



Wyoming Fuel Tax News

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **FTA New Strategic Plan**
- **Brown Bag Ball A Success**
- **FTA Thematic Goal**
- **Fuel Tax Tidbits**
- **We Share Your Passion**

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www.dot.state.wy.us

A New Strategic Plan For FTA & Other Items

Hopefully this isn't becoming a trend! With apologies we offer the September edition of the Wyoming Fuel Tax News in October. It seems the culmination of many projects and tasks resulted in the newsletter being pushed a little lower on the priority scale, but our commitment to sharing information with our customers has never been stronger.

In June, we shared that our team had worked through the strategic planning process to create a new, three year Balanced Scorecard strategic plan. We have since refined our SWOT analysis and our goals as well as the strategic measures and strategies that we will pursue over the next three years. Our strategic goals for that timeframe include: Provide outreach to customers and stakeholders; Focus on the customer experience; Improve program efficiency and effectiveness; Focus on the team experience; and, Improve FTA's ability to effectively administer fuel tax law. Many of the goals are similar to those contained in our last strategic plan in as far as addressing our customers, our service and our team, and this is due to our consistent view that these are the areas we should focus on as service providers. We were fortunate to accomplish many of our previous strategic goals, and have determined that we want to continue in the direction of improving our service, educating our business partners, becoming more efficient and running the program as a business while operating as a highly functioning team. We will once again form strategic work teams to work on each of these goals and their related strategies, and we will continue to use this forum to update you on our progress. We anticipate enjoying some early successes as several strategies have been carried forward from our last Balanced Score-

card and a good amount of work has already been completed in those areas.

We are still in the process of reviewing and streamlining our Rules & Regulations per the requirement set forth by Governor Mead. Our Strategic Law Team has reviewed our rules and is prepared to propose some additions, deletions and alterations. Our review of the rules & regulations has identified several areas that we can clarify and several others that may not be necessary. In addition to this review, we have been working to identify the energy or gallon equivalent of any combination of fuel products used to propel motor vehicles. These updated rules will formalize our current practice of taxing fuel at an equivalency to a gallon of gasoline similar to what takes place today with compressed natural gas. We are currently working with legislative representatives to see if Rules & Regs is the appropriate avenue to address how alternative fuels such as compressed natural gas (CNG) and liquefied natural gas (LNG) will be taxed. This is an ongoing process, and due to the sheer amount of rules & regulations being reviewed by LSO and the governor's office, we are unclear of the timeframe associated with this process. More to come in the future.

We continue to work with WYDOT Financial Systems on the development and implantation of our new fuel tax operating system. While the process has taken longer than any involved would have liked, we are confident that the transition will be seamless for our customers when the system does *go live*. We are currently in the testing phase and hope to be moving to the training phase in late November. When we have a firm *go live* date we will be sure to communicate that, either through this newsletter or a memo.



“When she joined FTA, Rosa immediately made an impact with her positive, can do attitude”



Provide Outreach to Customers & Stakeholders

Fuel For Kids Brown Bag Ball A Success

The *Fuel For Kids Brown Bag Ball* was held on Saturday, September 28th at the Historic Plains Hotel in Cheyenne. We are happy to report that the “Ball” was a huge success, and although we are still working through the final accounting, **it is estimated that the event raised in excess of \$25,000 for the Friday Food Bag Foundation!** That amount far exceeds both our initial fundraising goal of \$10,000 and our upgraded fundraising goal of \$20,000, and our success is a testament to the hard work and commitment of the team and the extreme generosity of the community in which we live!

For the past four years, the Fuel Tax Team has been committed to giving back to the community, and this was our BIG event for 2013—and our biggest undertaking to date!

Due to a great amount of work, the “sold out” event offered dinner, live & silent auctions with over 55 items, \$20 Brown Bags (containing various prizes ranging in value from \$25-\$100), a 50/50 raffle, numerous door prizes, dancing to *Brand 307*, and increased awareness about the Friday Food Bag Foundation.

