

# Industry Update



NW Automotive Trades Assn.

## **Important changes to NATA health plans means greater choice, value**

In our continuing effort to offer you, our members, the benefits that best meet your needs, NATA is making some important changes to our health insurance plan options this fall. We feel these changes will give NATA member businesses more options and better value.

If you are currently part of one of NATA's group health insurance plans – or if you aren't but are looking for cost-effective options for your company – you'll want to check out how these new plans can help provide you and your employees with outstanding medical coverage at reasonable rates.

As of this coming November 1, NATA members will be able to choose between Health Net PPO or Kaiser Permanente. Because of a new unique agreement NATA has developed, not everyone in your company has to choose the same plan. For example, the owners of the company may choose Health Net for themselves, while some or all employees may choose Kaiser.

This added flexibility comes because the overall system will be administered by Benu, so no matter which plan or combinations of plans are in place at your company, you will receive one bill from Benu.

All Benu plans include prescription drug coverage and alternative care coverage. There will also be an option for vision coverage. Although as November 1 NATA will no longer have the Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield (RBCBS) medical insurance program, RBCBS will continue to provide the "fee for service" and Dentacare dental plans for those who wish to opt for dental benefits.

The Health Net plan is very similar to RBCBS in that it offers a choice of doctors and hospitals throughout Oregon. Kaiser Permanente is available in the following Oregon counties: Benton, Clackamas, Columbia, Hood River, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington

and Yamhill, as well as Clark County, Wash.

"In short, this shift to the Benu plan will offer NATA members more choice and better value because of its competitive rates," NATA's Barbara Crest said. "It gives company owners and each individual employee the ability to choose the right plan for them. It offers great value because it includes prescriptions and alternative health care. And overall, the premium rates are so competitive they may represent a savings for participants in the plan."

NATA is making this change only after a great deal of thought and research, and we are prepared to help our members through this transition. If you are currently part of an NATA health benefits plan, in the next few weeks you will receive in the mail renewal information to make the transfer to Benu. The mailing will include specific information about your choices of plans and level of benefits.

If you are not currently part of an NATA health benefits plan, please call our office to get more information about joining.

In either case, we will be happy to answer any questions we can, and if our staff doesn't have the answers, we will help you get the information you need from the plan insurers and administrators.

We also will be holding informational meetings about the changes at Noon on Wed., Sept. 6, and at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 7. Both meetings will be held at the NATA Training Room in Northeast Portland. Similar meetings are being scheduled around the state in September.

Again, watch for a mailing with more information about this new NATA health benefits package, or call Barbara or Cathi in our office.

## **Collision event to feature Sulkala**

Just a reminder that collision industry leader Chuck Sulkala will lead a discussion on the "State of the Autobody Industry," this coming Monday in Beaverton. Call us for details or to register for this free event and dinner.

**For the weeks of  
August 21-28, 2006**

## **TRAINING AND EVENT CALENDAR**

*Advance Registration  
Required*

### **NATA Collision Event**

*Speaker: Chuck Sulkala  
Monday, August 28  
6 p.m. (7 p.m. dinner)  
Precision Body & Paint  
Beaverton*

### **NATA Health Insurance Meetings**

*Wed., Sept. 6 – Noon  
Thurs., Sept. 7 – 6:30 p.m.  
NATA Training Room  
Northeast Portland*

### **NATA's 'Express Lunch and Learn'**

*Wednesday, Sept. 20  
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
NATA Training Room  
Northeast Portland*

### **NATA Board Meeting**

*Thursday, October 5  
Langdon Farms Golf Club  
Aurora, Ore.*

### **NATA's 'Express Lunch and Learn'**

*Wednesday, October 18  
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
NATA Training Room  
Northeast Portland*

### **Hybrid Electrical System Analysis**

*Monday, November 6  
6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
NATA Training Room  
Northeast Portland*

**HAVE QUESTIONS? WANT MORE INFO? WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!**

**Northwest Automotive Trades Association**

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