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**Denise Thomas Appointed as New Chairman of the
Wisconsin Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association**

Madison, Wis. (April 25, 2017) –The Wisconsin Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association (WPMCA) is proud to announce Denise Thomas’ appointment as chairperson of the organization’s board of directors.

Thomas and her husband, Steven, owns two Mobil convenience stores in Manitowoc. Thomas is only the second woman to lead the organization.

“In July 1998, Steven and I were working parents, chauffeuring our three sons around the area and complaining that we had to drive to town to get to the closest gas station,” recalled Thomas. “One day, when we were driving past this parcel of land, Steve said, ‘someone needs to build a gas station here’”

“I thought he was nuts, but a few months later, we started our store,” she continued. “The past 20 years have gone past in the blink of an eye.”

She’s looking forward to working with other members in 2017 to help the association prioritize issues that are important to keeping their businesses strong. “It doesn’t matter whether you have one store or ten, every voice matters,” said Thomas. “It’s critical to keep everyone updated on what matters most to ensure the continued viability of each and every petroleum marketer in the state.”

This year promises to be challenging as another battle on the Unfair Sales Act looms. “We need to work together to keep this law in place to level the playing field for everyone in our industry,” she said. “There is great passion among our entire board to keep the Unfair Sales Act in place, working hard for every Wisconsin consumer and to keep our independent businesses strong.”

WPMCA represents over 2,000 independent petroleum marketers, convenience store owners, truck stop and travel plaza operators, automotive oil change outlets and other automotive service providers throughout Wisconsin. These companies sell over 80 percent of the motor fuel and nearly all the farm fuel and heating oil sold in Wisconsin. For more information, go to www.wpmca.org.

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