

# PRARA NEWS

ESTABLISHED 1937

May 2026



## 2026 OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Kevin Forsythe

### 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Dinesh Mittal

### 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

### SECRETARY

Tejas Patel

### TREASURER

Jasbir Bhangal

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ken Bach

Gauttam Patel

Shiv Patel

Chuck Wichrowski

## OFFICE STAFF

### Office Manager

Tammy Combs

## IN THIS ISSUE...

### Monthly Columns

President's Page

3

### Articles of Interest

Advertising Rates

2

Emergency Spill Bucket Kits

2

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Division offers Safety Webinars

4

A&B Operator Training Class

6

Jones Act Waiver Extended Through Mid August

7

Update on IRS processing Delay for Federal Motor

Fuel Excise Taxes

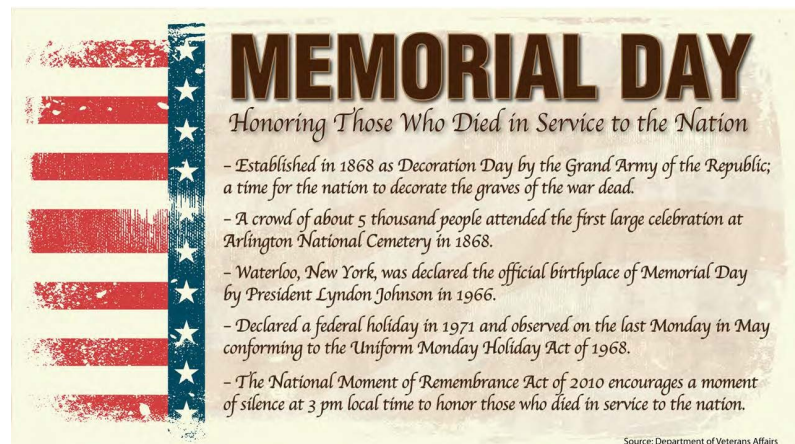
7

State Capitol Updates

8-9

Member to Member Services

10-11



# PRARA ADVERTISERS

**Convenience Store Wholesalers**  
Turner Dairy.....5

**Jobbers / Distributors**  
COEN Markets.....2

# ADVERTISING RATES

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

## EMERGENCY SPILL KIT

**\$39.95**

**Kit contains:**

- 5lb. Lite Dry
- 2 48" socks
- 8 absorbent pads
- 2 pair gloves
- 2 hazardous waste bags



**coen**  
Your Fulfilling Station

# DEALER BUSINESS

YOUR PREMIUM FUEL PARTNER IN THE TRI-STATE AREA

**DON MEADE** Celebrating 100 YEARS of Service  
Business Development to Independent Gas Dealers!  
Fuel Manager



P: 724-207-2422 • C: 412-780-5480 • E: DMEADE@COEN1923.COM

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS:



## FUEL YOUR FLEET FOR LESS!

COEN MARKETS OFFERS A PROPRIETARY FLEET CARD PROGRAM THAT DELIVERS BIG FUEL SAVINGS FOR YOUR BUSINESS. SAVE UP TO 20¢ OR MORE PER GALLON, EVERY DAY!

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

BY: KEVIN FORSYTHE

### Current Fuel Market Conditions:

As of mid-to-late April 2026, U.S. fuel prices are sitting at relatively high levels:

Gasoline (regular): around \$4.00–\$4.10 per gallon nationally

Diesel: roughly \$5.60–\$5.70 per gallon

Compared to a year ago, that represents a significant increase. Gasoline prices are up more than 30%, while diesel has surged even more dramatically—often exceeding 50% year-over-year in some regions.

The biggest driver right now is instability in the Middle East—particularly conflict involving Iran. Disruptions in key oil shipping routes like the Strait of Hormuz have pushed crude oil prices above \$100 per barrel

Crude oil remains the foundation of fuel pricing. With oil hovering near or above \$100 per barrel, refining and retail fuel costs rise accordingly. Government actions—like releasing stored oil—have helped stabilize prices somewhat, but not enough to bring them back to prior levels.

Diesel is experiencing more severe pricing pressure than gasoline. That's because:

- It powers freight, construction, and agriculture
- Supply is tighter globally
- Demand is less flexible

As a result, diesel prices spike faster and stay elevated longer during disruptions.

