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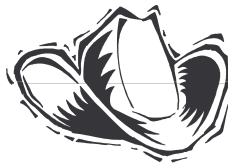
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Hats off to the following associates and suppliers for their generous support of our upcoming Retail Roundup Trade Expo and golf Outing!

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We would also like to thank all those members and associates who have signed up to exhibit in our upcoming trade show. As we go to press we are almost at a sell-out! If you have not signed up to be a vendor in this show, there are still a couple of booths available and we would love to get you in! Call the OMEGA office and speak to Traci Nelson ASAP.

If you are interested in attending this event, whether to play golf or just attend the show, it is not too late to get signed up. Please call the OMEGA office today.

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West Virginia News

Charleston Ranks As Affordable Business City

West Virginia's capital city ranks among the fourth most inexpensive city for doing business in a national survey of metropolitan areas its size. The research, carried out by the accounting company KPMG LLP, found that the costs of operating in the Charleston area are 5.5 percent below the national average. Charleston's labor costs are second-lowest among the cities in the group. Its transportation, electricity and benefits costs are also on the low end, the survey found. Among Charleston-area industries, clinical trials management was found to be the most cost-competitive, with costs averaging more than 11 percent under the national average for costs. Biomedical research and development, electronic systems product testing and back-office services were found to operate about 8.5 percent under the national average for those sectors. In fact, the costs for every industry sector are lower in the Charleston area than each sector's national average. The least competitive sector here is telecommunications, where costs are 1.6 percent below the national average for telecom. The study measures the combined impact of business operating costs like labor, facility, transportation and utilities, as well as income taxes. It tallies those costs after taxes, estimating the starting up and 10 years of operations of companies in 12 industries. KPMG conducts city cost studies every other year, but this year is the first to have included Charleston.

WV Lottery Highlights

Through March 31, 2006, overall fiscal sales totaled \$1,131,213,127. This was up 10 percent from fiscal year 2005, an increase of \$101 million.

March's overall sales were \$140,780,508. It was a new monthly sales record. Sales showed an increase of 6 percent from February's sales. The weekly per capita was \$17.96, up \$1.08 from the previous month's \$16.88.

Compared to March 2005, total sales showed a 13 percent increase. This month's per capita was up \$2 from last March's \$15.96 per capita.

Traditional Lottery

Through March 31, 2006, fiscal sales for traditional lottery (Instants and Online) totaled \$165,773,249. This amount was up 14 percent from fiscal year 2005, an increase of \$20 million.

Traditional lottery sales for March 2006 of \$20,285,659 were down 23 percent from February. The weekly per capita was \$2.59 down 75 cents from the previous month's \$3.34.

Compared to March 2005, traditional sales were up 18 percent. The weekly per capita was up 40 cents from March 2005's weekly per capita to \$2.19.

Coal Severance Collections Likely Exceed \$270

Coal severance taxes likely topped \$270 million in West Virginia last year, a 25 percent increase due to rising prices and production in the Mountain State's mines, state and industry officials said. Coal severance taxes totaled \$219.6 million in 2004 and collections are running about 30 percent ahead of that figure this year, said Mark Muchow, director of fiscal policy for the West Virginia Department of Revenue. Muchow estimated that about 141 million tons of 2005 production has been accounted for thus far out of about 150 million tons in total. Continued strong production and prices are expected to boost severance taxes even higher in 2006, Muchow said. "There's a good chance that we'll be in the neighborhood of \$300 million."

WV Briefs ...

State Unemployment rate dropped to 4.5 percent in March.

The **May interim meeting** of the Legislature has been canceled.

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Federal Issues

Death Tax Update

On May 2, Senate Republican Policy Committee Chairman Jon Kyl (R-AZ) commented that a vote on permanent **death tax repeal** could be pushed back until after Memorial Day, reports Congress Daily. "Our plan was to bring it up during the month of May ... but for the [gas price] crisis, I think that we would, and we may still," Kyl told a pro death tax repeal group of small business owners and farm groups at the National Press Club. The senator urged the group to focus its lobbying efforts "on pushing for a compromise that will exempt estates under \$5 million--\$10 million for couples--and tax larger estates at 15 percent, instead of the current 45 percent rate," writes Congress Daily. Sen. Kyl inferred that he is "quite certain" the Senate does not have the 60-vote majority necessary to move permanent death tax repeal through the full Senate. "The Joint Economic Committee released a study, the Costs and Consequences of the Federal Estate Tax, estimating that while federal death tax collections from 1942 to 2001 totaled \$761 billion, the tax has cost the economy \$847 billion in capital that today would otherwise be part of the economy.

