PRARANEWS

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PA House Bill Introduced to Allow Electronic



EMERGENCY SPILL KIT

\$39.95

Kit contains:

5lb. Lite Dry

2 48" socks

8 absorbent pads

2 pair gloves

2 hazardous waste bags

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Convenience Store Wholesalers	Environmental Service
Turner Dairy2	Groundwater Environmental Service Inc10
	Jobbers / Distributors
	Bradigan's7
	COEN Markets5

ADVERTISING RATES

Full page	\$900
1/2 page	\$600
1/4 page	\$450
1/8 page	\$330
Insert (one mailing)	\$100

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

BY: KEVIN FORSYTHE

For convenience retailers, the acceleration of EV adoption will necessitate major changes. Success will require serving both ICE and EV consumers for decades and pivoting to becoming an energy provider offering a range of fuels, including electric charging, other renewable options. Retailers already winning at foodservice understand the c-store as a destination. The need to prioritize additional amenities beyond fuel will continue as c-stores cement their relevance to consumers of all kinds, no matter if they're driving internal combustion engine, electric, or other types of vehicles. Some say, the best way to navigate economic and geopolitical uncertainty and prepare for the energy transition is to run lean operations. Marketing—especially loyalty marketing—will play an integral role in ensuring that any investments into foodservice, EV charging stations, hydrogen pumps, or other innovations reach consumers where they are while building brand affinity to help retailers remain relevant in the new era of convenience. Although a completely electric driving future may be decades away, retailers and wholesalers should start preparing to better serve their customers who are increasingly adopting EVs. Many large c-store operators have already begun investing in new infrastructure with an emphasis on charging stations to meet this evolving demand.

As the energy movement continues, retailers are in the unique position to get ahead and embrace the challenge. When we think about it from a sustainability lens, we know that the interest and demand for more sustainable choices continues to be important. These concepts go hand in hand with how retailers can leverage EV trends while thinking through sustainability goals. The EV ecosystem has a long road ahead of it to reach maturity. Many bottlenecks must be overcome as it matures, from raw material sourcing to car batteries, power grid reliability, and more. As the reality of these challenges surfaces, some regulatory pressure and even the level of demand has cooled a bit. But we all know that this transformation is going to progress. To charge new electric vehicles, everyone from retailers to technology providers to utilities is stepping up to the challenge and innovating. Investment continues to pour into public charging infrastructure, with convenience retailers playing a critical role in this evolution, so we'll see business models soon reflect the convergence of an EV driver with a c-store shopper. Expect to see continued consolidation across the globe in 2024 as successful convenience retailers accelerate the growth of their footprint and consumer base. Pay particular attention to the energy transition, as market leaders of various sizes start to scale for EVs while maintaining their fuel operations to serve the majority of drivers in the foreseeable future.

With this all being said the EV industry still has a way to go...

Here are some major issues the industry has to overcome to convince the consumer Electric Vehicles are the way of the future:

- 1. The actual mileage you get per mile on a charged vehicles vs gas powered vehicles is less.
- 2. The cost of EV vs gas powered vehicles is not as lucrative.
- 3. There are not many styles/options available for EV.
- 4. Home charging installations are expensive.
- 5. EV resale value is poor and difficult buying or finding a used one.
- 6. Weather effects the total performance of the vehicle, especially in extreme hot and cold climates.
- 7. Maintenance and repair cost are way more expensive for EV.
- 8. There is no large network of public charging available for EV as opposed to gas and diesel powered and much longer to charge at a location rather than filling up with petrol.
- 9. EV batteries are costly and complicated to replace.
- 10 Regardless of what we have been told EV are not Environmentally friendlier; the batteries that contain lithium and











The Bureau of Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Division will be offering the following safety webinars in January 2024:

