

ISSUE:
January 2008

Calendar:

Board Meeting Dates-

- March 27
- May 15
- June 26
- August 21 at EXPO
- October 23
- December 13

Other events-

- **March 7-9 Light Duty Tow School, Seattle at Lincoln Towing**
- **CTTA Tow Show May 29 to June 1, Reno**
- **September 16-17 Traffic Incident Management Conference, Lacey Community Center**

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The Dispatch

An Official Publication of:

TOWING & RECOVERY

ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON

Christmas Party Brings Funds for Survivors

Thanks to the generosity of members, over \$700 was raised at the TRAW Christmas party for the Survivor Fund. The Survivor Fund provides the families of fallen towers with a uniform financial gift at the time of their loss. The men and women of the towing industry assist the motoring public every day of the year, twenty four hours a day in all types of weather and hazardous conditions. The risks that are part of this profession are considerable and result in the tragic loss of upward of 100 towing operators in the line of service annually. Whether providing towing service or roadside assistance, the fine men and women of the towing industry are risking their lives in everything from simply changing a tire to working complex recoveries at accident scenes. The International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame and Museum has successfully launched the towing industry Survivor Fund. The Survivor Fund is the latest addition to the ITRHFM family and was established to help the families of the men and women that have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of service.

TRAW TO PROVIDE INPUT TO WAC CHANGES

TRAW member towers are encouraged to have their input and suggestions on the WSP-recommended changes to the Washington Administrative code 204 91A to the TRAW office or to their district chair no later than March 27. The WAC changes will be the primary topic of discussion for each of the District meetings in February as well. WSP representatives have offered to attend meetings in all districts. Each district chair will compile input from each district with all input to be accumulated and sifted through at the March meeting. The March TRAW board meeting will be dedicated to the discussing the WAC changes. Members are welcome to send their info directly to the TRAW office if they choose to and are welcome to the board meeting. WSP would like the final input from TRAW by April 30 so they have time to review and still get back to the Association for follow if needed. The WSP tentative release of the WAC will be after all reviews and on or near July 1. TRAW plans to identify a negotiation team that will work on final language recommendations with WSP during May that will operate similar to the work teams put together for the Major Incident Tow program and contract negotiations.

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SAFETY ENFORCEMENT FEE INCREASE

The 2007 Legislature increased the Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement Fee (CVSEF) from \$10 to \$16 effective July 22, 2007 but exemptions are provided for those that operate an auto transport, passenger charter, solid waste, motor freight, or limousine. After discussion with the Department of Licensing, TRAW lobbyist Stu Halsan confirmed that RTTO's are exempt from this fee as towers do not transport hazardous material. You may subtract the \$16 CVSEF from your renewal.

TRAW BOARD MINUTES

January 15, Cle Elum Fire Station

Board Present: Jackie Currie, Kurt Gillard, Ron Madler, Dan Johnson, Mike Bartolotti, Mike DeSpain, Theresa Gault, Doug Faber, Ken Schmidt, Stacey Tucker

Absent: Tom Lomis, Bettie Simmons, Rolfe Johnson

Proxies: None

Member Guest: Randy Houston

Guests: WSP Lt. Jeff Jones and Sgt. Mike Eggleston

Staff: Vicky Scharlau

Minutes:

Ron Madler moved to accept the minutes with edits with a second by Doug Faber. Unanimous

Financials:

Jackie Currie moved to accept the financials with a second by Ron Madler. Unanimous.

Discussion:

Doug Faber moved to have staff incorporate a standardized district agenda that will be sent out to each district chair with a second by Theresa Gault. One abstain. Passed.

Doug Faber moved to ask districts to send their minutes to the TRAW office (with reminders from TRAW office) to be shared with other districts with a second by Jackie Currie. Unanimous.

Tow Expo:

Stacey Tucker moved to authorize Jackie Currie to move ahead with rate schedule for the expo with a second by Ron Madler. Unanimous

Mike Bartolotti moved with a second by Stacey Tucker to spend up to \$500 in advertising for the Expo. Unanimous.

Other:

Jackie Currie moved to send Scharlau to the CTTA show with a second by Ron Madler. Unanimous.

