

# International Fuel Tax Association, Inc.

January 2015  
Volume 15, Issue 1

## THE IFTA NEWS

912 W. Chandler Blvd., #B-7  
Chandler, AZ 85225-4910  
480.839.IFTA (4382)  
[www.iftach.org](http://www.iftach.org)

### TAX RATES

The 4Q14 tax rate matrix has been finalized and can be found on the IFTA, Inc. website. Jurisdictions now have until **March 1 (Sunday)** to verify or amend their tax rate data for the **1Q15** matrix. Currently five new tax rates have been reported to IFTA, Inc. To view current tax rate changes please visit:

<http://www.iftach.org/taxchangeq.php>

**REMINDER!!** Please keep your Tax Rate Contacts updated in your IFTA, Inc. profile on [www.iftach.org](http://www.iftach.org) to prevent emails being returned with a delivery failure notice. **THIS QUARTER WE HAD RETURNED EMAILS FROM THE FOLLOWING JURISDICTIONS: AL AZ FL IA IL MA ME NH RI SK. Please update!!**

### THE IFTA, INC. STAFF

Lonette L. Turner, CEO

Debora K. Meise, Senior Director

Jason DeGraf, Information Services Director

Amanda McNally Koeller, Comptroller

Tammy Trinker, Office and Events Administrator

Tom King, Webmaster

Richard O. Beckner, Program Compliance Administrator

Patricia Platt, Program Compliance Administrator

### CHANGES AT IFTA, INC.

By Lonette Turner

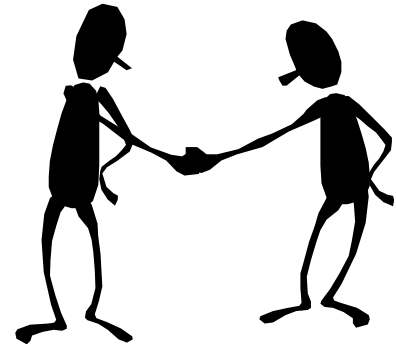
I am very pleased to announce that effective January 1, 2015, Amanda Koeller is working for us as a full-time employee. Her title has changed to Comptroller. As part of our succession planning, Amanda will be assuming all financial duties in addition to the funds netting process and daily accounting responsibilities. Amanda, under my supervision, will be developing the proposed IFTA, Inc. budget for 2015. I will continue to develop potential partnerships with new vendors in an attempt to reduce costs. Amanda will estimate costs for the remainder of this year, prepare the budget for Board review and approval, distribute the approved budget to our membership, and make the financial presentation at the Annual Business meeting. Amanda will play a key role in our ongoing Strategic Planning to ensure we remain financially stable. Please join me in congratulating Amanda!

On February 28, 2015, Richard Beckner is retiring. Dick has done a terrific job for us, and we are going to miss him. Dick we wish you the very best as you retire. We wish you wonderful days of golfing and travel. We hope that retirement is all you are hoping it will be and more. We expect to see you and your lovely wife often here in Arizona. We're not going to say goodbye. We'll see you later!

**CONGRATULATIONS DICK!**



## IFTA Comings and Goings



**Coming:**

*Kentucky*

*Assistant IFTA Commissioner:*

*Mary A. Morris-Cook*

*Phone: 502-564-9900 X 4122*

*Email: [mary.morris@ky.gov](mailto:mary.morris@ky.gov)*

*Texas*

*IFTA Commissioner:*

*Glenn Hegar*

*Phone: 512-463-4444*

*Email: [barbara.gluck@cpa.texas.gov](mailto:barbara.gluck@cpa.texas.gov)*

*Assistant IFTA Commissioner:*

*Mike Reissig*

*Phone: 512- 463-4260*

*Email: [barbara.gluck@cpa.texas.gov](mailto:barbara.gluck@cpa.texas.gov)*

The following jurisdictions have updated the Jurisdiction Communication List (JCL) in some manner since *December 15, 2014*. Please visit their JCL on the secure website to ensure that you are working with the most current information for these jurisdictions:

**Arizona**

**California**

**Colorado**

**Kentucky**

**Maine**

**New York**

**Pennsylvania**

**Rhode Island**

**Texas**

# Upcoming Compliance Reviews



JURISDICTION	TEAM MEMBERS
<b>Illinois</b> January 12-16, 2015	Karen Smith (IA) Michelle Schober (NV)
<b>Indiana</b> January 26-30, 2015	Melvina Allen (NC) Richard LaRose (CT)

## Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship Opportunities are now available for the 2015 calendar year. This opportunity affords your company the chance to intermix with our members and display your company's product. If you are a service provider to our member jurisdictions, or are a new company looking for a way to meet, greet, and interact with future clientele, we invite you to sponsor a Networking Event at our two (2) upcoming meetings. As always, we thank you for your continued support and look forward to your sponsorship. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Tammy Trinker, our Office and Events Administrator, at [tdtrinker@iftach.org](mailto:tdtrinker@iftach.org) or by calling her at (480) 839-4382 ext. 1.