	Tuesday, January 2, 2024		Thursday, January 18, 2024
9:30am	OSHA Injury & Illness	9:30am	Workplace Safety Committee
	Recordkeeping		Certification Renewal
11:00am	Sprains & Strains	11:00am	Ergonomics
1:30pm	Governor's Award for Safety	1:30pm	Slips, Trips & Falls
	Excellence - GASE		Tuesday, January 23, 2024
	Wednesday, January 3, 2024	9:30am	Americans with Disabilities Act
9:30am	A Business Case for Safety	11:00am	Fatigue & Worker Safety
1:30pm	Workplace Safety Committee	1:30pm	Confined Space General Industry
	Certification Renewal		Wednesday, January 24, 2024
	Thursday, January 4, 2024	9:30am	Stress & Worker Safety
9:30am	Snowblower Safety	1:30pm	Drug & Alcohol
11:00am	Job Safety Analysis		Awareness - Employee
1:30pm	Sleep vs. Fatigue		Thursday, January 25, 2024
	Monday, January 8, 2024	9:30am	Return to Work
1:30pm	OVR - Assistive Technology	11:00am	Personal Protective Equipment - PPE
	for Everyone	1:30pm	Workplace Safety Committee
	Tuesday, January 9, 2024		Certification Initial
9:30am	Workplace Safety Committee		Tuesday, January 30, 2024
	Certification Initial	9:30am	Working Alone
1:30pm	Walkthrough Surveys	11:00am	Emergency Action Plans
	Wednesday, January 10, 2024	1:30pm	Active Shooter Awareness
9:30am	Safety Culture (Part 1)		Wednesday, January 31, 2024
1:30pm	Cold Weather Injuries Safety	9:30am	Powered Industrial
	Thursday, January 11, 2024		Trucks - Classroom
9:30am	Safety Committee Leadership	1:30pm	Right to Know - Chemical
11:00am	Snow Shoveling Safety		
	Tuesday, January 16, 2024		February 2024
9:30am	Safety Incentive Programs		Thursday, February 1, 2024
11:00am	Back Injuries - Prevention	9:30am	Office Safety
1:30pm	Working from Home	11:00am	Electrical Safety
	Wednesday, January 17, 2024	1:30pm	Recognizing Employees
9:30am	Aerial Work Platform & Scissors		Tuesday, February 6, 2024
	Lift Safety	1:30pm	Workplace Safety Committee
1:30pm	Driving in Inclement Weather Safety		Certification Renewal

To register for any of these events just copy and paste the link into your browser and follow the links: https://www.dli.pa.gov/Businesses/Compensation/WC/safety/paths/calendar/Pages/default.aspx

Remember, registration closes the day before the presentation is scheduled to begin.



IRS Expands Free Electronic Filing for 1099 Forms to all Businesses Regardless of Size

Business taxpayers may now electronically file any IRS Form 1099 series information returns for free with the IRS Information Returns Intake System (IRIS). IRIS accepts 1099 series forms for tax year 2022 and after. IRIS is available *to any business of any size*. It's secure and accurate and it requires no special software. It also reduces the need for paper forms.

Important! Beginning in tax year 2023, businesses with a combination of 10 or more information returns *must* file 1099 forms electronically.

With IRIS, business taxpayers can:

- Enter information into the portal or upload a file with a downloadable template in IRIS.
- Download completed copies of Form 1099-series information returns.
- Submit extensions.
- Make corrections to information returns filed with IRIS.
- Get alerts for input errors and missing information.
- Get confirmation in as little as 48 hours that the IRS received the return.
- Reduce expenses on paper, postage, storage space and trips to the post office.

1099-K reporting threshold delayed for third party platform payments

The IRS delayed the new \$600 Form 1099-K reporting threshold requirement for third party payment organizations for tax year 2023. For 2023 and prior years, payment apps and online marketplaces are required to send out Forms 1099-K only to taxpayers who receive over \$20,000 and have over 200 transactions. For tax year 2024, the IRS plans for a threshold of \$5,000 to phase in the new reporting requirements.

