**MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIR**

**JOHN PANZA**

Well, it is already May and we have held our January MF Uniformity meeting in Columbia, SC and two of the four regional conferences have already been held. The Uniformity meeting was packed with different topics and an informative presentation on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and much work was accomplished at the meeting. I was fortunate enough to attend the Midwest Region meeting in St. Louis, MO in March and the Pacific Region meeting in Denver, CO in April. Both meetings had great turnouts (I was told the Midwest had its largest turnout ever) and the topics and presentations were very informative and provided a lot of discussion amongst the participants. I am looking forward to attending the Northeast Region meeting in Concord, NH in May and the Southern Region meeting in Greenville, SC in June.

One of the topics discussed amongst myself and the participants is “change”. Our organization is changing and hopefully for the better. With the retirement of Cindy Anders-Robb, we have new leadership with the selection of Kevin Richard as the Director of Business Tax Audit and Excise Tax Administration, and the continued support of Sharonne Bonardi, Executive Director and Ryan Minnick, Chief Operating Officer playing an important role in our organization moving forward.

As the MF National Chair, I have reached out to Jeremy (as past National Chair) over the past five months and asked a lot of questions to ensure that I was doing what was expected of me to serve you as members of the organization. Kevin and I have spoken many times on different topics as to why we do things the way we do them and could things be done differently to make it better. We don’t want to make changes for the sake of change but want to make changes that make things more efficient. With change comes pains but know that all changes are made to better serve the members of this organization.

We have the FTA MF Uniformity meeting being held in Green Bay in May. We also are planning on holding the FTA MF Basic Training in the last week of July and first week of August. We are looking for members of this organization (state and/or industry) that would be interested in being a trainer to the members of our organization that attend these training classes. You can do this by reaching out to me or Kevin to discuss the plan and your interest in being a trainer.

Recently, Kurt Straube (NH) had to step down in his role as FTA Motor Fuels National Vice-Chair. However, the Northeast Region recommended a replacement and the MF Steering Committee was able to replace Kurt with a member of the Northeast Region, Brandy Robillard. Brandy is from Vermont and works with the VT DMV as Motor Vehicle Field Audit Supervisor with over 17 years of professional auditing experience. I recently spoke with Brandy and she is excited about her new role and I look forward to working with her in our roles serving our organization.

At the meetings that I have attended this year, it was good to see and meet many new, first-time attendees, as well as the regular attendees at these conferences. Again, I hope that you reach out to members in your state or company and invite them to participate in this worthwhile organization. You and they can be part of the “change” that makes this organization grow and succeed.

If you have questions, suggestions, ideas, or comments, please reach out to me to discuss them.

I look forward to seeing you all during the remaining conferences and meetings in 2024.

John D. Panza

John.panza@ncdor.gov

**MESSAGE FROM THE**

**NATIONAL VICE CHAIR**

**KURT H. STRAUBE**

Dear Motor Fuels community, February 28, 2024 I rescinded my nomination as Vice Chair. This decision is not one I took lightly; it would have been a disservice to the motor fuels community had I stayed on and attempted to participate and fulfill my duties virtually. Despite this bad news, I am honored to have Brandy Robillard serve as my replacement. I have nothing but the upmost respect for Brandy and know that her gumption and tenacity will help support this community better than I ever could have.

Until next time…

Kurt H. Straube

Kurt.H.Straube@dos.nh.gov

**MESSAGE FROM THE**

**UNIFORMITY COMMITTEE**

**STATE CO-CHAIR**

**NANCY LARRIMORE**

Congratulations are in store for Cindy Anders-Robb as she embarks on her retirement journey. We are saddened by the fact she will not be with us at future uniformity meetings, but happy for what life has in store for her and Mike. Cindy was the driving force behind many of the accomplishments of Motor Fuels Uniformity – from meetings to training classes. She leaves behind big shoes to fill!

Let’s all extend a warm welcome to Kevin Richard, Director of Business Tax Audit and Excise Tax Administration. He will represent FTA at Uniformity for motor fuels tax, tobacco tax, and other excise tax programs of FTA. We all look forward to collaborating with him. We hope that Motor Fuels Uniformity continues to establish best practices and collaboration between states and industry under his guidance.

