



Wyoming Fuel Tax News

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Sharon Gostovich Retires
- FTA Transition News
- Wyoming Legislative Update
- 2012 FTA Community Service Plans

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Sharon Gostovich Retires



The Fuel Tax Administration Program lost it's leader and a valuable member of the team this past December when Sharon Gostovich announced her retirement.

Sharon retired from the State of Wyoming on December 31, 2011

following 22.5 years of passionate service in various roles. Her passion and institutional knowledge will be greatly missed. Most recently, Sharon managed the Fuel Tax Administration Program at WYDOT for more than 12 years.

Sharon graduated from the University of Wyoming and earned her CPA shortly thereafter. Sharon began her career with the State of Wyoming at the Department of Health in May of 1989. In August of 1990, she transferred to the Department of Administration and Information, and in August of 1991, she joined the Department of Revenue. Sharon came to the Wyoming Department of Transportation in August of 1998, and she worked in Fuel Tax Administration until her retirement.

During her twelve-year tenure in Fuel Tax, Sharon worked passionately and diligently to ensure that the fuel tax due the State of Wyoming was collected and that it was distributed timely and accurately. Under Sharon's leadership, the Fuel Tax Program became highly effective and well respected. Sharon also left her mark at the national level as she invested a great deal of energy into working with the Federation of Tax Administrators Motor Fuel Division. She was very

involved with the FTA Uniformity Committee which works to develop uniform practices and forms for the reporting of fuel taxes throughout the United States.

Several adjectives that would describe Sharon include: *knowledgeable, committed, passionate, and advocative*. Sharon is committed and passionate about what she believes in, and she is always willing to advocate for those that may not have a voice. While passion can be viewed as aggression by those that disagree with you, she was always willing to do what it took to get the job done timely and accurately.

Over the past three years, the program has been working to become a highly functioning team and has become not only more active as a team but active within the community. This is no doubt an extension of Sharon as she is consistently involved in organizations that work with children or those less fortunate.

Post-retirement, Sharon has several trips planned for 2012, and while she is a voracious reader and Green Bay Packers/football fan, she has said that she will need to work in some capacity. *She was recently spotted at the current session of the Wyoming Legislature*. Sharon and her husband, Mike will now have time to travel together and spend time with their family.

Sharon made a huge impact on Fuel Tax Administration, and we all owe her a debt of gratitude for her leadership and passion.

GOOD LUCK AND HAPPY RETIREMENT, SHARON!

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Hassinger Tapped To Lead FTA



In mid-January, Wayne Hassinger was promoted to the position of Fuel Tax Administration Program Manager. Wayne has served as the FTA Program Supervisor since October 2008, and he and Sharon worked closely over the past three years to build a team-oriented, strategic, and results focused program.

“I am very excited about being selected to lead the FTA program and about having the opportunity to continue building what we’ve been building for the last 3 plus years,” stated Hassinger recently.

Wayne is a graduate of the University of Wyoming with a BS in Human Resource Management with a minor in Political Science. He holds the Senior Profes-

sional in Human Resources (SPHR) designation, and he is a graduate of both the Leadership Cheyenne and the Leadership Wyoming programs.

Wayne’s career has primarily been in the Human Resources field in Cheyenne, with a great deal of exposure to finance in the corporate, not-for-profit and private club sectors. His background includes everything from corporate HR, professional consulting, and not-for-profit & private club senior management to state government HR and Fuel Tax Administration.

Hassinger is hoping for a seamless transition so the FTA team can continue its progress towards achieving the strategic goals it established several years

ago as well as improving the day-to-day operation of the program.

While the first order of business was to fill the supervisor position he recently vacated and prepare for the Wyoming Legislative session, the longer-term priorities for the FTA program include: an in-depth process review with an eye on streamlining and efficiency identification: developing performance measurements; and, a review of Wyoming fuel tax statutes and all related forms. The overall goal of the FTA program for the next 12 months is to operate as a business, and the entire team will be involved in that evolution. More to come in the following months.

Congratulations, Wayne!

Without question there are team building activities that we do that may positively impact the community, and there are community service activities that improve the strength of our team.



FTA Community Service Plans

The FTA Team has decided to become more focused with our community service activities now that we have several years of experience behind us. It was also decided that we should determine early on what projects we would work on for 2012 so we would have plenty of time to prepare for each event. The team reviewed every activity we have done in the past and classified them as either team building activities (activities we do to move our team towards becoming a highly functioning work

team) or community service activities (activities that are volunteer based that are primarily done outside of work). Without question there are team building activities that we do that may positively impact the community, and there are community service activities that improve the strength of our team. This exercise allowed us to be more clear about what we wanted to do and what we could commit to. Additionally, although the team had committed to perform a community service activity

each quarter, we determined that some activities take more time and commitment, so each year we will determine the number of activities based on how much time and preparation they take.

In light of all of this, the FTA Team has committed to working on a Habitat for Humanity House, doing the puzzle fundraiser for the Friday Food Bag again, and potentially doing a large activity for disadvantaged kids during Cheyenne Frontier Days.