More information:

Publication 5717, IRIS Taxpayer Portal User Guide https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5717.pdf

General Instructions for Certain Information Returns (Forms 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 3921, 3922, 5498 and W -2G) https://www.irs.gov/instructions/i1099gi



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Brinton Executive Center 1051 Brinton Road Suite 304 Pittsburgh, PA 15221 Phone: (412) 241-2380 Email: tammy@prara.com

Pennsylvania Approved class A & B Operator Training Registration Form

Class Date:	Wednesday, Ma	Wednesday, March 20, 2024		
Time:	Registration: Class:	8:30 am 9:00 am to 5:00 pm		
Location:	PRARA Office			

Price: \$250 per person (non-member)

\$200 per person (member discount)

LIMITED SEATING IS AVAILABLE

Please register early

Name:		
Email address:		-
Address:		_
Phone Number:		-
Number Attending:		-
Price Includes A & B Operator Training Bir	nder, Lunch, and Certificate of C	Completion
Amount@		
Make Check or Money order payable to:	PRARA 1051 Brinton Road Suite 304 Pittsburgh, PA 15221	

Menthol Ban Is Delayed

The Biden administration will delay its ban on menthol cigarettes following lobbying from critics, reported the Washington Post. The administration is expected to announce that it plans to finalize the ban in March, but the process could continue to be delayed due to the pressure during an election year, according to anonymous officials. Initially the administration planned to finalize the rules in August 2023, then moved that timeline to January 2024.

Since October, the White House has been reviewing the proposed ban on menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars. Officials state that the rules will not target consumers, but instead, enforcement will focus on manufacturers, distributors and retailers, including convenience stores.

The new target date for finalizing the menthol ban is set to be officially announced in the Biden administration's regulatory agenda, which will be released today, reported the Post. Officials noted that the agenda is not binding, and the White House could elect to finalize the ban prior to March.

NACS has expressed strong concern about the potential for these proposals in the past because of the likelihood that they would lead to an increase in the illicit market for these products.

"History has proven that prohibition of a legal product that has an established user base doesn't work and has negative consequences for our communities," stated Anna Blom, NACS director of government relations.

NACS is encouraging its members to contact the White House urging it to stop both of these bans from moving forward. Menthol cigarettes make up roughly 34% of cigarette sales, and flavored cigars account for 51% of cigar sales. The menthol ban on these popular products would not make them simply disappear. Instead, it would push current users to the illicit market, which will ultimately hurt our communities and negatively impact the businesses operated by responsible retailers.

Use the NACS Grassroots portal to send a message to the White House voicing concerns for your business and the industry at large if the ban were to go into effect. The portal has a text box where you can send a personalized message to the White House, or you can send the prewritten message that NACS has provided.

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2024 Federal Motor Fuel Income Tax Rates and Credits

Superfund Tax: The Superfund tax was reinstated beginning 1/01/23 and is adjusted annually for inflation. The inflation adjusted rate for 2024 is \$0.26 cents per barrel of crude beginning 01/01/2024. The tax is paid by refiners and crude oil importers. No party below the terminal rack is liable for the tax. Refiners and importers pass the tax down as a cost folded into the wholesale rack price of petroleum products and not as a tax. Marketers are not required to break this "tax" out on invoices or contract bids.

Rates below include the 1/10th cpg non-refundable LUST tax imposed on both dyed and clear liquid fuel. There is no refund of the LUST tax. Tax exempt parties are required to pay the .001 cpg.

		_
Product	Rate	Cents Per/Gal
Gasoline	\$.184	18.4 cpg
Gasoline (removed for alcohol blending)	\$.184	18.4 cpg
Alcohol (for use in downstream gasoline blending)	\$.184	18.4 cpg
Aviation Gasoline	\$.194	19.4 cpg
Biodiesel Blender's Credit	\$1.00	100.0 cpg
Alternative Fuel Credit	\$0.50	50.0 cpg
Heating Oil	\$.001	1/10 th cpg
Diesel (clear)	\$.244	24.4 cpg
Diesel (dyed)	\$.001	1/10 th cpg
Diesel (dyed used in trains) *	\$.001	1/10 th cpg
Diesel (removed for blending with bio-	\$.244	24.4 cpg
Diesel (used in certain intercity and local	\$0.17	17.0 cpg
Biodiesel (removed for blending with die-	\$.244	24.4 срд
Kerosene (clear)	\$.244	24.4 cpg
Kerosene (dyed)	\$.001	1/10 th cpg
Kerosene (clear - non-commercial avia-	\$.219	21.9 cpg
Kerosene (clear – for use in non-taxable aviation)	\$.001	1/10 th cpg
Kerosene (clear – for use in commercial aviation not foreign trade)	\$.044	4.4 cpg
Alternative Fuels – On Highway Use in a Motor Vehicle		
Propane (liquefied propane gas) (gasoline gallon equivalent) ***		18.3 cpg
Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) (gasolino gallon equivalent) ***	e\$.183	18.3 cpg
Liquefied Natural Gas (diesel fuel gallon equivalent) ***	\$.243	24.3 cpg
"P" Series Fuels	\$.184	18.4 cpg
Liquefied Fuel (derived from biomass)	\$.244	24.4 срд