We started 2024 out with our first meeting of the year in Columbia, SC. It was two days filled with discussions ranging from alternative fuels to artificial intelligence. We can learn so much from each other through open dialogue. It was exciting to take part in sharing new ideas and to experience the amount of participation from attending members. I continue to encourage all states to take an active part in Uniformity. Networking with industry and other states provides the support needed moving into the future of alternative fuels.

It seems that everywhere you look there are those orange cones – that tells me that states are using their motor fuels funds to either build new roads and bridges or repair the existing ones. We all want newer roads and safer bridges, but no one wants to increase taxes. The Highway Trust Fund is facing financial challenges. Newer trucks with better fuel efficiencies have had a hand in the increasing large funding shortfalls of the Highway Trust Fund. It has been projected by the Congressional Budget Office that the balance in both the highway and transit accounts will be exhausted by 2028. This situation must be addressed now. How do we do that in this new world of electric vehicles and alternative fuels? The working groups of Motor Fuels Uniformity will need to think about ways to correct the drain on the Highway Trust Fund and get these ideas out to those who can make changes. Motor Fuels Uniformity can work closely with states using model legislation to incorporate taxation of electricity and the renewable fuels, using our Compliance Committee to help recognize and prevent fuel tax evasion, or just finding ways to administer motor fuel taxes in a fairer and more equitable manner. We, industry and states, must work together to help solve this and other problems.

Safe travels to all, see you in Green Bay!

Nancy P. Larrimore

Nancy.Larrimore@ncdor.gov

 **MESSAGE FROM THE**

**UNIFORMITY COMMITTEE**

**INDUSTRY CO-CHAIR**

**Rae Takai**

Greetings Tax Enthusiasts,

A warm welcome to Kevin Richard, FTA Director of Business Audit and Excise Tax Administration! Kevin joins FTA from the Louisiana Department of Revenue.

A fond farewell to our friend and colleague, Cindy Anders-Robb, who after 26 years of service at FTA, retired earlier this year. I hope my path crosses with hers again; as I would like to thank her for the years of learning, the state and industry friendships made, and for all the good times we’ve had attending the many conferences in cities I probably wouldn’t have visited, had it not been for her! “Happy trails to you, until we meet again.”

Vacation calls and I will not be with you in Green Bay, WI for the Uniformity Motor Fuel Tax Section meeting! Instead, we’ll be in Madrid and Barcelona, Spain. I’ll think of you as we watch the bullfighters and flamenco dancers and eat and drink our way through Spain!

Have a great meeting!

Rae Takai

Rae.Takai@Motiva.com

**UNIFORMITY COMMITTEE**

The FTA Motor Fuel Tax Section Uniformity Committee met at the Cambria Hotel in Columbia, SC. Nancy Larrimore (NC) Uniformity State Chair and Rae Takai (Motiva Enterprises) Uniformity Industry Chair called the meeting to order. 50 were in attendance.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Subcommittee Reports**

**The Compliance Subcommittee**

Welcome- Patrick Andrews (VA) and David Hernandez (Valero)

1. Approved the minutes from the Orlando, FL meeting.
2. **Basic Training Schedule Updated**
	* Training dates schedule for July 28 through August 1, 2024, Green Bay, WI.
3. **Dyed Fuel Statistics**
* IRS Enforcement efforts
* Camera Enforcements
1. **State Updates**
	* CA – Bill introduced extending UST fees until 2036.
	* FL – New “file and pay” vendor for all taxes. Sales and use tax updates to start July 1, 2024. Motor fuel tax will start July 2025.
	* IA – New electric fuel tax return. Due every six months.
	* KY – Anticipating charge of 4 cents per KWH.
	* MN – SAF credit begins July 1, 2024.
	* NC – adopting a definition of renewable diesel.
	* NV – Bill adopted penalizing manipulation of pollution controls on trucks. Added a $200 registration fee for hydrogen vehicles.
	* OK – Hydrogen definition updated.
	* SD – Bill introduced to refund tax on sales of E15 for 5 cents per gallons.
	* TX – Bill 3651 addressing credit card theft. New bill amendment addressing the definition for alternative fuels (i.e. hydrogen). New EV registration fee of $400 for the first year, and $200 per year thereafter.
	* WA – Numerous bills introduced in the House and Senate
	* WI – Bills AB846 and SB 791 introduced for an excise tax on electric charging stations. 3 cents per KWH.
2. **Industry Hot Topics**
* Oregon – Hazardous Rail Tank Fee
* Rates, Rates, Rates! 22 states had rate updates (MFT, Prepaids). Please use the List Serve to update industry on rate changes.
* License list availability.
* Low carbon fuel standards.
* Railcar dates. BOL or delivery date?
1. **Articles of Interest**
	* Cold temperatures affecting EV driving range (Consumer Reports)
	* Sunoco LP acquires NuStar Energy in $7.3B deal (Oil and Gas Journal)
2. **Old Business**
	* None
3. **New Business**
	* MN is matching terminal operators reports to distributors and suppliers returns with positive results.

