EDI Guide have been burned on CD's. A big thank you went out to Christy Dixon (OK) and Stuart Beagles (MT). Robynn presented Doreen Warren with the National Chair's award for her dedication and contributions to the Electronic Commerce Subcommittee and

the Motor Fuel Tax Section Uniformity Committee. Pat Platt mentioned that this was Bill Gray's (Sinclair Oil) last meeting as the Uniformity Committee Industry Co-Chair and that Bob Donnellan with Global Companies has accepted the position. Pat Platt presented each of the sub-committee co-chairs a certificate for the work they have done over the past year.

#### **Upcoming Meetings 2005**

Uniformity Meeting  
January 28-29, 2005  
Savannah, Georgia

Pacific Region Meeting  
April 17-19, 2005  
Seattle, Washington

Northeastern Region Meeting  
May 15-17, 2005  
Saratoga Springs, NY

Uniformity Meeting  
June 10-11, 2005  
Helena, Montana

Southern Region Meeting  
June 19-21, 2005  
Tampa, Florida

Midwestern Region Meeting  
July 18-19, 2005  
Topeka, Kansas

Investigation Course  
August 14-17, 2005  
Columbus, Ohio

Uniformity Meeting  
September 23-24, 2005  
Omaha, Nebraska

Annual Meeting

September 25-28, 2005  
Omaha, Nebraska

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