New JEC Study Shows Harmful Economic Impact of Estate Tax

The Joint Economic Committee released a study on May 2 estimating that federal estate tax collections from 1942 to 2001 totaled \$761 billion, but the tax cost the economy \$847 billion in capital. This figure represents money that would have been saved or invested by heirs, including interest earned, if it had not been paid to the government in estate taxes. The study is available at <http://www.house.gov/jec/publications/109/05-01-06estatetax.pdf>.

Action Alert: Contact your senators now about the upcoming estate tax vote, and urge them to vote for permanent repeal. We are only a few votes short of the 60 needed for Congress to pass this legislation, and this may be the last good chance to win permanent repeal. To send your senators a message, go to <http://www.fmi.org> and click on "Death Tax Repeal Vote."

Contact Laura L. Bourne at (202) 220-0631 or lbourne@fmi.org for more information.

Conferees Reach Tentative Agreement on Tax Reconciliation Package

At press time, House and Senate conferees had reached a tentative agreement on the tax reconciliation package, including an extension of the rate cuts on dividends and capital gains. Both chambers must now approve the conference committee document once the tax items in the \$70 billion bill are approved by the Senate Budget Committee.

In 2003, Congress lowered the tax rate on most dividends to 15 percent from a high of 38.6 percent and on most capital gains to 15 percent from 20 percent. These tax cuts are set to expire in 2008 but would be extended through 2010 under the agreement.

The agreement would also allow small businesses to write off investments worth up to \$100,000 for an additional two years, 2008 and 2009.

The question remains whether extending other tax measures, such as the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and state and local sales tax deductibility, would be part of a "trailer" tax bill or the pension reform legislation, which is still in conference.

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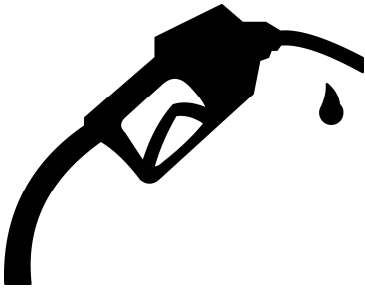
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Oil Marketers Update

PMAA Reminds Members of ULSD Labeling, PTD Requirements

Recently, PMAA issued an update on the implementation of the ultra low sulfur diesel (ULSD) rule, reminding marketers that the labeling requirements apply to all pumps that dispense diesel fuel beginning June 1, 2006, whether at a retail location, on a farm or at a construction site. However, dispensers for smaller tanks (less than 550 gallons) are exempt from the requirement. Labeling requirements apply to retailers and "wholesale purchaser-consumers." EPA defines wholesaler purchaser-consumer as "any person that is an ultimate consumer of the... diesel fuel... and receives delivery of that product into a storage tank of at least 550-gallon capacity substantially under the control of that person."

It is important to note that some states, such as California, have their own ULSD requirements. Marketers should check with their state associations to see if their states have any differing requirements.

Additionally, PMAA reported on language that EPA requires to be included on "Product Transfer Documents (PTDs)." PTDs (commonly referred to as delivery tickets, bills of lading or invoices) must have the

following language as applicable to the product(s) being delivered:

Undyed 15 ppm sulfur diesel fuel- Required language from June 1, 2006 and beyond:

"15 ppm sulfur (maximum) Undyed Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel. For use in all diesel vehicles and engines."

From June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2010, the product transfer document must also state whether the diesel fuel is #1D or #2D.

Dyed 15 ppm sulfur diesel fuel - Required language from June 1, 2006 and beyond:

"15 ppm sulfur (maximum) Dyed Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel. For use in all nonroad diesel engines. Not for use in highway vehicles or engines except for tax-exempt use in accordance with section 4082 of the Internal Revenue Code."

Undyed 500 ppm sulfur diesel fuel- Required language from June 1, 2006 through September 30, 2010:

"500 ppm sulfur (maximum) Undyed Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel. For use in Model Year 2006 and older diesel highway vehicles and engines. Also for use in nonroad, locomotive, and marine diesel engines. Not for use in model year 2007 and newer highway vehicles or engines."

Dyed 500 ppm sulfur diesel fuel- Required language from June 1, 2006 through September 30, 2010:

"500 ppm sulfur (maximum) Dyed Low Sulfur Nonroad, Locomotive or Marine Diesel

Fuel. Not for use in highway vehicles or engines except for use in Model Year 2006 and older highway diesel vehicles or engines for tax-exempt use in accordance with section 4082 of the Internal Revenue Code."