Fuel prices vary widely across the U.S.:

- Low-cost states: around \$3.30–\$3.80/gallon
- High-cost states (e.g., California): \$5.50+ per gallon

Key factors include:

- State fuel taxes
- Distance from refineries
- Environmental regulations and fuel blends

Higher fuel prices are rippling across the economy: Transportation costs are rising, increasing freight rates. Retail prices are climbing, especially for goods that require shipping and agriculture and construction costs are increasing due to diesel reliance. Even rail companies and large logistics firms are reporting higher operating costs tied directly to fuel. There are mixed signals for where prices go next: Some officials expect gas prices to fall back toward \$3/gallon if geopolitical tensions ease however, continued instability could keep prices elevated through much of 2026. The U.S. Energy Information Administration still projects long-term averages closer to \$3.30 gasoline and \$4.10 diesel, suggesting current prices are above normal levels. Fuel pricing in 2026 is being driven less by typical seasonal demand and more by global uncertainty and structural supply challenges. Gasoline remains expensive but manageable, while diesel continues to be the real pressure point—especially for businesses tied to transportation and logistics. If geopolitical tensions ease, prices could decline. If not, elevated fuel costs may remain a defining economic factor throughout the year.

**The Bureau of Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Division  
will be offering the following safety webinars in May 2026:**

	<b>Tuesday, May 5</b>
9:30 am	Certified Workplace Safety Committee - Member Training
11 am	School Bus Safety
1:30 pm	Hazard Communication
	<b>Wednesday, May 6</b>
9:30 am	Slips, Trips & Falls
11 am	Electrical Hazards - Construction
1:30 pm	Cuts, Scrapes & Punctures
1:30 pm	OVR - PA OVR & Everyone is Different: A Review of Types of Disabilities
	<b>Thursday, May 7</b>
9:30 am	Dogs & Dog Bites
1:30 pm	Incident Investigations
	<b>Tuesday, May 12</b>
9:30 am	Chainsaw Safety
11 am	Ticks & Lyme Disease
1:30 pm	Aging Workforce
1:30 pm	OVR - Service, Emotional Support & Therapy Animals; What's that mean for me?
	<b>Wednesday, May 13</b>
9:30 am	Hand & Power Tools
11 am	ARC Flash Safety
1:30 pm	Motor Fleet Safety
	<b>Thursday, May 14</b>
9:30 am	Opioid Use Disorder
11am	First Aid Awareness
1:30 pm	Certified Workplace Safety Committee - Member Training

	<b>Tuesday, May 19</b>
9:30 am	Job Safety Analysis
10 am	Active Shooter Training
	<b>Wednesday, May 20</b>
9:30 am	Concrete & Masonry Safety
11am	Certified Workplace Safety Committee - Member Training
1:30 pm	Grilling Safety
1:30 pm	OVR - Does the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Apply?
	<b>Thursday, May 21</b>
9:30 am	Backyard & Wildlife Safety
1:30 pm	Electrical Extension Cord Safety
	<b>Tuesday, May 26</b>
9:30 am	Heat Related Injuries & Illnesses
11 am	Excavation & Trenching
1:30 pm	Powered Industrial Trucks
	<b>Wednesday, May 27</b>
11 am	Boating Safety
1:30 pm	Certified Workplace Safety Committee - Member Training
	<b>JUNE 2026</b>
	<b>Tuesday, June2</b>
9:30 am	Distracted Driving
11 am	Ladder Safety
1:30 pm	Root Cause Analysis
	<b>Wednesday, June3</b>
9:30 am	Certified Workplace Safety Committee - Member Training
11 am	Poison Ivy
1:30 pm	Health Hazards - Construction

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.*







# PETROLEUM RETAILERS AND AUTO REPAIR ASSOCIATION, INC.

**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, August 19, 2026  
Time: Registration: 8:30 am  
Class: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Location: PRARA Office

Price: \$250 per person (non-member)  
\$200 per person (member discount)  
**Payments are due by August 12, 2026**

**\*\*Non-refundable payments are required for reservations\*\***

**\*\*LIMITED SEATING IS AVAILABLE\*\***  
*Please register early*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Price Includes A & B Operator Training Binder, Lunch, and Certificate of Completion

Amount \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check or Money order payable to: PRARA  
1051 Brinton Road  
Suite 304  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

## Jones Act Waiver Extended Through Mid-August

On April 24, the White House announced a Jones Act waiver extension by 90 days, keeping foreign-flagged tankers eligible to move crude, fuels, and fertilizer between U.S. ports through mid-August. The waiver, originally issued in March in response to Iran-war-related global shipping disruptions affecting roughly 13 million barrels per day of crude and products, was set to expire May 17. It continues to cover 659 product categories and gives refiners a wider booking window for July and August cargoes.

The principal near-term effect is faster movement of Gulf Coast crude to East Coast refiners, which should support supply availability as refiners position inventories for peak summer demand. Phillips 66 has already shipped Bakken crude from Beaumont to its 185,000-barrel-per-day Trainer, Pennsylvania refinery aboard a Malta-flagged tanker under President Trump's waiver.