Jackie Currie moved to form a committee to facilitate pertinent info related to 2009 contracts with 501 Consultants, Stu Halsan and Ken Nikko for board approval with a second by Theresa Gault. Unanimous.

Next meeting is February 21 in Olympia which includes Legislative visits. The meeting schedule was set for the remainder of the year as well.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

TRAW LEGISLATIVE REPORT



By: TRAW Lobbyist- Stu Halsan

The Washington Legislature began Monday, January 14th for a 60 day election year session. With a surplus of revenue above last years two-year budget no tax increases would make sense and in fact the Governor and the Democratically controlled

Legislature will only be disagreeing on how much money to place in a "Rainy-Day" account in case of a recession. Other issues that have been raised are stiffer sex offender sentences, housing, and flood control measures and the so-called "Mega-Projects" in transportation such as the 520 Bridge and the Viaduct. Tolls and transferring General Fund money to transportation uses have been suggested for those but no decision has been made.

As usual the first priority of the TRAW is to make sure that nothing bad happens and if possible through our opposition, amendment or support, either stop or change proposals to our benefit as we were very successful doing last year.

We still have two bills of ours in the process from the last session, HB 1923 which would set up a system so that the Department of Licenses can track non-RTTO's using transporter plates which would be the first step to their subsequent inspection. Although some of the worst offenders don't even bother with transporter plates we will push for stricter enforcement. A recent article in the Seattle Times reported an incident, which will greatly help our argument, of a flat bed tow truck pulling up to help a disabled vehicle and then stealing it. In that article the State Patrol commented that they only worked with a "select few" towing companies.. Translation, US! We were able to avoid a hearing in the House on this bill because it had gone as far as the Senate last year, and it has already been sent to the Senate again after a 96-1 approval by the House.

Another bill we have from last year may be somewhat more problematic and that is the bill HB 1924 to raise the deficiency cap for private tows from \$500 to \$1,000 and from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for heavier trucks. At its hearing in 2007 the Used Car Dealers pushed for an amendment to require that our 24 hour notice also be mailed by certified mail. Having to double the cost of mailing for every vehicle would be completely unacceptable and we will try to move the deficiency bill if we can keep it from being amended. I have set a series of appointments with House Transportation leaders to try to get this bill moving "clean"

Unfortunately one issue that we put a lot of effort into this fall has been de-railed. The so-called "Liability" issue which would require the insurance coverage of towing services related to accidents never seemed to get the interest of the state Insurance Commissioners office. Although supported by the WSDOT, the WSP and the TIM's coalition the Insurance Commissioner is a necessary partner if we are to challenge the powerful insurance industry on this controversial issue. We will continue to work this issue aggressively.

TRAW Lost A Friend

Margo of Bolster's Towing

Margo Jean Frownfelter, 54, known to most as "Margo of Bolster's Towing," passed away in her home with her family by her side on Dec. 4, 2007, after a short battle with cancer.

Margo met Dennis Frownfelter on April 20, 1969, they were married three years later.

In the fall of 1985, neighbors introduced Dennis to Maynard Bolster, owner of Bolster's Towing. Dennis worked for Maynard part-time during the winter and was full-time soon after. Margo would go with Dennis on long calls and help with recoveries. Maynard convinced Dennis and Margo to buy him out in 1990. Margo enjoyed driving the tow trucks, she could back the truck and vehicle better than any other driver, including Dennis; the shops would tease the drivers about calling Margo if it took them more than one try to back a vehicle into their shop.

In 1992, Margo and Dennis started expanding the business. The business allowed them to travel (tow vehicles) to Denver, Seattle, Portland, Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Alberta, Yukon Territory and Prescott, Ariz.

Memorials may be sent to either Grace Hospice, 1117 South Main Street, Kalispell, MT 59901; or the Montana Tow Truck Association (MTTA) Survivors Memorial Fund, 332 Tobin Creek Road, Livingston, MT 59047.

TOWERS DONATE SPARKY DOGS TO HOSPITALS

From Debbie Caveness, Randy's Towing

Thanks to all the towers who purchased stuffed and fuzzy animals called "Sparky Dogs" at the Christmas auction in December. Thanks to you we delivered dogs on Christmas Eve to the children's ward at the Wenatchee Hospital, Chelan Hospital, Brewster Hospital, Okanogan Hospital, Tonasket Hospital, OverLake Medical Center in Bellevue, St. Jo Children's Hospital, and St. Johns in Longview.

