Volume 08 Issue 11



THE IFTA NEWS

International Fuel
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TAX RATE CHANGES

Listed below are the Tax Rate **Changes** for **4thQuarter 2008**. Only those jurisdictions which have changes are listed, along with the fuel type that has changed. The deadline for changes is December 4 at midnight. (All rates are shown in US currency unless otherwise noted.)

		Gas	Diesel	Gasohol	Prop	LNG	CNG	Ethanol	Methanol	E85	M85	A55	BioD
	MA				.3360	.3360	.3360						
	MN	.2550	.2550	.2550	.1913	.1530	.2550	.2550	.2550	.1811	.1439	.2550	.2550
	WA **												

Tidbits from the Managers'/Law Enforcment Seminar

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** #12 WASHINGTON— The state of Washington has entered into fuel tax agreements with several Washington Tribes regarding the taxation of motor vehicle fuel and special fuel sold at tribal fuel stations located on reservations or trust lands within Washington. Please see the "Exemptions" section for Washington located on the IFTA, Inc. website for further information.

2008 Short Track Ballot Voting Deadline

The voting period for the Short Track Final Ballot Proposal ends on: December 10, 2008.

The IFTA, Inc. Staff

Lonette Turner Richard Beckner Tom King Executive Director Program Compliance Administrator Webmaster

Jason DeGraf Debora Meise Tammy Trinker Jessica Eubanks
Information Systems Program Director Events Coordinator Executive Assistant

To contact the IFTA, Inc. staff, please visit our website and click on "staff" at the bottom of the home page.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD



The IFTA, Inc. Board of Trustees (Board) held its Fourth Quarter 2008 Board Meeting on October 22 - 23. The meeting was held at the IFTA, Inc. offices in Chandler, Arizona. Seven Board members were present. Mr. Gary Bennion (Con-Way Incorporated), IFTA Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) Chair was also present. Mr. Andrew Foster (NB) was unable to attend.

In reviewing the minutes for Board related activities during the third quarter, the Board approved the Board Actions by Email as amended and the minutes of the March, June, and August teleconferences as written. The Board then reviewed the Action Items from the 2Q08 Board Meeting as well as the Outstanding Action Items through the 2Q08. Additionally, the Board reviewed the cumulative list of completed Action Items. This list identified 120 items that the Board has worked on since 2Q06.

Ms. Lonette Turner, IFTA, Inc. Executive Director, reported that IFTA, Inc. continues to work with NLETS to provide revoked data at the roadside. Forty-two (42) jurisdictions responded to a survey asking if they would like their data to be part of the NLETS revoked license file. Thirty-six (36) jurisdictions responded favorably. The survey responses were viewed as a positive step towards providing this data to roadside enforcement. IFTA, Inc. will begin distributing communications to the law enforcement personnel identified on the Jurisdiction Communication Lists. These communications will state that the revoked license data is available at the roadside and explain the measures and steps necessary to obtain and view this information.

Mr. Scott Greenawalt (OK), Board Liaison to the Clearinghouse Advisory Committee (CAC) reported that the funds netting calendar has been revised following the July 2008 Annual IFTA Business Meeting. The CAC continues to draft rules and procedures for the clearinghouse funds netting and provided the draft document for the Board's review. Additionally, the CAC will also draft revised rules and procedures. The Board discussed what to do if a jurisdiction did not adhere to the rules or follow the procedures at length. It was concluded that the integrity of the clearinghouse must be maintained and that all clearinghouse participants would be required to adhere to the rules and procedures set forth. The Board will contact their jurisdictions advising them of the consequences of not complying with the rules and procedures once finalized and made available.

IFTA, Inc. Webmaster, Mr. Tom King, demonstrated the modifications to the IFTA, Inc. website. The exemption database was reviewed. Once released, members will have the ability to preview the exemptions by jurisdiction, vehicle, fuel, or distance. It was recommended that the database incorporate a link back to the Jurisdiction Communication List and provide a point of contact should the viewing member have specific questions regarding a jurisdiction's listed exemptions. The database will also display only those jurisdictions indicating an exemption.