The Administration has paired the extension with fuel specification waivers and limited Russian-crude sanctions relief aimed at keeping physical barrels moving.

## Update on IRS Processing Delay for Federal Motor Fuel Excise Taxes

Late last year, energy marketers across the country began reporting renewed delays in the processing of federal motor fuel excise tax (FET) ultimate vendor claims. The claims involve sales of clear, tax-excluded diesel fuel to state and local governments. In response, the Energy Marketers of America (EMA) sent a formal letter to Acting IRS Commissioner Scott Bessent, highlighting the issue and urging the agency to restore timely claim processing as quickly as possible. EMA stressed that prolonged delays are putting significant strain on many small business energy marketers, potentially disrupting their day-to-day operations.

The Internal Revenue Service has now replied directly to EMA's concerns. In its response, the IRS acknowledged that resource constraints were the primary cause of the backlog in processing Form 8849 claims. To address the problem, the agency has already begun reallocating staff from other operations to tackle the excise claim inventory and has implemented several process improvements designed to shorten processing times. **Based on current claim volumes, the IRS expects to clear the backlog and return to normal processing schedules by May.**

As a reminder, EMA has partnered with ThinkTrade's taxexcise.com—an IRS-authorized e-filing service provider and a BBB-accredited company with an A+ rating—to offer members a fast, secure, and compliant way to file federal excise tax returns. Through this partnership, EMA member companies receive a 15% discount on ThinkTrade's e-filing services for IRS Forms 720, 8849, and 2290 via a dedicated landing page.

With more than 20 years of experience helping trucking and energy companies, ThinkTrade has earned a strong reputation for delivering both cost savings and exceptional customer support. Members also gain access to ThinkTrade's dedicated 24/7/365 support team, providing a single point of contact for all e-filing needs.

EMA will continue to monitor the situation closely and keep members updated on any further developments from the IRS.

## State Capitol Update

### State Trade Groups Urge Swipe Fee Reform

Legislation to prohibit interchange fees on the sales tax portion of transactions, ensuring businesses are not charged fees on money they collect for the state, was introduced earlier this year. Trade industry groups, including the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, the Pennsylvania Restaurant & Lodging Association, NFIB Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Retailers Association, support the companion bills (House Bill 2090 and Senate Bill 1202). The following PennLive opinion piece emphasized the need for action in Harrisburg, as consumer affordability is top of mind for consumers. The House Finance Committee advanced HB 2090 in February and awaits a markup for a floor vote.

### HB 1834 Passes the House

House Bill 1834 passed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in late March which was referred to the Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee on March 31. HB 1834 includes updates to regulatory and operational provisions impacting petroleum marketers, fuel retailers, and distributors across the Commonwealth. The core of the bill is focused on data center regulation, but bill contains important energy funding provisions that could directly affect both businesses and customers. One major component of the legislation would divert fees from data centers to provide state dollars to LIHEAP which is typically fully funded by federal dollars. LIHEAP remains a vital program that supports both customer access to heating fuel and the financial predictability of participating businesses. Another aspect of the legislation would tie into the Pennsylvania Energy Independence Account (PEDA), which is designed to support energy-related initiatives across the state. An amendment to the bill to include eligibility for oil-fired equipment that is manufactured rated for 20% blends of biodiesel and/or renewable diesel.

### House Republicans Introduce ‘Freedom Through Affordability’ Initiative

Pennsylvania House Republicans have introduced the “Freedom Through Affordability” initiative, a multi-billion-dollar package of temporary tax cuts and tax holidays aimed at lowering everyday costs for residents and businesses. One provision of the package includes a proposal by Rep. Abby Major (R – Armstrong/Westmoreland) to suspend the gas and diesel tax for 6 months. This specific proposal is similar to what Senator Lisa Boscola (D – Lehigh/Northampton) introduced in early March.



## State Capitol Update

### State Gasoline and Diesel Tax

Multiple proposals focused on the state gasoline and diesel tax have recently been introduced into formal legislation. Senator Lisa Boscola's (D – Lehigh/Northampton) two-part package was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee on April 23. Senate Bill 1264 (Temporary Suspension of the Gas Tax) and Senate Bill 1265 (Temporary Suspension of the Diesel Tax) are now in a formal legislative format. The bills would provide a 60-day tax holiday for the 57.6-cent gas tax and 74.1-cent diesel tax. Both bills call for the Commonwealth to borrow money (via bonds) to backfill the revenue loss caused by cutting/suspending the diesel tax.