Got Biodiesel?

Petroleum distributors who want to let consumers know about biodiesel availability have a free source of advertising. The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) invites distributors carrying biodiesel to list their companies on a popular section of biodiesel.org. The "Buying Biodiesel" section features a national map that allows consumers to click on their state to find both retail and wholesale locations.

"As more and more fuel distributors begin storing, blending and marketing biodiesel and biodiesel blends, we want to track this growth so that we can advise interested consumers as well as other fuel dealers on where they might go to access the fuel," said Paul Nazzaro, president of Advanced Fuel Solutions and petroleum liaison to NBB.

The Buying Biodiesel section of the NBB Web site gets thousands of visitors a month. All you have to do is register. Simply visit www.biodiesel.org/buyingbiodiesel/guide to list your business.

U. S. House Approves Federal Gasoline Price Gouging Bill

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed legislation (H.R. 5253) establishing federal gasoline anti-price gouging legislation that could spawn a new wave of investigations into wholesale and retail fuel pricing. The Federal Energy Price Protection Act of 2006 was passed by a lopsided 389 to 34 vote amidst growing political pressure to take action against rising fuel prices. Members of Congress report that they are receiving dozens of calls per day from constituents angry about soaring energy prices. The legislation establishes for the first time, a federal law prohibiting price gouging, which in the past has largely been regulated under individual state law. Specifically, the legislation would prohibit price gouging in the sale of crude oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, home heating oil and any bio-fuel along the distribution chain from the refinery to the consumer. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which up until now has only had the power to investigate allegations of price gouging, is given enforcement authority under the legislation. The legislation also allows state attorney generals to enforce the federal law, but prevents private citizens from suing companies they believe are engaged in price gouging. H.R. 5253 also requires the FTC to define the terms "price-gouging", "retail sale" and "wholesale sale" and sets penalties for wholesale price gouging at \$150,000,000 and \$2,000,000 for retail violations. Despite the lopsided vote in the House, the bill's future in the Senate remains uncertain.

Refinery Permit Streamlining Bill is Defeated in House

A bill that would make it easier to build new or expand existing refineries was defeated in the U.S. House of Representatives recently. The Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act (H.R. 5354) would have established a streamlined refinery permit process combining state and federal permitting authorities under a federal coordinating facilitator. Lawmakers supporting the bill say it is necessary to increase the supply of gasoline and bring down prices at the pump. Under the bill, a federal facilitator would shepherd refinery applicants through the permitting process according to time limitations specified under the proposed law. While the bill passed the House by a vote of 237 to 188, it fell short of the two thirds vote required to prevent amendments and limit debate, an essential goal to ensure passage. Democrats said they opposed the bill because it repealed refinery permit streamlining provisions enacted last year in the Energy Act of 2005. The Energy Act gave states and local agencies the power to trigger refinery permit streamlining and coordination with federal authorities, that authority would be shifted to the federal government under the refinery bill. Supporters of the bill have not given up hopes for passage. The bill's sponsor, Representative Joe Barton (R-TX), said he would ask Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) to suspend House rules so that only a majority vote would be required for passage.

IRS 637 Form Comments Requested

The IRS is asking for your comments on IRS FORM 637 which petroleum marketers use to register for certain federal excise tax activities including: sales by registered ultimate vendors, tax exempt retail sale of undyed kerosene from blocked pumps, biodiesel blending below the rack, and sales by ultimate vendors of kerosene for aviation use. Specifically, the IRS seeks comments on ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the form and the information collected and to minimize the burden of the collection of information by taxpayers, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technologies. Comments are due by 6/30/06 and should be sent to: Glen Kirkland, IRS Room 6516, 1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. 20224. Or send any comments to Mark S . M o r g a n a t mmorganptsa@cox.net . All Comments will be incorporated into PTSA's written submission to the IRS.

Briefs ...

A group of state and local air officials urged EPA to require stricter reductions in the amount of **air toxic benzene** found in gasoline. The argument: EPA's own data shows more stringent controls are feasible. The group urged EPA to require refineries to reduce benzene content in fuel beyond the current 0.62 percent content. EPA considered stricter standards of 0.52 percent during its mobile source air toxics (MSAT) proposal revamp but decided against it because meeting this standard would force all refiners to invest in the most effective technologies used today, posing a significant challenge economically to the industry.