Other initiatives taken by IFTA, Inc. to improve the website include the IFTA Focus, a quarterly newsletter, and the continuation of minutes from IFTA committee teleconferences posted to the corresponding committee web pages. Mr. King continues to work on the navigation of the website and will work on posting all surveys previously conducted so that membership can review the results. It was also recommended that IFTA, Inc. draft a navigational training manual for the IFTA Commissioners so that they might become more familiar with all that is available at their disposal on the website.

Mrs. Tammy Trinker, IFTA, Inc. Events Coordinator, reviewed the 2008 IFTA program attendance. The 2009 IFTA / IRP Audit Workshop registration has been posted on the IFTA, Inc. website. The 2009 IFTA Attorneys' Section Meeting will be at the Crowne Plaza San Marcos in Chandler, AZ, and is being held in conjunction with the 2Q09 Board Meeting in April. A hotel contract has been signed with the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center in North Carolina for the 2009 IFTA Managers' and Law Enforcement Seminar. The dates of this seminar are September 9 - 11.

In reviewing the 2010 programs, proposals have been distributed for the IFTA / IRP Audit Workshop and negotiations have begun for the IFTA Managers' and Law Enforcement Seminar as well as the quarterly Board

Meetings. Discussions are also underway for the Annual IFTA Business Meeting to be held in the Canadian region. The Board has asked IFTA, Inc. to begin the process of securing a host jurisdiction and hotel location for the 2011 Annual IFTA Business Meeting as well.

During the Audit Committee report, the Board approved the appointment of Ms. Dawn Lietz (NV) as Vice Chair and Mr. Tony Dewell (BC) as a committee representative. The committee continues to work on the presentations for the January 2009 IFTA / IRP Audit Workshop. Taping of the workshop was also briefly discussed. The Board favored the IFTA Audit Committees position of pursuing the recording of the Auditor 101 for 2010 and will discuss this issue, along with other workshop related concerns, with the IRP, Inc. Board of Directors during the 1Q09 Board Meeting.

IFTA, Inc. Program Director, Mrs. Debora Meise, informed the Board that two of the twelve Southeastern reviews remain for 2008. In 2009, sixteen jurisdictions will be reviewed from the Northeast region. Due to travel restrictions facing most member jurisdictions, the pool of volunteers is very small in comparison to prior review years. Mrs. Meise informed the Board that changes are going to be initiated beginning with the 2009 reviews in order to allay some of the concern and costs incurred. On-site reviews will be reduced from three to two days and require much more prep work in advance to the on-site review to better streamline the process. Additionally, membership will be reminded of IFTA Procedures Manual, Section P1200 requiring their participation in the program compliance review process to maintain compliance. As in the past, IFTA, Inc. will continue to reimburse review team members for their travel and time expenses.

Committee Board Liaison, Ms. Rena Hussey (VA), provided the Program Compliance Review Committee (PCRC) report. The committee has been holding monthly teleconferences in preparation of the dispute resolution hearing. The combined IFTA and IRP reviews were discussed. The committee recommends that the Board consider changing from a four year review to a five year review period in cooperation with IRP's review schedule. This request was made in recognition of the changes IRP is initializing such as switching to regional reviews vs. implementation date reviews. IRP's changes are to better accommodate the future possibilities of continuing with the combined IFTA and IRP reviews.

Following a survey conducted on membership, the responses showed that 33 of the 38 responding were in support of a change to the IFTA Clearinghouse Access Agreement allowing the clearinghouse to be used as a tool during the program compliance reviews. Four jurisdictions opposed this concept. Based on the overwhelming support, the committee is asking that the Access Agreement be revised to allow the clearinghouse be a data source for the program compliance reviews as outlined by the PCR Guide.

The committee then detailed their concerns regarding the IFTA, Inc. clearinghouse funds netting project. Primarily, their concerns focused on controls for the funds netting such as bonding, reconciliation, and audit procedures of the funds and accounts. Another concern outlined by the committee was the transmittal data being reflective of the necessary detail to support funds netting. In reviewing the ballot language recommended by the PCRC for ballot 1-2008, the Board supported the language revisions.

During discussion of the combined IFTA and IRP reviews, the Board decided to review more closely the IFTA and IRP review schedules during the Strategic Planning Session and the January 2009 Board Meeting being held in conjunction with the IRP, Inc. Board of Directors.