# ***Upcoming IFTA Meetings***

**The IFTA, Inc. Board of Trustees** will hold their 1Q15 Board meeting at the IFTA, Inc. offices in Chandler, AZ on February 3-4.

**The IFTA and IRP Audit Workshop** will be held in San Antonio at the Menger hotel February 24 – 26, 2015. Registration and workshop details are open and available on the IFTA, Inc. website. Online registration will be open until February 4th.

Keep checking the IFTA, Inc. website for these and other related events of importance that might impact your jurisdiction. If you are aware of any other related functions for 2015 please feel free to forward that information to Mrs. Tammy Trinker at [tdtrinker@iftach.org](mailto:tdtrinker@iftach.org) for posting to the calendar.

## **2015 Ballot Deadline**

**April 10, 2015**



The IFTA and IRP Audit Committees will be hosting an **Auditor 101** Webinar on **Thursday January 22, 2015**. More information will be send out very soon so watch THE IFTA NEWS, the IRP Newsline, and your email for further announcements!

# NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

## The Inside Scoop From Your IFTA Neighbor...

### ONTARIO

It all began 33 years ago in January with three jurisdictions and a vision. But before it became a reality it was nothing more than an experiment. In 1982 representatives of the States of Arizona, Iowa and Washington expanded discussions of uniformity for motor carrier fuel use tax reporting to an agreement known as The International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA). From a humble experimental beginning the IFTA grew into the successful program that we all follow and benefit from today. Through this forum and series of interviews it is my goal to provide an opportunity where we can all get to know each other on another level both professionally and personally. I hope that you will join me as we strive to get a closer look at those implementing, working and improving the IFTA as a whole.

Our first interview takes us across the borders, out of the country, and into a beautiful province in Canada: Ontario.

*WHEREAS, the International Fuel Tax Agreement was formed to provide a uniform system for the licensing and payment of fuel taxes by interjurisdictional motor carriers; and... on behalf of the Province of Ontario does hereby ratify the Agreement.*

That was the beginning of Ontario's official start in the IFTA which was implemented January 1, 1997. Ontario was the tenth Canadian Province to join the IFTA and brought membership to a total of 58 members. Over the course of the years Ontario remained active in the IFTA and keeps in contact with its fellow jurisdictions. Ontario also meets monthly with its Canadian delegates by conference call to keep up to date with occurrences and questions affecting their IFTA program.

Ontario is a strong supporter of the IFTA; they have had much representation on the various committees, attended multiple meetings and workshops, and have sat on the IFTA, Inc. Board of Trustees. Our Board President, Mr. Ronald Hester, is employed by the Ontario Ministry of Finance. I had the distinct pleasure of speaking with Mr. Hester and this is what he had to share with me.

Ron Hester worked for the Ontario Ministry of Finance for sixteen years prior to his first appointment to the Agreement Procedures Committee (APC). Mr. Hester served on this committee from January 2005 to September 2009 and became Vice Chair in September 2007. When I asked about his time on the APC, Mr. Hester had the following to say:

"We had a great team on the committee and got to know each other through our many conference calls and coming together at the IFTA Managers' and Law Enforcement Workshop. Not only did I learn a lot

about IFTA, but working on the APC enabled me to enhance my skills, all the while developing some great friendships. I believe the experience you get from serving on an IFTA committee is in-valuable and I wouldn't trade the experience."

Reflecting back to his earliest memories of the IFTA, Mr. Hester recounted when Ontario was working towards becoming a member. He went on to say that when they were training on the IFTA program, as well as on a new mainframe IFTA system, one of his earliest impressions was that it would be a lot of work processing the returns because their clients would be reporting for all their travel. "The IFTA concept was a totally new one for us in Ontario. It's amazing how far we have come since those initial days in IFTA and how much we have learned and hopefully grown since."

We then began to talk about his term on the IFTA, Inc. Board of Trustees. When I asked if he had ever envisioned himself as the President, Ron smiled and laughed. He had thought of serving on the Board and felt that it would be a great opportunity. Ron was thrilled and honored when his name was submitted and he was then elected to serve on the Board. "I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of many great Board Presidents and feel it is a great responsibility which I take very seriously."

Taking this opportunity I asked Mr. Hester that, if he had just one message to share with the membership, what would that message be? What follows is his heartfelt response.

