

OPINION

Fueling Kentucky for 100 years

By Brian Clark
KMPA Executive Director

Since its founding in 1926, the Kentucky Petroleum Marketers Association (KMPA) has remained steadfast in representing an industry with a \$7.1 billion impact on Kentucky's economic engine — empowering the people of this Commonwealth to work and travel, fuel factories and farms, heat homes, support communities in times of need, and drive the engine of progress.

Built on the legacy of Kentucky's "oil men" who recognized the need to form their own association to "promote businesslike competition among friendly marketers," KMPA members today own or supply 2,300 fuel retailing businesses, including gas stations and convenience stores, across the state. The association and Kentucky's fuel industry are celebrating this year a centennial milestone that underscores the ongoing importance of this crucial industry and the shared commitment to Kentucky. This anniversary is more than a moment in time; it symbolizes the constancy and daily reliability of the fuel supply industry as part of Kentucky's critical infrastructure.

KMPA members, many of whom are generational family-run businesses, help fuel the vehicles, businesses, and schools across the state. Tasked as the state's gas tax collectors, they serve a critical role to the Commonwealth in assuring the revenue income to support the state's highway infrastructure.

The association and its members also have grown alongside Kentucky's key agricultural, manufacturing, and transportation industries, fueling progress and prosperity in every corner of our state.

As time has passed, many have forgotten the role the industry plays in addressing food deserts, especially in rural areas, where Kentuckians rely on KMPA members' stores to provide everyday grocery and household items that would otherwise be miles, sometimes towns, away.

"What truly sets KMPA apart is our heritage of family businesses across the state — companies passed from generation to generation, each contributing to the continuity and spirit that define our

association," says KMPA chairman Scott Kiser of Woodford Oil in Ashland. "The relationships forged within KMPA have created a thriving community, extraordinary not only in achievement but also in its commitment to serve our fellow Kentuckians."

Kiser is one of the 72 individuals in 100 years who have faithfully chaired the KMPA Board of Directors and provided the leadership essential to the organization's success. KMPA members are often multi-generational businesses, and KMPA's leadership over the years has reflected the family connection, as 9 pairs of father-son business owners have served as chair.

Remarkably, only four individuals have served as the association's executive director in its 100-year history. In 1930, KMPA's office was housed in room 437 at the historic Brown Hotel in Louisville. In 2012, the KMPA moved to its present location in Lexington when it partnered with Associations International, an association management company, and experienced a new season of growth.

As KMPA marks 100 years, it honors the decades of commitment and innovation of those who came before, as well as the contributions these members made to Kentucky. Their dedication, vision, and resilience built the foundation upon which the industry stands today. KMPA also celebrates the present — the members, staff, and partners whose commitment ensures KMPA remains vital and relevant in a rapidly changing world.

"Fueling Kentucky" is more than a tagline for KMPA. It is a commitment to Kentucky and the people and businesses this critical industry serves each day.

Looking forward, the future is bright and unwavering. KMPA will continue to advocate for the industry, provide educational opportunities, foster innovation, promote stewardship of Kentucky's resources, strengthen the ties that unite its members within Kentucky, and serve as reliable partners to the Commonwealth.

New years resolutions not for everyone

Every year, around midnight on December 31st, something magical happens. Fireworks explode, glasses clink, and perfectly reasonable adults

suddenly believe this will be the year they become a different person entirely.

They say, "This is it. New year, new me."

The old you,

who crammed more pizza down your neck than the Tasmanian Devil and avoided exercise like a haunted house, has officially been left behind in the last year. The new you wakes up on January 1st full of ambition, optimism, and a dangerous amount of confidence. By January 2nd, you realize that you despise the taste of rice cakes and going to the gym would require you to actually get up off the couch, and that's just too much trouble. As for me, I learned a long time ago that New Year's resolutions weren't for me. It's not like I don't work out. I must walk to the refrigerator at least a hundred times a day.

A co-worker told me today

that he had made a resolution to finally get in shape. I didn't believe him. Not sure why. It could have been the Marlboro Light hanging from his lips when he said it, or it could have been that he had a jaw full of bacon as he spoke. Somehow, I just don't think he is serious. As for me, my favorite exercise is called lunch. I love it so much, I do it every day. Sometimes three or four times. Now that's commitment.