Notes

^{*}This tax is paid by the railroads, NOT by the ultimate vendor.

^{**} Marketers pay \$.244 cpg at the rack, user's rate is \$.219. Ultimate vendor claim is 2.5 cpg. The ultimate vendor is the only party that can make the claim for 2.5 cpg. Ultimate vendor must have a certificate from the ultimate purchaser verifying the fuel is used for non-commercial aviation. Ultimate vendor must have an IRS 637 UA registration to file claim. ***For taxation purposes, one gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE) is equal to 5.75 pounds (lbs.) of propane and 5.66 lbs. of CNG. One diesel gallon equivalence (DGE) is equal to 6.06 lbs. of LNG. (Reference 26 U.S. Code 4041 and 4081).

Status of Visa/MasterCard Swipe Fee Claims Process

As you have most likely heard, the Settlement Administrator in the Visa/MasterCard swipe fee antitrust litigation has begun mailing claim forms to millions of potential claimants to the \$5.4 billion settlement fund (the "Fund"). The Fund includes the proceeds of a settlement of the litigation, which claimed that merchants paid excessive fees to accept Visa and MasterCard transaction cards in violation of the antitrust laws.

The Settlement Administrator began mailing claim forms on December 1, 2023 and will continue sending the forms for most of December. Because of the large number of claim forms being sent, claimants may not receive a form until late December 2023 or January 2024. The Administrator urges potential claimants to be patient and wait to receive a form which will assign the claimant a Claimant ID and allow for online filing. The claims deadline is May 31, 2024.

Reports suggest that between 12 and 18 million businesses across the United States that accepted Visa and MasterCard payments between January 1, 2004 and January 25, 2019 are eligible to claim a share of the Fund. Thousands of major oil company branded retailers may not be recipients of a claim form, and that they may be declared ineligible because they are deemed "indirect" payers, meaning that their major oil company supplier is recognized as the party that paid the interchange fees that formed the basis for the lawsuit. Under this theory, branded retailers who reimbursed their suppliers for the fees would not qualify as claimants. A Special Master has been appointed by the court to hear appeals from denials of eligibility, such as claim denials based on the alleged status of branded retailers as indirect payers.

If you receive a claim form in the mail, fill it out and return it to the Settlement Administrator in accordance with the instructions on the form using the assigned Claim ID number. If your claim is denied, you will be able to bring it before the Special Master for review. If you do not receive a form, you can access the settlement website below and enter your Tax ID number (TIN) to find out whether the Settlement Administrator considers you eligible. http://www.paymentcardsettlement.com/en/Login.

While we have yet to see the procedures to be utilized by the Special Master, a determination of ineligibility obtained by accessing the above-referenced login information should be sufficient as a denial of your claim to warrant an appeal to the Special Master. If your claim is denied on the ground that you are an "indirect payer," and you wish to lodge an appeal, you may want to first seek guidance from your attorney, although you are free to file your appeal without attorney assistance. The primary basis for any such appeal would be that you are, in fact, a direct payer of the interchange fees paid on each card transaction.

PA 2024 Oil Company Franchise Tax Rate Now Available

On December 9, the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue published the following notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin outlining the 2024 Oil Company Franchise Tax and Alternative Fuels Tax Rates.

The 2024 Oil Company Franchise Tax rates will decrease to the following amounts:

• Gasoline: 57.6 cents

• Dieselhttps://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol53/53-49/1703.html fuel: 74.1 cents

<u>Click Here</u> to read the entire 2024 notice for more information on all rates (Aviation Gasoline and Jet Fuel, Oil Company Franchise Tax Rate, & Alternative Fuels Tax Rates)

The current 2023 rates* are the following:

- Gasoline: 61.1 cents
- Diesel fuel: 78.5 cents

*Note: the 2023 rates increased for the first time in years due to the average wholesale price exceeding \$2.99 per gallon.