"I believe that IFTA is a real success story, a model to be proud of and one that other organizations can aspire to. The success of IFTA is due, to a large extent, to the cooperation and working relationships that exist between jurisdictions as well as between jurisdictions and industry. I encourage jurisdictions to continually stay involved with IFTA by participating in the various committees, working groups and the Board; to send representatives to each of the various workshops held during the year as well as the Annual IFTA Business Meeting; and to comment and vote on the various ballot proposals throughout the year. So it's really all about continuous participation and involvement in IFTA in order to impact positive change for the betterment of all our jurisdictions in the area of Fuel Tax administration."

When I asked about the IFTA program in Ontario, Mr. Hester smiled and thought about all those within the Ministry of Finance that help to make it the success it is today. "This is due to the great team of folks that we have working on the program at various levels and functions. We have very dedicated folks here that provide excellent customer service from the registration and renewal process through return processing, tax advisory services, to audit and inspection activities." Mr. Hester went on to acknowledge the information sharing that Ontario ensures across the province. "This information sharing includes regular updates from any of us that attend various IFTA meetings so that all of our folks are up to date with the latest IFTA happenings." This sharing of information is a means to guarantee all departments and personnel are kept up to date on IFTA related activities. Ontario continues to look at what the most efficient model might be to effectively deliver their services related to the IFTA program to their clientele. Ontario is also reviewing a succession plan in order to maintain the historical and ongoing working knowledge of the IFTA program in its province. Mr. Hester feels proud to work with such a great team and be involved in the great program known as IFTA.

I had the chance to inquire as to what Ron felt was one of IFTA's finest qualities. He commented on the cooperation and trust that exists between jurisdictions as well as jurisdiction to industry. While the IFTA remains one of the soundest models currently being followed, Mr. Hester felt that the community as a whole could rise to any challenge if we remain true to the core mission and vision as well as continuing to work together as partners, jurisdictions with industry.

Ron Hester is a Tax Administration Manager and has worked with the Ontario Ministry of Finance for over twenty-five years. Commenting on those he works with he exclaimed that they are a “great team of folks here.” Ron works on many commodity taxes, including IFTA, of which he has a real passion for. Around the work place his fellow team members even call him Mr. IFTA. He shares his life with his wife of fourteen years, and his children, Lucas, who is ten, and twelve year old Alyssa. “Several months a year, you’ll find my wife and I busy shaping and re-shaping our ever changing perennial gardens which we find very peaceful and rewarding after a long day at work.

“While we enjoy gardening, we are full-fledge Christmas fanatics and love the whole season. We begin with Christmas music at the end of the summer season, while decorating for Christmas begins immediately following the Thanksgiving weekend – Canadian Thanksgiving that is – yes you heard correctly! We also collect, set-up and display lighted Christmas villages throughout our home and over the past few years we have opened our home as part of a Christmas house tour in support of a local charity. Some may call us ‘crazy’, but we find it all very relaxing and enjoyable. Our home is complete with everything except real snow on the floors (that we leave for outside).”

In concluding our interview, I asked Ron if he felt the IFTA program was working or if there might be something he would look to change. His response is shown below.

“I do feel the IFTA program is very beneficial. I think of what existed prior to IFTA in all of our jurisdictions, and I believe we have come a long way and wouldn’t want to return to that prior model. We have developed a model organization that suits both, jurisdictions and industry. What would I change about the IFTA program? Hard to pinpoint exactly, but I believe we will continue to strengthen the IFTA through great insight and suggestions from us as members as we move forward together.”

With his Board of Trustees hat in place, Ron went on to say that “the Board is currently working on revising the IFTA, Inc. Strategic Plan and we are hoping that we will be able to pursue opportunities to enhance the IFTA program that will further benefit all of us as members. I would encourage everyone to send any suggestions in this area to myself or to your Board liaison.”

I really enjoyed my conversation with our Board President, Mr. Ron Hester. He was forthcoming and answered even more questions and points than I was able to include in this interview. Both Ron and I hope that we can reach out to more members and offer you their thoughts and insights to the IFTA within their jurisdiction as well as the IFTA model as a whole and how it affects each one of us. For now I would like to acknowledge and thank Ron for his cooperation and patience in collecting the information for this article.

Be certain to watch for when I reach out to you! Who knows... your interview could be the next article everyone can enjoy! This is your correspondent, Mrs. Trinker, signing off.

# IFTA / IRP ANNUAL AUDIT WORKSHOP

*IFTA, Inc. and IRP, Inc. want to know “What’s in Your Audit” and extend an invitation to attend this upcoming workshop in*

## San Antonio, Texas



HISTORIC HOTELS  
of AMERICA  
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

204 Alamo Plaza  
(210) 223-4361

<http://www.mengerhotel.com/>

Direct Booking Link: <https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=1068687&hotelID=75799>

Group Code: **IFTA2015**

Registration Deadline **February 4, 2015**

On-site Check-In February 23 (Monday)  
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

### Registration Fees:

Non-Voting Member \$305.00

Industry and General Public \$355.00

Exhibitor (Product Display) \$700.00

Sponsorship Contact IFTA, Inc.

