

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By: Ron Eller, RSVA First Vice-President and Legislative Chair

At the national level, legislation in the House and Senate has been moving slowly through the system. We must remember this doesn't mean that members of the legislative committee aren't continuously checking on bills in both bodies of congress that would concern all Randolph-Sheppard vendors. We continue to search through legislation that deals with transportation, military dining, and the postal service, etc. We are always monitoring the HELP Committee for the possibility of opening the R-S Act.

Keep in mind, things can change without notice. We hope our congressional sources and our continuous monitoring of legislation will give us enough advance notice to get every R-S vendor involved in making phone calls to the appropriate legislators.

Local and State issues may not seem to be something that concerns vendors nationally who don't live within those specific areas. That complacency concerns me and should concern you. Although each state may have their own laws or mini R-S Acts, state agencies communicate with each other all the time. If one state imposes a maintenance fee on highway vendors, other states can see a potential to raise revenues. Before you know it, all rest area vendors are paying a fee.

It will take all vendors standing together to stop negative legislation that impacts the R-S Act. If we have individual state issues, I hope those states will contact the RSVA national office and ask the legislative committee for help.

Please also remember that the Reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act is winding its way through Committees in both congressional houses. Privatization has not been mentioned recently, but we must remain ever vigilant on this issue.

ACB LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT (2012)

It is not too early to begin planning to attend the midyear Legislative Seminar meetings in February 2012. Make your plans now, before the holiday activities begin.

Once again, ACB is planning to have a weekend full of programs that you won't want to miss! Attend with your State Councils or as part of the RSVAs affiliate, or register to attend individual events.

The meetings will be taking place at the Holiday Inn National Airport in Arlington, VA, as in the past few years. Room rates at the hotel are \$119 per night plus tax, and reservations can be made by either calling 1-800-HOLIDay, (1-800-4654329). Be sure to note the group ACB code as: `ACB&hotelCode=WASDC&_PMID=99801505`. The room rates are available beginning on February 23, and will apply through the 29th.

Here are the dates. The ACB Board meeting will be held on Friday, February 24, 2012. The Affiliate Presidents' Meeting will be on Saturday, February 25 and Sunday February 26. The Legislative Seminar will begin in the afternoon of February 26, and continue through Monday, February 27, and conclude on Tuesday, February 28 with visits to Congressional offices by participants.

ACB will have a registration process available shortly for the events, but in the meantime, feel free to reserve your rooms at the Holiday Inn National Airport, and mark your calendars so you won't miss the 2012 ACB midyear programs!