Many states addressed the high cost of fuel head on during their 2006 legislative session by passing various forms of **ethanol and other biofuels legislation** and mandates. The Colorado Senate approved S.B. 138 recently, a measure that would require 75 percent of all gasoline sold between November and April to contain at least 10 percent ethanol by volume in the Rocky Mountain state. This measure went before the Colorado House and should be settled by the session's end. The Missouri Senate passed a mandate for all gasoline to contain 10 percent ethanol beginning in 2008 last recently and Gov. Matt Blunt (R-MO) is expected to sign the measure after it emerges from a conference committee. The Louisiana House also passed a bill that requires the use of ethanol and biodiesel in 2 percent of all transportation fuels, although a last-minute amendment now makes that "requirement" voluntary.

The Connecticut Senate passed SB 502, sponsored by the General Law Committee, which would ban the oil industry's longtime practice of "**zone pricing**" of gasoline. Approved by a 29-to-7 vote, the bill would prohibit major oil companies from charging different prices to different retailers, even when the same grade of gasoline is delivered on the same day by the same truck. Unless renewed, the measure would sunset in two years. "It's absolutely historical—unprecedented," said Michael J. Fox of the gasoline retailers association in the Hartford Courant. "No one in the country has ever gotten it out of the committee" before in a state legislature.



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Convenience Store News

NACS Urges Congress to Use Caution When Considering Energy Policy Legislation

The National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS), which represents the retail industry that sells an estimated 75 percent of the gasoline purchased in the United States, urged Congress to avoid enacting hasty policies and to use caution when considering new proposals for which the effects on the market and the American consumers may not yet be fully understood.

"Our industry understands and shares consumer frustration with escalating gasoline prices," wrote NACS President and CEO Henry O. Armour in the letter that was distributed to Congressional offices on Friday, April 28. "As you face pressures to 'do something' to address high gasoline prices, I write to offer our assistance in your efforts to better understand the retail gasoline marketplace."

"Even though our industry is severely and negatively affected by rising gasoline prices, we caution Congress against enacting hasty policies without fully investigating the affect such action may have on the market. These policies can further disrupt the market, prolonging the negative affects of supply and demand imbalances and extending the economic hardship

experienced by American drivers and retailers," Armour stressed.

Armour said that NACS is prepared to assist Members of Congress to develop policies that promote a more stable environment for retailers and consumers in the long term and will cooperate to the fullest extent possible to provide relevant information to help Congress better understand what is occurring in the retail gasoline business.

The composition of the gasoline retail industry may be a surprise to most Americans, noted Armour. He said that the strong profits announced by the major oil companies, which are derived from oil exploration and production and refining operations, are not enjoyed by the station selling a specific brand of gasoline.

"Despite canopies that promote a specific brand of gasoline, very few of the country's convenience stores – fewer than 3 percent – are owned and operated by one of the integrated major oil companies. It is much more likely that the business is owned by an independent entrepreneur who lives in the community and simply entered into a supply contract with a refiner, similar to what some restaurants do with regards to the brand of soft drink they sell," said Armour.

Most Americans also are not aware of the profits derived at the retail level, said Armour. He said that in 2005, motor fuels sales accounted for more than two-thirds of the convenience store industry's sales dollars

(69.4 percent), but only slightly more than one third (35.5 percent) of the industry's gross margin dollars.

"This exemplifies the reality of motor fuels retailing today: gasoline may drive customer traffic to a store, but it does not drive profits.... The fact is, on average approximately 90 percent of the retail price of gasoline is determined before it leaves the refinery," said Armour. He noted that when prices rise, retailer margins typically fall, and that has been the case over the past month as already slim retail margins dropped more than 5 cents per gallon, "resulting in a growing number of retailers losing money on every gallon they sold."

"Congress should take the appropriate time to conduct oversight hearings of marketplace activities and legislative proposals. Congress must collect relevant economic data to understand current conditions and the potential affect of policy proposals. Only through such a responsible process can Congress develop strategies that will benefit consumers in the long term," Armour stressed. "If there is anything we can do to assist your efforts to effectively represent the interests of your constituents, please do not hesitate to let me know," he concluded.

**Christopher Tampio
Joins NACS as
Senior Director of
Government
Relations**

The National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS) announced that Christopher Tampio has joined its staff as senior director of government relations.

Tampio, a veteran of the Washington, D.C. political environment, brings 12 years of lobbying experience to NACS to help represent the best interests of America's convenience and petroleum retailing industry before the U.S. Congress, administration and federal agencies.