### Hotel Fees:

Room Rate **ALL SOLD OUT\***

*\*IFTA, Inc. is working with the host hotel to find alternate, nearby accommodations that will accept the per diem rate. Keep your eye on the IFTA, Inc. website for further announcements and updates.*

Tax 16.75%

Transportation \$19 one way or \$34 round trip

*Go Airport Shuttle with departures every 15 minutes from 7:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. daily  
Access is outside baggage claim from San Antonio International Airport (SAT)  
Visit <https://citytoursinc.com/reservations> or purchase tickets outside Baggage Claim*



## IFTA, INC. WEBSITE

By: Tom King, webmaster ([tking@iftach.org](mailto:tking@iftach.org))

### Reports Ready for Data Entry

The Annual, Audit, General and Biodiesel Information reports are ready for jurisdictions to enter their data. The Annual Report is blank but the other databases rolled over data from the previous year so it's easy to update and edit. The Exemption Database is also ready for this year's updates.

### Voting Booth

The Voting Booth for the two remaining Full Track Ballot Proposals are online for IFTA Commissioners to vote on. The deadline for voting is **March 12, 2015**.

## IFTA, INC. CLEARINGHOUSE UPDATE

By: Jason DeGraf, Information Services Director ([jdegraf@iftach.org](mailto:jdegraf@iftach.org))

### SAFER UPDATE

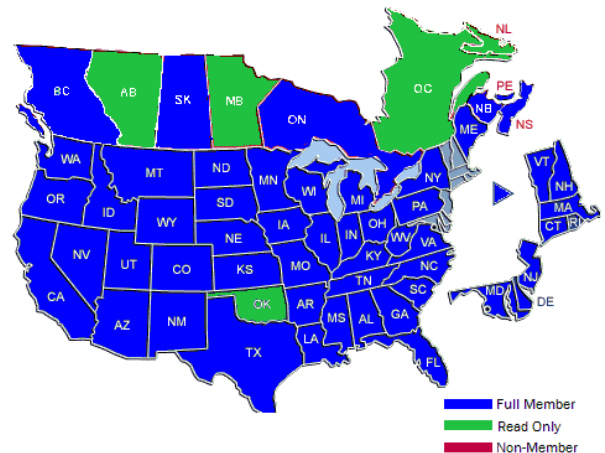
SAFER is now ready to accept Demographic Clearinghouse data. We have lined up Nevada as one of our first jurisdictions to send data for. We will be contacting jurisdictions who have expressed previous interest in this, but if you would like us to do this for your jurisdiction, please contact IFTA, Inc.

### NEW CLEARINGHOUSE MEMBER

Nova Scotia is the newest member of the Clearinghouse. Making it 53 Jurisdictions!!!! We will not talk about the other 5 jurisdictions still remaining as they are clearly seen, in green, on the map, but we have heard of one more coming on around March/April. Getting there, thought it may take decades!

### User Email, Registration, Changes

Please remember, all User Registrations are done by the jurisdiction, on [www.iftach.org](http://www.iftach.org). You can also edit all your e-mail notifications using the Jurisdiction Communication Lists for your jurisdiction.







# SAVE THE DATE!

**2015**

***IFTA, Inc. Board Meeting***

*February 3 - 4, 2015*

*Chandler, Arizona*

***IFTA/IRP Audit Workshop***

*February 24 – 26, 2015*

*San Antonio, Texas*

***CVSA Workshop***

*April 12-16, 2015*

*Jacksonville, Florida*

**AAMVA Board of Directors' Meeting**

*April 22-24, 2015*

*Hilton Arlington*

***IFTA, Inc. Board Meeting***

*April 28 - 29, 2015*

*Chandler, Arizona*

***IRP Annual Meeting***

*May 18 – 20, 2015*

*Savannah, Georgia*

**2015 Nlets Annual Business Meeting**

*June 30 - July 1, 2015*

*Boise, Idaho*

***IFTA Annual Business Meeting***

*August 12-13, 2015*

*San Antonio, Texas*

**AAMVA Board of Directors' Meeting**

*August 23-24, 2015*

*Des Moines, IA*

**AAMVA Annual International Conference**

*August 25-27, 2015*

*Iowa Events Center*

**CVSA Annual Conference & Exhibition**

*September 13-17, 2015*

*Boise, Idaho*

**IFTA/IRP Managers' and Law Enforcement  
Workshop**

*October 6 – 8, 2015*

*San Antonio, Texas*

***IFTA, Inc. Board Meeting***

*October 20 - 21, 2015*

*Chandler, Arizona*