**The** **Forms Management Subcommittee**

The meeting began with Introductions.

The September 2023 meeting minutes from Orlando, FL were approved.

**Mentorship Program-Fuel Tax Mentoring**

* Discussion of Mentorship Program and survey forthcoming to identify participants’ expertise and knowledge.
* Sessions will be online quarterly, and a topic will be discussed.
* No recordings of the sessions will be allowed.
* There will be an understanding by all participants that the material covered will be in general terms. Specific scenarios for each state may not be applicable.
* Participants will be state or industry employees only.

**New Business**

1. Discussion was held regarding state tax forms and instructions currently available online. Some states are unable to post these forms online but can provide them upon request.

Discussion was held regarding the need for Proforma version for internal payment approval and ability to seek instructions.

1. Discussion was held on updating the Sub-Forms listing in the Uniformity Guide. It was agreed upon that a working group will form to assist with updating the state listing of forms currently in use.

Volunteers for the working group include Holly Postle, Tamara Lang, Alan Benson, and Shauna Anker.

1. Brenda Jo gave a presentation on sustainable aviation fuel.
2. Approval of September minutes were completed during the Saturday session.

**Old Business**

None

**The Electronic Commerce Subcommittee**

Mike Hanson (California) reported there were 50 in attendance. The subcommittee discussed the following:

**Review Minutes**

The minutes from the Orlando, FL were approved.

**Electronic Commerce Survey**

The survey did not receive responses form 15 states. Corrections were made for Kentucky and South Carolina. Question 14 regarding participation in FTA Uniformity was removed.

**Electronic Filing Guide**

Updates to the document were not completed before the meeting.

**XML XPath Document**

The document is progressing but not ready for review.

**Best Practices Document-XML Implementation**

The document is not ready for review.

**Old Business**

It was reiterated that industry does not want states to update their schema unless there is a business need.

**New Business**

None

**The Communication and Coordination Subcommittee**

The Communication & Coordination Subcommittee met on Friday, January 26, 2024. State Co-Chair Michael Tay and Industry Co-Chair Laura Molique conducted the meeting. The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:30 PM local time. There were 66 attendees.

The minutes from the September 15, 2023, meeting was approved as written.

The January 2024 edition of the Uniformer was made available on FTA’s website by Cindy Anders-Robb, Federation of Tax Administrators.

**2023 Motor Fuel Tax Information by State Book**-

At the meeting, industry and state participants expressed appreciation that the State Book provides resourceful information and is a valuable go-to reference for learning about motor fuel tax and growing technical knowledge and expertise.

The following three questions were brought up in the meeting. After much discussion, the questions will be reviewed and voted in May meeting for putting into the State Book:

On amended returns, the question is worded in Section 33 in the State Book. To help provide clarify on the question, the Section 33 question in the State Book will be removed and replaced by the new question:

* Remove from the State Book: *‘Section 33-When amending returns does the state require the entire return to be amended or amend only the information that is changing?’* and replace with this new question wording:

Section 33 Amended Returns

* How are amended returns filed in your State - electronically or by paper?
* When amended returns are filed, does the state require the entire return to be amended or submit only the information changed or updated?
* On forms and instructions, this new question was raised:
* Are tax forms and instructions available on your state’s website? If yes, please provide the web link to the forms and instructions. If no, please provide a contact to obtain the forms and instructions.
* On Gross vs. Net vs. Billed gallons, this new question was raised:
	+ Does your state calculate tax based on Gross gallon, net gallon, or billed gallon?