Peters Promoted To Fill FTA Supervisor Role



In mid-February, Kimberly Peters was promoted to the position of Fuel Tax Administration Program Supervisor. Kim joined the Fuel Tax Program in October 2003 as a Fuel Tax Examiner, and

during the spring of 2009 she was formerly promoted to the position of Senior Tax Examiner. She served in the role of Senior Tax Examiner until her promotion in February.

“Kim has been an integral part of the FTA leadership team for 3 years, and the natural progression for someone with her talents is for her to take on more of a leadership role,” stated Program Manager, Wayne Hassinger.

In addition to over 8 years of fuel tax experience, Kim’s background includes retail management and Information Technology, with a good amount of exposure to the financial aspects of operating a retail business. She holds the Certified Public Manager (CPM) designation. Additionally, Kim and her husband own and operate a land & livestock business outside of Burns, Wyoming.

“I am very delighted about being selected to help lead the FTA program. The sky is the limit for our program and for our team,” stated Peters when recently asked about her promotion.

Peters brings balance to the FTA Leadership Team as she is very

technically strong and has a great amount of industry experience. She is eager to begin the in-depth process review as she anticipates that there are several opportunities to increase the efficiency of the program while improving the level of service provided to the program’s customers.

Kim believes that as the FTA Team continues to work towards becoming a highly functioning team, the strategic goal of becoming the gold standard for every government agency will be realized. “All of the elements exist for us to become the example for every agency to emulate, and I am excited to be a part of building that,” stated Peters.

Congratulations, Kim!

Jan Hertel Joins The FTA Leadership Team



Early March saw Jan Hertel join the FTA Leadership Team as the newest Senior Tax Examiner. Jan joined the Fuel Tax Program as a Special Classified employee in June 2005, and

became a full-time Fuel Tax Examiner in October 2006.

“I love my job and the people I work with. I enjoy coming to work each day, and I love the challenges of being a Fuel Tax Examiner. I am very excited about being selected to be in a leadership position on this team, and I look forward to the challenges ahead while the program continually evolves to better serve our customers,” stated Hertel following the announcement of her

promotion.

Jan completed two years at Pratt Community College in Pratt, Kansas and continued her studies at Northwest University in Alva, Oklahoma, concentrating on Business Management, Accounting and Economics.

Jan left her position as Field Advisor with the Wheatbelt Girl Scout Council in Hutchinson, Kansas, and moved to Cheyenne in 1988. She held the position of Administrative Assistant for three years when Frontier United Methodist Church was being organized. She then worked in retail at Corral West for three years and left to manage the CFD Old West Museum store during the 100th Anniversary and for

seven years thereafter. She enjoyed short stints of employment with Trilegiant, the Small Business Administration and the Wyoming Legislature before joining the Fuel Tax Team.

The first order of business for Jan will be to start making the transition from Tax Examiner to Senior Tax Examiner while working with Jaron Curyea, the other Senior Tax Examiner, to select the new Fuel Tax Examiner. She will also continue her work on the strategic work teams, and her experience will be tapped as the program moves forward with its in-depth process review.

Congratulations, Jan!

“I love my job and the people I work with.....I look forward to the challenges ahead while the program continually evolves.....”

Wyoming Legislative Update

The 2012 Wyoming Legislative session wrapped-up a day early with law makers closing the session on Thursday, March 8th. As it was a budget session, bills other than budget bills required a two-thirds vote to be introduced.

At the start of the legislative session on Feb. 13, a total of 244 bills were numbered for introduction. The Wyoming Legislature passed a total of 114 bills. The Senate introduced 97 pieces of legislation and 66 of those bills passed in both the House and Senate. The House introduced 82 bills with 48 of those garnering the approval of both bodies. Legislation that passed both houses has either been signed or is waiting to be signed or vetoed by Governor Matt Mead.

Introduced legislation that was directly related to Fuel Tax Administration included Senate File

08 and Senate File 09.

Senate File 08 related to taxation and proposed repealing the gasoline tax credit provided to producers of ethanol effective January 1, 2013. The bill was introduced in the Senate, referred to the Senate's Transportation Committee where it was recommended *Do Pass* and sent back to the Senate where it passed the full Senate and sent to the House of Representatives. Upon introduction in the House, the bill was referred to the House's Agriculture Committee where amendments were adopted and the committee recommended *Amend and Do Pass*. On the floor of the House a number of amendments were proposed, and after several amendments were passed the legislation passed the full House and was sent to the Senate for concurrence. The Senate did not concur and the bill was sent to

a Joint Conference Committee and SEA No. 0061 was signed by the Senate President and Speaker of the House on March 8, 2012. SEA No. 0061 repeals the gasoline tax credit provided to producers of ethanol effective July 1, 2015.

Senate File 09 related to allocating sales tax revenues from diesel fuel to the highway fund and specified use of the revenues. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Senate's Transportation Committee where it was recommended *Amend and Do Pass* and sent back to the Senate. The Senate re-referred the bill to the Senate's Appropriations Committee where it was recommended *Amend and Do Pass* and sent back to the Senate and placed on General File. Senate File 09 was not considered during Committee of the Whole and died in the Senate.



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