In addition, Agri-fix delivered to various locations in Moses Lake, the WSP ordered some for use as Trauma-Bears, Nisqually Towing ordered and delivered to their local hospitals, as did Kitsap Towing! I just want to say that I am so grateful for all companies that participated in our project! It is so rewarding to put a smile on the face of a child who isn't feeling very good. God bless every one of you that helped! And thanks to Theresa Gault for all of her help too!

Here's a note from all the nurses in Pediatrics at Central Washington Hospital:

"To all of you at TRAW, George Towing and to Debbie Caveness; thank you so much for coming to visit the Children in Pediatrics at Christmas and bringing the wonderful gifts. The children appreciated them very much."

Good job team!

2008 BOARD & OFFICERS

President

Kurt Gillard, George Washington Towing
(509) 785-5984

Vice President

Doug Faber, Mount Vernon Towing
(360) 336-3535

Treasurer/Secretary

Jackie Currie, Columbia Towing
(206) 722-2535

Member At Large

Stacey Tucker, Chico Towing
(360) 479-7500

Past President

Rolfe Johnson, Jim's Northgate Towing
(206) 364-1500

District 1 Chair

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(253) 272-9393

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(206) 364-2000

District 3 Chair

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(509) 582-9414

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Mike DeSpain, Carl's Towing Service
(360) 423-4460

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Theresa Gault, Ron's Towing
(509) 662-3113

District 7 Chair

Dan Johnson, Johnson's Towing
(360) 733-4232

District 8 Chair

Ron Madler, Kitsap Towing
(360) 297-8600

Why be a Member of the Towing & Recovery Association of Washington?

TRAW is organized by towing, recovery and storage business owners to represent the interests of the tow truck industry. We stand as the authority on the industry and represent its interests in governmental and legal affairs. We promote a profitable operating climate by working with State Patrol, the Dept. of Transportation, the Dept. of Licensing, the Legislature, and organizations directly or indirectly related to the tow business. There is strength in numbers.

TOWING & RECOVERY

ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON

**CONTRACTED STAFF-
Office Administration**

501 Consultants, Inc.
Vicky Scharlau, Administrator
Debbie Sands, Business Manager
Eileen Wilkinson, Admin. Assist.
Andrea Baker, Communications

**CONTRACTED STAFF-
Legislative Issues**

Stu Halsan, Attorney

**CONTRACTED STAFF-
Technical Issues**

Ken Nikko

Association Office
 203 Mission Avenue, Suite 107
 Cashmere, WA 98815
 Phone: 509.782.7170
 Fax: 509.782.1203



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**TRAW NEWSLETTER
 ADVERTISING RATES**

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
--1/4 Page 4 1/4 x 5 1/8	\$ 45.00	\$100.00
--1/2 Page 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 or 4 1/4 x 11	\$90.00	\$200.00
--Full Page 8 1/4 x 10 3/4	\$175.00	\$400.00
--Business Card 2 x 3 1/2	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00

Rates are non-commissionable. Camera-ready copy means all artwork and type is in place, the ad is correct size and ready to be printed. If we must typeset or design, an additional setup fee will be charged to cover costs. Call (509) 782-7170.

Tow Truck Driver's Psalm

*The Lord is my tow truck driver.
 He is always there to answer my call.
 He gives me a boost when my battery is low.
 He changes my tire when I am deflated and need a spare.
 He brings me fuel when my tank is empty.
 He lets me in even when I have locked myself out.
 He takes me to a place of healing when I can go no more.
 Though I am from out of town he guides me to a reputable place
 of repair.
 Though I am stuck through my own errors, he will come and
 pull me out.
 In my time of need he cares about my safety and watches out
 for me.
 When darkness comes he uses his lights to let me know he is
 there.
 When he is there I know I will be well taken care of.
 His truck is prepared for any eventuality that might come up.
 He will stay with me until we reach my destination.
 He is ready in his service to all who call upon him.*

By Jason Torres
 Nisqually Towing