Tampio joins NACS from the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), where he served four years as the director of employment policy in the Human Resources Policy Department. At NAM, he was responsible for labor and regulatory oversight and worked closely with NAM members and affiliate organizations to develop and advance pro-growth policy positions before Congress and the Bush Administration. He served as co-chair of the Small Business Fairness Coalition and represented NAM on the steering committees for the National Coalition on Ergonomics, FMLA and FLSA Reform Coalitions and served as staff director for the NAM Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Steering Committee.

Prior to NAM, he served as director of labor at the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) and represented members of the National Restaurant Association (NRA) on labor and small business issues.

"Chris's lobbying experience, knowledge of federal labor laws and regulations and political expertise on behalf of Washington business associations brings an immediate asset to the NACS Government Relations team. We are pleased to have him on board to help strengthen our efforts and represent NACS retail members and the convenience and petroleum retailing industry on Capitol Hill," said NACS Senior Vice President of Government Relations Lyle Beckwith.

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Grocery Highlights

Analysis and Implications of the Costco Decision

On Friday, April 21, 2006, U.S. District Court Judge Marsha Pechman issued her decision in Costco Wholesale Corporation v. Roger Hoen, et al. In a stunning blow to the 21st Amendment, Pechman held that Washington state's right to regulate the distribution and sale of beer/wine under the 21st Amendment does not necessarily supersede and therefore cannot be in conflict with federal antitrust law, with respect to a number of the legal and regulatory challenges brought by Costco. If upheld, the decision would allow the sale of beer and wine products to take place in a more competitive environment, removing previous restrictions that hampered retailers' ability to sell these products efficiently and in a cost effective manner.

In the suit, Costco alleged that the regulations of the Washington State Liquor Control Board violate federal antitrust laws and obstruct interstate commerce. The retailer felt that the state's liquor distribution rules needed to be changed so that distributors are subject to market forces and retailers are allowed to negotiate prices directly with manufacturers. The suit by Costco alleged that Washington state's distribution regulations for alcoholic beverages limit competition and force retailers to charge higher prices for beer and wine.

In Pechman's ruling, she sided with Costco's arguments in almost every instance, stating that "the state's interests do not trump the federal interest in promoting competition even when the restraints may be minimally effective in advancing the state's interests." The only argument that was dismissed was Costco's claim that the prohibition on retailer-to-retailer beer and wine sales conflicts with federal antitrust law.

The ruling has been stayed for 30 days to give the liquor control board or the Washington Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association a chance to appeal the court's decision. An appeal of the case is anticipated, and as the case progresses to higher and higher courts of appeal, the implications of the decision grow exponentially. If the decision is ultimately upheld, the restraints Pechman concluded are not protected by the 21st Amendment will have a significant affect on Washington's current regulatory and legal requirements for beer and wine producers, wholesalers and retailers.

Some of the implications of Pechman's decision if upheld:

Price Holding - Removing current requirements for beer and wine distributors/manufacturers to post their prices and "hold" those prices for a full month would allow distributors, manufacturers and retailers more flexibility to negotiate pricing at any point during the purchasing cycle and base that pricing on current market conditions.

Uniform Pricing - Giving retailers the ability to discuss fair prices with distributors, as opposed to being locked into a uniform retail price, would allow prices to be based on individual retailers' needs and unique circumstances. The one price fits all approach is not used for other food products purchased by retailers and should not apply to beer and wine.

Sales on Credit - Eliminating the ban on selling beer and wine to retailers on credit would benefit both large and small retailers, allowing these businesses to purchase beer and wine in a similar manner as other products. Additionally, such a change would prevent the unnecessary complications associated with payment at the point of delivery.

Volume Discounts - Lifting the restraint on volume discounts for beer and wine goes hand in hand with removing uniform pricing. This change also would allow retailers to negotiate pricing based on purchasing power and negotiating acumen.

Delivered Price - Standard delivered pricing for every retailer does not reflect actual delivery costs and removing this restriction would allow retailers to negotiate a delivered price that takes into account actual delivery costs. For retailers with small delivery costs that pick up their own beer and wine, for retailers in close proximity to distributors and for retailers who pay freight charges, this change would help reduce costs.

(Continued on Page 14)

(Continued from Page 13)

Central Warehousing - Central warehousing allows retailers to hold the bulk of their products in storage so individual stores can maximize space. Allowing beer and wine to be held in a central warehouse with other retail products would help to streamline the process of replenishing and receiving products.

