

NAPSR Regions Hold Successful Meetings

The five NAPSR Regions held their annual meetings this year in a variety of locations – Tunica MS (Southern), Indianapolis IN (Central), Virginia Beach VA (Eastern), Seattle WA (Western) and New Orleans LA (Southwest).

Each of the meetings had their own flavor and charm tied to the area in which they were held. Central region attendees got to visit the Indianapolis Speedway and the trials for the Indy 500, including a tour of the pits. Southern Region folks got to enjoy the charm of a restored Old South restaurant that served fried green pickles and fried tomatoes. Eastern region members got to enjoy the beauty of the Atlantic Ocean beaches and a pirate boat cruise. The Western Region meeting included a visit to the Seattle Museum of Flight. Less recreational but more dramatic was the Southwest tour of the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina.

All the meetings shared a common theme – hard work and serious conversation on how to make our goals for pipeline safety into a reality. NAPSR National Chairperson Phil Sher and Administrative Manager George Mosinskis shared significant information with the Regions, including the impacts of Reauthorization, actions before Appropriations, and various activities designed to implement many new programs.

In addition to formal presentations, free and open exchanges occurred between State Program Managers and PHMSA personnel.

NAPSR Web Site

The NAPSR web site is alive and active. With Administrative Manager George Mosinskis at the helm, the web page is the site of up-to-date information about NAPSR, pipeline safety legislation and other pipeline safety issues.

Credit also goes to Carrie Smith (TX) who does the actual updates, and to Mary McDaniel for providing the support for NAPSR.

Committees

There has been a lot of activity involving NAPSR Committees and Task Groups.

While the Grant Allocation and Strategic Planning Committee (GAC) normally meets twice a year, this year they have met three times with a fourth scheduled. Activities have included recommending the allocation of funds for the \$1 million One-Call grant program, development of the criteria for meeting the 9 elements of a comprehensive damage prevention program, and developing criteria for increases in the grant funds from 50% to 80%.

The Service Line TG has met with representatives from PHMSA and AGA to review initial positions on the issues affecting inside meter sets. A frank discussion was held on the important topics at a recent meeting in DC. The meeting ended with industry representatives to collect more data upon which decisions can be made.

The Data Committee has been reviewing the data bases and determining appropriate actions to ensure a data-driven program based on reliable data.

The Legislative Committee has been working on various proposals before Congress.

NAPSR Tax ID

NAPSR is a non-profit organization that is recognized as such by the IRS. This means that we are exempt from paying income taxes on our revenues.

The IRS reporting requirements have exempted us from filing income tax forms in the past. However, with our PHMSA grant for the Administrative Manager, our revenues have exceeded the threshold and our treasurer is now filing a tax form.

The NAPSR tax ID number is available for use by the NAPSR regions. However, in order to ensure the accuracy of what our Treasurer is reporting to IRS, the Treasurer must know about financial transactions that involve our tax ID number.

The Board has developed a policy that ALL NAPSR activities MUST use the NAPSR tax ID number and must file the appropriate report with our Treasurer. (The only exception is if a State account is used and the NAPSR tax ID number is not.)

Invitational Travel

Anyone involved in invitational travel (travel directly funded by PHMSA), must have travel orders issued by the State Programs Office headed by Tom Fortner. In order to facilitate this process, George Mosinskis will coordinate all invitational travel.

He will maintain a master calendar of meetings (including invitational travel meetings). Anyone serving on a group where invitational travel applies needs to coordinate with George so that arrangements can be made in time for the travel documents to be issued.