Mr. Bob Turner (MT), Board Liaison, provided the Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) report. A dispute was held the day prior to the 4Q08 Board Meeting at the Mission Palms in Tempe, AZ. The dispute was NV vs. PA. Following the conclusion of the hearing, the DRC went into deliberations. The committee has approximately forty-five (45) days to render their decision. Should the decision be disputed, it was explained that Board members would have to consider the appeal request. Both Board members Ms. Patricia Platt (KS), former DRC member, and Mr. Edgar Roberts (NV) would recuse themselves from any further discussions surrounding the dispute based on a conflict of interest.

Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) Chair, Mr. Bennion, informed the Board that his term would expire January 2009. At that time, the committee Vice Chair, Mr. Mahlon Gragen (ATC Leasing) would assume the Chair position. Following the end of his term, Mr. Bennion anticipates to remain as an active committee member for a limited time. The IAC continues to work with the Audit Committee in preparing for the 2009 IFTA / IRP Audit Workshop.

Mr. Greenawalt, Board Liaison to the Agreement Procedures (APC), presented this report. The Best Practices Guide was amended by IFTA, Inc. and approved by the Board. Additionally, the Board approved the committee nominations of Ms. Trina Kluever Pauli (WI) and Ms. Deborah Polizi (OK). The committee continues to have a vacancy in the Northeast region.

The Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) report was presented by Mr. Fitzgerald, committee Board Liaison. The federal grant previously submitted by North Carolina on behalf of the law enforcement committee had been rejected. Despite the failed grant, the committee continues to concentrate on means to boost awareness regarding law enforcement of the IFTA. The committee is researching several means of education and training. Some of the projects being considered include an IFTA Annual Fuel Check, a one-day blitz to check for dyed fuel and IFTA compliance, and an IFTA 101 in-service training. The LEC has also confirmed that the law enforcement personnel identified on the Jurisdiction Communication Lists are all current.

A brochure for roadside use has also been drafted by the committee. The brochure, A Quick Reference for Roadside Enforcement of IFTA Requirements, reviews some basic IFTA facts such as what IFTA is and the importance of enforcement of IFTA. Additionally, the brochure poses and answers key questions such as a qualified motor vehicle, inspections and stops, strengthening IFTA in a jurisdiction, and a brief overview of the LEC charges.

The Board reviewed and approved, with grammatical amendments, the Best Practices Guide of the LEC. In reviewing the Chair's term, the Board also approved an extension of Ms. Jennifer Brown's (AZ) term upon her agreement to continue serving as Chair following her upcoming term roll off.

Committee vacancies were then reviewed for the Attorneys' Section Steering Committee (ASSC). The Board approved the nominations of Ms. Ella Marie Hess (VA) and Mr. Brock Cole (VA). Additionally, the Board approved the nominations of Mr. Jack Frehafer (PA) and Ms. Janice Davidson (NC) as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, of the ASSC.

Reporting on the activities of the Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC), Mr. Scott Bryer (NH), Board Liaison, informed the Board that the committee is focusing on the NLETS project. The ITAC is also reviewing the FTA uniformity project in consideration to assimilate this type of project for IFTA. Jurisdictional representatives are also being sought for committee participation. Volunteers do not need to have technological prowess to participate on the ITAC.

Referencing NAFTA, Ms. Turner informed the Board that it was presumed the demonstration project had been extended for another two years, effective August 2008. The original project was to expire in September 2008 but has since been extended to September 2010.

In reviewing the 2008 Annual IFTA Business Meeting, the Board reviewed the preliminary minutes and provided minor amendments. It was noted that IRP, Inc. will be combining their clearinghouse fees with their membership fees effective October 2008. IFTA, Inc.'s membership dues will be combined with the IFTA, Inc. clearinghouse fees beginning July 2009, as approved by membership.

The 2010 IFTA decal specifications were reviewed. The Board approved an amended draft of the decal specifications for 2010. The decal color for 2010 will be blue, Pantone ® 299C.