My doctor told me that if I knew what was good for me, I'd start to eat a little healthier. I told him that I had already eaten a good portion of my food from the five food groups. You know the ones. Pan-fried, deep-fried, oven-fried, sautéed, and, of course, dessert. Geez, what else does he want from me? I did try to eat better, though. I bought some kale. I'm not sure how to cook it or, for that matter, how to eat it. I finally decided to eat some leftover pizza. After all, pizza sauce is made from tomatoes. That counts, right?

I suppose if I were to make a resolution, it would be to start saving more money. I spend entirely too much

money now on going out to eat. I love it so much that I go to KFC just to lick other people's fingers. I wanted to save money, so I went out and bought a bunch of books on weight loss, organizers to track my progress, and some fancy walking shoes. I thought the goal was to save money, not spend it.

I suppose I could improve my mental well-being a bit because I'm wound up tighter most of the time, more than a Baptist preacher's girdle at an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast. When I was growing up, my parents tried to send me to a child psychiatrist to deal with my stress. I refused and demanded to see an adult doctor at least.

I thought about it for a while, then decided I might make a resolution to be more organized. Then I realized that organized people are just too lazy to look for things, and there is no sense in that.

Hey, I'm not quitting or giving up, I'm just warming up for next year, right?

Letter to the Editor

Submissions in the Letter to the Editor section do not necessarily depict the views of Winchester Sun staff.

After reading the recent article in the Winchester Sun titled "Concerns raised surrounding litter abatement grant funding," I felt there needed to be clarification. While I appreciate the Winchester Sun covering this issue, I believe a critical and important part of the story was left out.

In an email dated December 18, 2025, from Lisa Evans, the following was stated, and I quote:

"Clark County will not be receiving Litter Abatement Grant funding for 2026 due to

not submitting your 2024 Annual Report that was due March 1, 2025. In that report is where you record the expenditures for the 2024 grant. Our office worked with the Judge on different occasions, and I also talked with him at the Judges/Magistrates Summer Conference in June 2025. I offered to come to Clark County to assist with the recording of the expenditures.

He told me that I wasn't needed at that time and that the county was working on the annual report and litter expenditures. That is the last time I have heard anything from him. Also, the county did not submit an application for the 2026 Litter Abatement Grant."

This information is significant and directly explains why Clark County will not receive Litter Abatement Grant funding for 2026. The responsibility lies solely with Judge Les Yates for failing to fulfill these required responsibilities. As a result, Clark County taxpayers have lost approximately \$80,000 in grant funding.

It is important that the taxpayers of Clark County understand where this responsibility lies and why these funds were lost.

Daniel Konstantopoulos, Winchester Magistrate District 1

Letter to the Editor

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In response to Becky Shepherd's letter to the editor of a few weeks back, detailing her feelings about school plays at RDC and at GRC:

So, "you can't start censorship too young," is what I'm hearing from Ms. Shepherd. Once again, here seems to be one adult trying to parent children who don't belong to

her. The schools she names are funded with taxpayer dollars, so programs should reflect the broad base of those taxpayers, not just cater to one specific religious group. Each child who participated has a parent or guardian who can choose to withdraw that child from the program. Never mind the documentation relating that hyper-sheltered children struggle in non-parented adulthood; how about we each simply mind our own business,

and let the parents of these students mind theirs?

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/escaping-our-mental-traps/202205/the-dangers-overprotective-parenting>

<https://geediting.com/signs-you-grew-up-overprotected-and-sheltered-from-the-world-according-to-psychology/>

Renee Wallace, Winchester

Letters to the Editor

Letters must be 300 words or less and are subject to editing for brevity. Please include name, address and phone number on emails and letters. We reserve the right to publish one letter per person per 30 day period. Only names and cities of residence will be published. The Winchester Sun reserves the right to reject any letter. Send to Matt Cizek, 10 Court Street, Winchester, KY 40391 or matt.cizek@winchestersun.com