Representative Abby Major's (R – Armstrong/Westmoreland) proposal (House Bill 2396) was referred to the House Transportation Committee on April 16. This bill would establish a 6-month tax holiday for both the gas and diesel tax and call for a transfer from the state's Rainy Day Fund to cover the loss revenue.

Other states, including Georgia, Utah, and Indiana, have passed legislation to prompt some type of fuel tax relief. While the proposals are popular for consumers, there are significant funding considerations in Pennsylvania as the General Assembly is negotiating a proposed \$53.3 billion 2026-2027 state budget (up 5%+ increase from the current budget) and a depleting Rainy Day Fund. The state Motor License Fund relies on over \$2 billion per year from the combined gasoline and diesel tax. Pennsylvania's fuel taxes directly fund the Motor License Fund, which generates revenue for roads and bridges, PennDOT operations, and partial State Police operations.

### PA Minimum Wage Bill Advances in Harrisburg

In late March, the House passed legislation to raise the state's minimum wage to \$15 per hour which now moves to the Republican-controlled Senate for consideration. House Bill 2189 would gradually increase the current \$7.25 hourly wage—unchanged since 2009—to \$11 in 2027, \$13 in 2028, and \$15 in 2029, with automatic cost-of-living adjustments thereafter. Supporters, including Governor Josh Shapiro and Democratic lawmakers, argue the increase is needed to address rising living costs and boost earnings for more than 500,000 low-wage workers statewide. Opponents and business groups have raised concerns about increased labor costs, potential price impacts, and challenges for employers—particularly in industries with large hourly workforces. The proposal marks the latest in a series of House-passed wage bills over the past several years; however, similar measures have previously stalled in the Senate, leaving the bill's ultimate outcome uncertain.



# 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

## 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

## ENVIRONMENTAL TANKS & UPGRADES

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

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

## INSURANCE

Bulava & Associates  
Joe Bulava-Greensburg, PA  
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

**Memorial Day** is a federal holiday in the United States for mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May. It is also considered to be the unofficial beginning of summer.<sup>1</sup> Memorial Day is a time for visiting cemeteries and memorials to mourn the military personnel who died in the line of duty. Volunteers will place American flags on the graves of those military personnel in national cemeteries.

The first national observance of what would become Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as *Decoration Day*, the holiday was proclaimed by Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic – a fraternal organization of veterans – to

honor Union soldiers who had died in the American Civil War. This national observance followed the example of many local observances which were begun between the end of the Civil War and Logan's declaration. Many cities and people have claimed to be the first to observe it, however, the National Cemetery Administration, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, credits Mary Ann Williams of the Ladies Memorial Association of Columbus, Georgia with originating the idea of an annual date to decorate the graves of Civil War veterans with flowers.

Official recognition as a holiday spread among the states, beginning with New York in 1873. By 1890, every union state had adopted it. The world was turned it into a day of remembrance for all members of the U.S. military who fought and died in service. In 1968, Congress changed its observance to the last Monday in May, and in 1971 standardized its name as "Memorial Day." Two other days celebrate those who have served or are serving in the U.S. military: Armed Forces Day, which is earlier in May, a ceremonial U.S. day of commemoration for honoring those currently serving in the armed forces, and Veterans Day on November 11, a legal holiday which honors all those who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

# MEMBER TO MEMBER SERVICES

## PETROLEUM

Center Independent  
Doug Friend  
724-622-4835

Coen Markets Inc.  
Don Meade-Canonsburg, PA  
412-780-5480

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

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

## PETROLEUM

Graft Oil Company  
Kevin Forsythe Connellsville, PA  
724-557-4444

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

## REMODELING

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

Nexus Energy Services  
Zack Steele  
Canonsburg, PA  
724-705-3117

## SITE INSPECTION & TECHNICAL SERVICES

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

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

**MAY IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MONTH OF THE YEAR, A MONTH ALIVE WITH WARM COLOR. THE FLOWERS AND TREES ARE IN FULL BLOOM, AND EVEN THE SUN JOINS THIS RHAPSODY BE EMITTING WARMER RAYS.**  
- LILLIAN BERLINER

# Calendar of Events

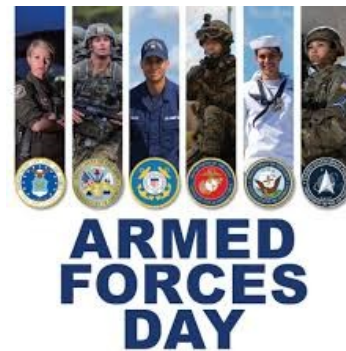
Cinco de Mayo	May 5
National Day of Prayer	May 7
Mother 's Day	May 10
Armed Forces Day	May 16
Memorial Day	May 25
A&B Operator Training Class	August 19

## 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

