



## SPARKS

APA Works for You!

### What's New in April

- Two new APA members – T-Z Cargo, Ltd, and Mr. B Fireworks. Thanks to Rob Nicholson who earned the first \$100 incentive gift certificate for recruiting a new Full member.
- **Did you Know?** With the arrival of spring and tornado season, it's a good time to review your emergency action plan with regard to natural disasters and fire emergencies.
- **Don't Forget:** The newly enacted economic stimulus package extends COBRA coverage & requires employers to notify qualified beneficiaries by April 18. APA issued an advisory to members on March 20<sup>th</sup>, refer to <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/cobra.html> for more details.

### On the Road

- Julie Heckman, APA Executive Director will participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Fireworks Conference in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in mid-April.
- Safety Program Manager Gregg Smith continues state fire service training sessions.

### Around Town

- Stephen Vitale, Pyrotecnico & Mike Cartolano, Melrose Pyrotechnics joined Julie Heckman in productive meetings held last week in Washington, D.C. with Department of Transportation & ATF officials to discuss pending industry issues.

### APA Report

- At the urging of the APA, the TSA clarified March 30 that inter modal carriers are exempt from Chain of Custody rules under the new Rail Security Regulations, thus paving the way for BNSF to lift the embargo on transporting 1.3G Fireworks.
- PHMSA recently approved an APA request to reclassify existing stocks of 1.3G fireworks devices of larger aerial shells and salutes to 1.1G devices. DOT procedure for obtaining this relief may be found on the member's only portion of the APA website.
- The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is offering free Security Action Item (SAI) training workshops for motor carriers June-Sept. See <http://www.tsa-sait.org/> for details.
- Under provisions of the economic stimulus package, small businesses with deductions exceeding their income in 2008 can use a new net operating loss provision to get a refund of taxes paid in prior years. See <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/rp-09-19.pdf> for IRS guidance.

### APA Salute – John Weiter, Gateway Fireworks Displays, St. Louis, Missouri



John Weiter

**Little Known Fact:** John is an officer with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Dept.

John has been an APA member for nearly 5 years and will soon reach Sustaining Member status. He serves on the Display Committee and will coordinate the fireworks productions during the 09 Convention in Branson. Gateway supports the APA through dues and sponsorships because John realized early that his affiliation with the APA could impact the success of his business & that the success of the APA is dependent on its members' willingness to serve.



Dr. Wu

### Milestones

- ☞ Condolences to the Loyd family on the passing of their patriarch L.W. Loyd, Sr., March 6. Mr. Loyd was a founding member of the APA and served two terms as its president.
- ☆ Congratulations to Dr. Francis Wu, Glorious Co., who was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree during the Outstanding Chinese Businessmen Awards in March.