Discussion of the combined meeting of the IFTA, Inc. Board of Trustees and the IRP, Inc. Board of Directors was then discussed. The Board considered several agenda topics for discussion during this special meeting in January 2009. A letter will be drafted by the IFTA, Inc. Board and presented to the President of the IRP, Inc. Board. This correspondence will outline the agenda topics being requested by the IFTA, Inc. Board and ask for agenda topics requested by the IRP, Inc. Board prior to the actual meeting.

The Board reviewed the six 2008 IFTA ballot proposals. There are four full track and two short track ballot proposals. Reviewing ballot 1-2008, sponsored by the Board, the comments indicated support from a majority of the commenting jurisdictions. The Board tasked the CAC with contacting Idaho in regards to their comments. The sponsors of the short track ballot proposals, 6-2008 and 8-2008, have agreed to delay the voting until the full track ballots were ready for release.

Mr. Gary Frohlick (SK) had been asked to lead a committee tasked to identify area's of training required for Committee Chairs. As a result of his efforts, a report was provided to the Board. This report outlined four areas of training for consideration. During discussions, the Board discussed having Committee Chairs meet with the Board, in person, once a year to touch base and present committee reports and issues directly to the Board. It was opined that the first meeting should be during a Board Meeting. Currently, the Board is considering this first meeting during the October 2009 Board Meeting.

Service Measures were also reviewed. Meeting attendance, clearinghouse service measures, committee travel, ballot commenting and voting, and the number of non-compliance issues cited were all briefly discussed. IFTA, Inc. will continue tracking these service measures for the Board.

The IFTA, Inc. Strategic Plan was reviewed. The Board extended the DRC time frame for submitting a New Member's Guide due to the current dispute they are engaged in. It is anticipated that the Board will charge the committee with this task at the April 2009 Board Meeting. The Board decided to revisit the outstanding issues during the IFTA, Inc. Strategic Planning Session following the conclusion of the Board Meeting. Several additional items were recommended by the Board for addressing during the planning session.

Ms. Turner provided the IFTA, Inc. financial update. IFTA, Inc. remains financial sound and stable, despite the recent investment hits due to the current economy. Ms. Turner remains in contact with the IFTA, Inc. Financial Advisor who continues to track the investments of the organization. An internal controls audit was recently conducted on IFTA, Inc. No major findings were discovered during the course of this audit. The confidential reports were provided to the Board members in attendance.

Following the conclusion of the business discussions, the Board adjourned the Fourth Quarter 2008 IFTA, Inc. Board of Trustees Meeting. Their next meeting will be January 22 - 23, 2009, in Chandler, AZ. During this meeting, the IFTA Board will meet with the IRP Board for a special session to discuss similar interests to the organizations.





Dispute Update

The November dispute docket has been posted to the IFTA, Inc. website.



Issuing Citations.....by Debora Meise

Upcoming Program Compliance Reviews



On December 2-4, 2008 the "VIRGINIA" Review will take place.

A special recognition and "THANKS" to those participating as team members :

Leri McClure (MI) Mary Deveny (NE)



What Tidbit I learned from the Managers' and Law Enforcement Seminar

Here is a comment from an attendee at the 2008 Managers' & Law Enforcement Seminar held in September in Mesa AZ:

"First off let me say that I love this seminar. The attendees are friendly and helpful and the IFTA inc. staff and the APC and LEC members have everything so organized that the meetings flow and never drag. This year was my fourth year attending this meeting. The topics are always fresh and timely.

What I like best though is the interaction with the other jurisdictions and law enforcement. I am able to meet them in casual settings and get to know them. This interaction makes it so much easier so that when I have a question or an issue in my jurisdiction I do not hesitate to call on them for help.

Each workshop we have breakout sessions that allow us to meet with and discuss with jurisdictions in our region all the issues that have come up during the year. The sessions allow us to work together to maybe find the solutions to those issues if it is affecting more than one jurisdiction. Or if the issue is currently unique to your jurisdiction you will probably meet up with someone who has already come up against that problem and they can help.

I always come away from this workshop with new ideas on how to improve forms, or ways to track fuel evaders, or even new strange places carriers have for placing IFTA decals on their vehicles.