Minimum Mark-Up - If a 10% minimum mark-up is not required to be added by producers and distributors, then delivery fees can be based on real world prices as opposed to arbitrary percentages. Minimum mark-ups are de facto price controls that are an antiquated and ineffective means of artificially inflating prices to dissuade consumers from purchasing beer and wine in excess. Removing minimum mark-ups would help to drive down the cost of purchase, benefiting all retailers and their customers.

Other states have many of these same restrictions in place, and the Washington Costco decision will likely result in a reevaluation of those restrictions. For instance, there are 22 states that prohibit credit sales between wholesalers and retailers and 25 states with price posting requirements.

States that prohibit credit sales between wholesalers and retailers:

Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia.

States that have an explicit requirement for some form of price posting:

California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Just these two examples demonstrate the kind of far reaching implications this case could have. Whether you find the glass half empty or half full following Pechman's decision in the Costco case, there is no doubt that it opens up alcohol laws and regulations that many thought previously impenetrable.

**Washington Public Policy Conference/
Grocers Care
June 12-14, 2006**

Retailers, wholesalers and state association executives from around the United States will congregate in Washington D.C., for the 2006 Washington Public Policy Conference hosted by N.G.A., FMI, and FIAE. Coinciding with the Washington Public Policy Conference N.G.A. member companies who participate in the National Moment of Remembrance will be invited to a special N.G.A. Board of Directors dinner at the Smithsonian American History Museum in Washington, D.C. on Monday, June 12. Please take a moment to let N.G.A. know that your company will participate in this worthwhile event and attend the recognition dinner by downloading a participation form from their website or by contacting Greg Ferrara or (703) 516-0700 with any questions. To assist you in your participation of the National Moment of Remembrance N.G.A. has

available promotional posters, DVD's and CD's to use throughout your store.

**N.G.A. Voices
Opposition to
USDA Meat Recall
Proposal**

USDA recently held a public hearing on a proposed regulation that would publish the names of retail locations where meat and poultry products may have been subject to recall. N.G.A. Senior Vice President and General Counsel Tom Wenning told the USDA officials that for independent retailers and wholesalers their number one priority is food safety and the goal is to remove recalled product as quickly as possible to protect consumers. However, Wenning said the proposal creates more questions than answers and could provide inaccurate information to consumers. USDA proposes to publish the list of retail locations on its Web site. The USDA list of retailer locations could mislead consumers by being incomplete, as the USDA does not verify every retail location. Additionally consumers may check the USDA Web site before the list is complete and assume the store they shop at does not have the product identified in the recall. USDA currently issues press releases and posts the product recalls on their Web site. In light of the issues raised, N.G.A. and numerous other witnesses, including consumer groups, have requested USDA extend the comment deadline.



Association News

Member News

We are happy to announce that we will be going to **Glade Springs Resort** for our **2006 Children's Miracle Network Charity Golf Outing** this year. The dates for this outing will be **September 20th and 21st**. We will be mailing out information on this event as it draws closer. Please mark your calendar now and plan on attending!

As part of our fundraising efforts, we will once again be asking retailers to sell **Miracle Balloons** in their stores during the month of August. We will also do the **Penny-A-Gallon** promotion one day in August as well and hope to have more retailers involved in this endeavor this year.

New Members

Custom Environmental Insurance

P.O. Box 29664
Richmond, VA 23242
Phone: (804) 876-4120
Fax: (804) 876-4119

Email:
cmontgomery@tankcov.com
Contact: Chris Montgomery,
President

Coinstar E-Payment Services

2107 Chapman Highway
Knoxville, TN 37920
Phone: (865) 389-0005
Fax: (865) 579-5716
E-mail: jgingras@coinstar.com
Contact: John Gringas

Well Wishes to OMEGA President Bill Brown

OMEGA sends get well wishes to President Bill Brown of Hess Oil Company in Elkins, WV. Bill recently underwent heart surgery and is home doing very well. If you would like to send Bill a card, his home address is:

Bill Brown
102 Westridge Drive
Elkins, WV 26241

OMEGA PAC



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the Political
Process.*

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personal check
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Association
Office Today!**



Mark Your Calendar!

May 22 – 24, 2006
**OMEGA Trade Expo &
Golf Outing**
Stonewall Resort
Roanoke, WV

**September 20 & 21,
2006**
**OMEGA Children's
Miracle Network
Charity Golf Outing**
Glade Springs Resort
Daniels, WV

October 8-11, 2006
NACS Show
Las Vegas, NV

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the Aisle**
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and Grocers Association
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Charleston, WV 25311
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