

Executive Director Buzz – September 2020

The new norm as they call it continues to change our lives in profound ways. During the monthly committee calls and Audit Roundtable calls, I continue to listen-in and hear how COVID has affected jurisdiction operations. What amazes me the most is our ability to adapt. Most of the comments I hear talk about the how various jurisdictions have been able to rapidly change the way in which they serve their customers. Auditors and other personnel are working remotely, permit applications are being accepted electronically and issued from remote locations, and for many other critical functions, jurisdictions have rapidly adapted to the new norm.

Here at IFTA, Inc. we have also adapted to the new norm and are working toward enhancing the way in which we serve our stakeholders. We recently held the first ever virtual Annual IFTA Business Meeting. I was amazed at how well this turned out given the large attendance and the fact that it was our first attempt at hosting a meeting this large in a virtual environment. This is a testament to the great team I have at IFTA, Inc. and the hard work they put into preparing and planning for these events. The decision to move the annual meeting to a virtual event was made on a relatively short notice, yet the IFTA, Inc. team did not blink an eye. They embraced the challenge knowing that this may be the first of many other future virtual meetings and did a great job planning for this virtual meeting on short notice. This was a great learning experience for all of us and we will use what we learned to improve our virtual meetings in the future.

Over the last few months, we have been working diligently with IRP to find a vendor for a joint project that will forever enhance the way in which both IFTA and IRP provide training and live virtual events to our stakeholders. We hope to have a contract signed very soon with a vendor that will provide the platform for us to create engaging on-demand training for our stakeholders. This new platform will among other things, provide a training program for jurisdiction auditors and other IFTA/IRP support personnel with a confirmation certificate of completion once the course is successfully completed. It will also provide a new virtual environment platform that will allow us to make virtual events more participatory with breakout sessions and keynote speakers.

Speaking of virtual events, our Annual IFTA Business Meeting was successful in completing some important business with our membership. Among other items, membership voted and approved the following:

- The approval of the nominees presented for the IFTA, Inc. Board of Trustees which included:
 - Antoinette Tannous(QC) – Canadian region
 - Dave Nicholson(OK) – Midwest region
 - Helen Varcoe(MT) – Western region

- Michael Romeo(CT) – Northeast region
- The fiscal 2021 proposed financial budget for IFTA, Inc.
- The amended IFTA, Inc. Bylaws as presented.
- The CBID regarding what constitutes total fuel placed in the supply tank of a qualified vehicle.
- Membership vote of support for the IFTA, Inc. Board of Trustees to direct the Program Compliance Review Committee to give jurisdictions a choice for the upcoming review cycle on whether they want to include or exclude the year 2020 audits from the 3% average audit requirement.
- Membership also voted to approve the request to move FTPBP # 2 to a short track ballot.

I know many of you are wondering what will happen with the 2021 Audit Workshop and we provided an update at the annual meeting. The IFTA, Inc. Board of Trustees is planning on deciding at their October board meeting on whether to move forward with an in-person Audit Workshop or plan for a virtual Audit Workshop. Either way, the Audit Workshop will not be held in February as it typically has been in the past. Stayed tuned for more information on the 2021 Audit Workshop.

I also wanted to remind everyone that IFTA, Inc. has vacated our leased building in Chandler and we now have a new P.O. Box address. Please visit our website for the information on our new address.

And speaking of our website Tom has been working very hard on the finishing touches of our new website design. We hope to go live with the new website by the end of the year. We at IFTA, Inc. are very excited about the new website and I think you will be too. It looks amazing with a much more modern appearance, more user friendly, and includes a lot of new functionality.

Finally, let me say that while we held this year's Annual IFTA Business Meeting virtually, we are still planning on hosting the 2021 Annual IFTA Business Meeting as an in-person event in San Diego. I am sure by next August, we all will need a reprieve from working at home in front of our computers and I can't think of a better place to reconnect than San Diego. Mark your calendars for August 18th and 19th. We remain hopeful that we will be able to see everyone in person in San Diego.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carmen Martorana". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Carmen Martorana, CPA, MST
Executive Director