So what tidbit did I learn this year? As you know every year most of the jurisdictions send out sample IFTA decals for the next year to the other jurisdictions. Did you know we do not have to do that? All you have to do is send one set of the IFTA decal sample to the IFTA staff and they will post it out on the IFTA website for everyone to see. By doing this it will also help law enforcement since they can see your IFTA decal sample there too."

Please join us at the 2009 Managers & Law Enforcement Seminar. Mark your calendars now for September 9th through the 11th 2009 in Durham, North Carolina. You will be glad you did.

Watch **THE IFTA NEWS** for future updates & information about the 2009 Seminar.

International Fuel Tax Association, Inc. Website updates.....by Tom King

Voting Booth

The voting booth is now open for Commissioners to vote on Short Track #2, the voting deadline is **December 10, 2008.**

Voting on the Full Track Ballots will start soon!

2009 Grace Period Memo

2009 Grace Period Memo is now available on the IFTA, Inc. homepage.

Meeting Minutes

The second and third quarter Meeting Minutes for the Board of Trustees are now online for viewing.

Exemption Database

I'm staying pretty busy behind the scenes upgrading the Exemption Database. In the future it will have a spreadsheet layout and be easier to navigate like the Annual Report Spreadsheets. Stay tuned for more news on this in the future

Clearinghouse Update

jdegraf@iftach.org

IFTA and NLETS

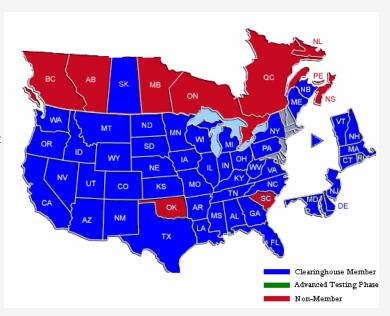
Hopefully, by the time you read this, NLETS will have some specifications for accessing Revoked Carrier Data through NLETS. In order for law enforcement to access the revoked carrier data your jurisdiction will have to do some programming with your current NLETS setup in order for this data to be retrieved by law enforcement. I hope you can put this data to good use to further benefit the IFTA Community.

37 jurisdictions did agree to share their data through NLETS. 6 jurisdictions did not agree to share their data.

Revoked Carrier data will still be available to any and all users through the typical Clearinghouse access. So don't let the 6 "no's" sway you from this relevant data. NLETS, the Demographic database, and our Weekly Revoked file listing should give you plenty of options for finding revoked carriers roadside; not to mention new IFTA applicants should always be checked against the Clearinghouse for any outstanding revoked licenses in other jurisdictions.

FUNDS NETTING

We completed yet another test of funds netting. This time SK and MS had to send money to the funds netting account. Previously, it was just MS. Needless to say, everything ran smoothly and money was electronically exchanged. It has yet to be determined if testing will continue. The next Clearinghouse meeting is scheduled for Nov. 20th, 2008.





2009

IFTA/IRP Audit Workshop January 4-7, 2009 Tempe, Arizona

AAMVA Board of Directors January 9-10, 2009 Chandler, Arizona

IFTA, Inc. Board Meeting January 22-23, 2009 Chandler, Arizona

IRP, Inc. Board Meeting January 22-23, 2009 Chandler, Arizona

IRP Managers/Supervisors Workshop March 28-30, 2009 St. Louis, Missouri

> IFTA, Inc. Board Meeting April 23-24, 2009 Chandler, Arizona

IFTA Attorneys' Section Meeting April 24-25, 2009 Chandler, Arizona

IRP, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting May 7-8, 2009 Indianapolis, Indiana AAMVA Region II Conference June 7-11, 2009 Little Rock, Arkansas

IFTA Annual Business Meeting
July 15-16, 2009 *
Manchester, New Hampshire

AAMVA Region I Conference July 16-21, 2009 Boston, Massachusetts

AAMVA Annual Int'l Conference August 23-26, 2009 San Diego, California

IFTA Managers'/Law Enforcement Seminar September 9-11, 2009 Durham, North Carolina

> IRP Annual Meeting September 10-14, 2009 Tucson, Arizona

IFTA, Inc. Board Meeting October 22-23, 2009 Chandler, Arizona

2010

IFTA Managers'/Law Enforcement Seminar September 22-24, 2010 Mesa, Arizona

* Note Date Change

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www.iftach.org