“It really is something to see what an impact the commitment of 12-14 people can have on the community, and although it was a lot of work, the reward was certainly worth the effort,” stated FTA Program Manager, Wayne Hassinger. “I couldn’t be more proud of what we put together – the amount we raised equates to 5,000 more food bags provided to hungry children in our community” Hassinger

added.

Once the final accounting is completed, a “Thank You” advertisement will run in the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle recognizing the numerous organizations and individuals that made the event possible and a check will be presented to the Friday Food Bag Foundation. *Then it’s time for some rest before the holiday season gets here!*

The Friday Food Bag Foundation (FFBF) is a non-profit program that provides sack lunches to children in Laramie County that may not eat healthy, or at all, over the weekend if not for the food provided by FFBF. For more information on the valuable and necessary mission of the Friday Food Bag Foundation, please visit their website at: www.ffbag.org.

Rosa Rodriguez Earns Award

FTA’s Rosa Rodriguez was recently recognized as Express Professionals *Employee of the Year* for Wyoming!

Rosa has worked with the Fuel Tax Team for close to two years in a technical administrative role, and during that time she has made a huge impact on the team. Although she works through an employment agency rather than as a State of Wyoming employee, she is an important

player and an equal member of our team in every way.

When she joined FTA, Rosa immediately made an impact with her positive, *can do* attitude, and she assimilated quickly into the team environment in which we work. Rosa is an honest, hard-working employee with a very positive outlook on life and work. She is one of the program’s biggest supporters, and she is actively involved with the success we enjoy as a

government program.

The FTA Team and Pat & Renee Ashworth from Express Professionals held a luncheon to celebrate Rosa’s award.

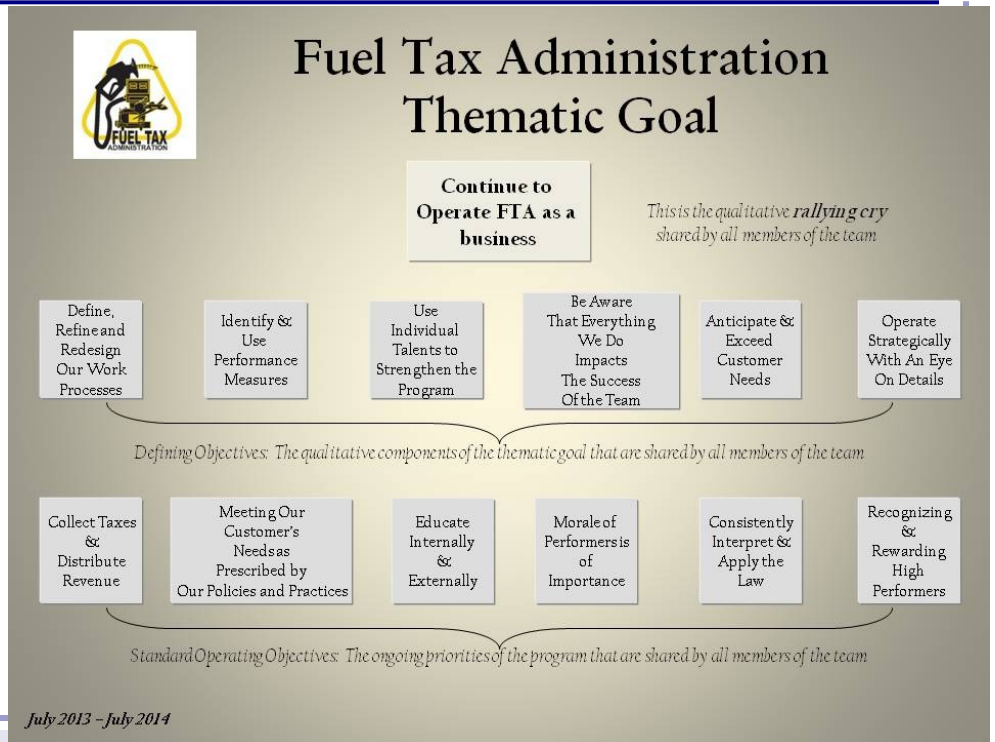
As a result of winning the *Employee of the Year* award for Wyoming, Rosa is now in the running for the Express Professionals *National Employee of the Year* award.