The following question was raised by Thea with Musket:

* ‘What are the requirements on purchase for exports?’

The committee reviewed the answers in Section 30 of the State Book and it addresses the question and lists the required licenses for exports. JD with the State of Texas also demonstrated Texas weblink ‘[Collecting the Destination State’s Tax on Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Sold for Export (texas.gov)](https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/fuels/export-sales.php)’ as an example showing destination state license requirement for exports from Texas.

The committee reviewed the question in Section 32 of the State Book:

* The wording ‘Destination State’ will be added to *‘Section 32-If your state taxes at the rack, does your state require pre-collection election?’* to help clarify ‘Pre-Collection’ and Section 32 will read as ‘Section 32-If your state taxes at the rack, does your state require pre-collection (destination state) election?’

A new question was raised on Diversion. The topic is in Section 9 in the State Book. The committed asked for industry and state volunteers to review Section 9 in the State Book and clarify if there are new questions need to be raised on diversion. The following participants volunteered:

* Debra Wilson – Marathon Petroleum
* David Hernandez - Valero
* Michael Tay – State of Florida
* Tammy West – State of Virginia

**Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) Using Fuel Cells with Hydrogen white paper**

Michael Tay with the State of Florida gave an update on drafting the ZEV Hydrogen white paper and will bring to discuss in the Uniformity when the draft is ready. The following individuals are on the working group subcommittee for the white paper:

* Thea Lonewolf – Musket
* Emilda Santiesteban – Weaver and Tidwell
* Jessyca Stafford – State of Oregon
* Michael Tay – State of Florida

The committee also presented three videos that Michael Tay provided on hydrogen technology and types of hydrogen.

Old Business

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) definition is tabled to the May 2024 meeting.

**New Business**

* David Hernandez requested a new FTA code for renewable Naphtha.
* A request was raised to provide definition for ‘Pre-Collection’.

### 2024 Uniformity Chairs

### State Uniformity Co-Chair

*Nancy Larrimore, State of North Carolina*

***Industry Uniformity Co-Chair***

*Rae Takai, Motiva*

### SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

***Compliance Subcommittee***

***State Co-Chair***

*Patrick Andrews, State of Virginia*

***Industry Co-Chair***

*David Hernandez, Valero Energy*

***Communication and Coordination Subcommittee***

***State Co-Chair***

*Michael Tay, State of Florida*

***Industry Co-Chair***

*Laura Molique, ExxonMobil*

***Electronic Commerce Subcommittee***

***State Co-Chair***

*Michael Hanson, State of California*

***Industry Co-Chair***

*N/A*

***Forms Management Subcommittee***

***State Co-Chair***

*Jessyca Stafford, State of Oregon*

***Industry Co-Chair***

*Becky Jo Beck, AvFuel*

***2024 MOTOR FUEL STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS***

***National Officers***

*John Panza, National Chair, State of North Carolina*

*Brady Robillard, National Vice Chair, State of Vermont*

***Past Chairs***

*Jeremy Neeck, State of Minnesota*

***Uniformity Chairs***

*Nancy Larrimore, State of NC*

*Rae Takai, Motiva*

***MOTOR FUEL REGIONAL GOVERNORS for 2024***

***Midwestern Region***

*Casandra Willis*

*State of Missouri*

***Northeastern Region***

*Kurt Straube*

*State of New Hampshire*

***Pacific Region***

*Babette Jensen*

*State of Arizona*

***Southern Region***

*Gaby Smith*

*State of South Carolina*

***2024 UPCOMING MEETINGS***

***Northeastern Region***

*May 19-21, 2024*

*Courtyard/Grappone*

*Conference Center*

*Concord, New Hampshire*

***Southern Region***

*June 23-25, 2024*

*Springhill Suites*

*Greenville, South Carolina*

***September Uniformity***

*September 20-21, 2024*

*Double Tree Hotel*

*Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

***Annual Meeting***

*September 22-25, 2024*

*Double Tree Hotel*

*Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

***2024 FTA MOTOR FUEL TRAINING SCHEDULE***

***Motor Fuel Basic Training***

*July 28-August 1, 2024*

*Hyatt Downtown*

*Green Bay, Wisconsin*

***Editors***

*Michael Tay*

*State of Florida*

*Laura Molique*

*ExxonMobil*