MEMBER TO MEMBER SERVICES

ACCOUNTANTS

J.E. Robinson Murrysville, PA 412-423-1093

ATM

ATM Cash World Tom Ranallo Pittsburgh 800-937-5169

ATTORNEY

Andrew Klaber Chartwell Law Offices Sewickley, PA 412-741-0600

CLEANING CHEMICALS

Apter Industries Rick Gobel-McKeesport, PA 412-672-9628

COMPLIANCE TESTING

Total Tank Works LLC Sean Tosadori-East Butler 724-285-4258

COMPUTERS

Computer Solutions Dick Norchi-Allison Park, PA 412-369-8896

CONSULTING

Enviric. Inc. Victor Unger-Bairdford, PA 724-265-5100

S.I.S. J.R. Bachor-Tarentum, PA 724-224-1220

ENVIRONMENTAL TANKS & **UPGRADES**

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McRo Construction Inc. Donald Rothey Jr. Elizabeth, PA 412-384-6051

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Total Tank Works LLC Sean Tosadori-East Butler 724-285-4258

INSURANCE

Bulava & Associates 724-836-7610

LUBRICANTS AND ANTIFREEZE

Oil Service, Inc. Joe Schmidlin-Pittsburgh, PA 412-771-6950 www.oilservice.com

PARTS/PETROLEUM EQUIP

Total Tank Works LLC Sean Tosadori-East Butler 724-285-4258



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litigation support

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Bradigan's Inc. Andy Bradigan-Kittanning, PA 724-548-7654

Center Independent Doug Friend 724-622-4835

Coen Markets Inc. Travis Williams Canonsburg, PA 412-598-0140

Countywide Petroleum Tim Redshaw-Pittsburgh, PA 317-750-8273

Glassmere Fuel Service Dell Cromie-Tarantum, PA 724-265-4646

PETROLEUM

Graft Oil Compan Kevin Forsythe Connellsville, PA 724-628-9580

Kehm Oil Company George Kehm-Oakdale, PA 412-921-5200

REMODELING

McRo Construction Inc. Donald Rothey Jr. Elizabeth, PA 412-384-6051

S.I.S. J.R. Bachor-Tarentum, PA 724-279-3360

SITE INSPECTION & TECHNICAL SERVICES

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S.I.S. J.R. Bachor-Tarentum, PA 724-224-1220

Total Tank Works LLC Sean Tosadori-East Butler 724-285-4258

TAXES

J.E. Robinson Murrysville, PA 412-423-1093

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK/ LINE TESTING

Enviric, Inc. Victor Unger-Bairdford, PA 724-265-5100

Total Tank Works LLC Sean Tosadori-East Butler 724-285-4258

USED TIRE PICKUP

Penn Turf 814-696-7669 Dan's 724-529-7621 Liberty 888-868-0097

PA House Bill Introduced To Allow Electronic Heating Fuel Tickets

Legislation has been introduced in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives that would permit home heating oil retailers to communicate delivery ticket information to customers electronically. House Bill 1889 was introduced by Representative Stephen Malagari (D-Montgomery) and is scheduled to be considered by the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee at its Tuesday, December 12 meeting.

HB 1889 is intended to modernize this aspect of the state's weights and measures program. The state Department of Agriculture has maintained that current law requires that customers be provided printed tickets at the time of delivery or with the invoice.

The bill would not require companies to adopt electronic delivery tickets but would regulate the practices of heating oil distributors that choose to do so.

Calendar of Events

New Year 's Day

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

A&B Operator Training Class

January 1

March 20, 2024

Business Hours:

Monday Closed
Tuesday 8:30-3:30
Wednesday 8:30-3:30
Thursday 8:30-3:30
Friday Closed
Contact:

Phone: 412-241-2380

www.prara.com

Petroleum Retailers & Auto Repair Association 1051 Brinton Road Suite 304 Pittsburgh PA 15221