Congratulations and good luck, Rosa!

FTA Also Has A Thematic Goal

Fuel Tax Administration also operates under a *Thematic Goal* that guides our more short-term focus day-to-day. The thematic goal for FTA for the next 12 months is to *Continue to Operate Fuel Tax Administration as a Business*. The goal possesses Standard Operating Objectives, which are the ongoing priorities of the program, as well as Defining Objectives, which are the qualitative components of the thematic goal.

We review our progress towards achieving this thematic goal as a team at a monthly team meeting. We celebrate successes and identify areas of opportunity as well as share experiences and ideas that will allow us to achieve each of the objectives.



Fuel Tax Technical Tidbits

Typically a technical article in our newsletter encompasses one topic at a time, but since we have recently noticed an influx of questions concerning various issues, we thought we would address some of those issues in a rather random fashion.

As a reminder, effective July 1, 2013, Wyoming's fuel tax rate increased to \$.24 per gallon.

Please note that the increased fuel tax rate does not apply to aviation gasoline or jet fuel. Many of the July 2013 returns submitted used the old tax rate. Please use the new forms that can be found on our website at: http://www.dot.state.wy.us/home/business_with_wydot/fuel_tax/tax_returns.html

- Amended tax returns should only include the amended transactions and the amended gallons on the cover sheet. For example: If gross gallons were reported incorrectly, please include the original transaction on the schedule detail as a negative and the corrected transaction on the same schedule as a positive. Only the difference in gallons should be carried to the cover sheet. Also as a reminder, we are not able to accept EDI amendments.
- Wyoming does not allow co-ownership of fuel during transport. All gallons of carried fuel must be accounted for when invoicing freight.
- It seems there is still much confusion over ownership of fuel. If your company isn't sure how to report fuel or who owns the fuel, please contact our office for further direction or refer to past FTA newsletter articles discussing ownership of fuel.
- It has been an FTA policy that when freight is invoiced in the price of the fuel, the invoice must include a statement indicating how freight has been invoiced.
- We do accept payment by ACH. If you would like additional information, please contact FTA at 307-777-4826.

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We Share Your **PASSION**



Bruce Messer: Tax Examiner

Cycling became a passion for me after my first cycling adventure. My wife was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis and was not able to do our normal backpacking adventures. My wife took up cycling to keep her arthritis at bay. She went on her first 500 mile bike adventure without me because my attitude was “I could not imagine a vacation would be sitting on a bike seat for 500 miles”. After a year and realizing that this disease does not go away, I felt that the following year I had better do some cycling to spend time with my wife. So the story begins.....

Our first adventure together was me cycling Cheyenne to get in shape for a much bigger ride. Man was I out of shape! That bump in the road seemed like a

major hill and it was only the exit ramp to I-25. So training and more training enhanced my riding skills. Yes, I was now trained and on my way to California for the finality of all that training. My wife and I would cycle from San Francisco to Los Angeles down the Pacific Coast Highway with the Arthritis Foundation and 300 other cyclists to raise awareness and funds for arthritis research. This adventure took me through many scenic and breathtaking areas (literally at times) and the trip seemed to play out in slow motion giving extra time to appreciate the environment and surroundings. This was the first time that I was stress free from work, business and other concerns of life. I was living in the now! When I completed the 500 mile journey and crossed the finish line I realized the great accomplishments one can make and the camaraderie/friendships that are

developed. I graduated a cyclist! Since that ride, cycling became a passion. My wife and I have traveled to many locations in the United States and Canada, enjoying our cycling adventures. We have logged over 10,000 miles cycling the great outdoors and plan many more.



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