



The Industry Update

A membership service of the Northwest Automotive Trades Association (NATA)
For the weeks of November 12-19, 2007

Ready to Take a Leadership Role - or Know Someone Who Should?

The NATA Board at its meeting last weekend created a nominating committee in preparation for the upcoming election of NATA Officers and Directors for 2008. If you exemplify success in the automotive trades (or you know someone who does), we'd like to talk to you about serving on the NATA Board. It is a one-year commitment with meetings held quarterly around the state. If you are interested, call our office, (503) 253-9898, or calls any of the current board members (see your Who's Who directory, pg. 8) that are part of the nominating committee: Bob Anderson, Rick Field, Ross Bradshaw or Kurt Garbe.

National AAIA rep urges support for "Right to Repair" legislation

Speaking at the NATA board meeting in Eugene last weekend, Aaron Lowe, vice president of government affairs for the national Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association (AAIA), called on the industry to support proposed federal "Right to Repair" legislation. Lowe acknowledged that much of the OEM service and repair information is now available to independent repairers through the automaker subscription websites, but said that continued access needs to be based on something more concrete (such as a legislative requirement or a legally-binding agreement) than a promise from the automakers. He said shops can easily send a letter to Congress urging support for the legislation at the www.RightToRepair.org website.

Quote of the Week

"There are some people who have made statements saying NASTF is ineffective. There's other groups who have said NASTF has already solved the problem. Actually, neither one of those is 100 percent true or false. NASTF is a neutral organization. NASTF has no opinion one way or the other when it comes to 'Right to Repair.' Our mission is to identify gaps and try to fill them for the service industry. We think that's a function that is important regardless of what happens to 'Right to Repair' legislation.

- National Automotive Service Task Force (NASTF) Chairman Charlie Gorman speaking in late October of his organization's efforts to monitor access to OEM service and repair information.

DEQ seeks input on proposed new EPA regs on automotive refinishing

The EPA has proposed new rules that would require collision repair shops to use HVLP spray equipment, approved spray booths or prep stations, and enclosed gun cleaners, as well as having their paint technicians certified as trained in proper application techniques. At last weekend's board meeting, John Taylor of Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality asked for the industry's input on how DEQ would implement the rules once finalized. The new federal guidelines are similar to DEQ rules already in place in the Portland and Medford areas, but the federal rules would extend the requirements statewide. Call our office if you would like to make your thoughts and opinions known to DEQ.

Lunch & Learn: Year-End Financial and Tax Tips

Wednesday, November 28 • Portland

What can you do before December 31 to impact what you pay in taxes next April 15? At our "Express Lunch & Learn," Jason Orme, an accountant with Talbot, Korvola & Warwick, LLP, will offer information and ideas and take questions related to recent tax code changes and year-end accounting for small businesses. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 28, at our Training Room in Northeast Portland and is just \$20 including lunch. Call us to register or check our [website](#).

Happy Thanksgiving from NATA!

We wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving. Don't forget that our offices will be closed next Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23, to allow our staff to celebrate the holiday with their families.

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Remember that Kaiser is an option through NATA Health Plan

Just a reminder that if you are or would like to be a Kaiser Permanente member for health care coverage, this is an option in the NATA Health Plan. We have received some calls from those enrolled in Kaiser but not through the NATA Health Plan saying that their rates really went up. If you've found that to be true, call us to see if enrolling in Kaiser through the NATA Health Plan can save you money!

Legislative outlook for 2008 discussed

NATA lobbyist Darrell Fuller last weekend at the board meeting discussed the association's successes during the last Oregon Legislative session, and looked ahead to 2008, when the Legislature begins meeting annually for the first time. In January 2008, he said, the NATA-supported SB 523 goes into effect, requiring insurers to tell consumers they have a right to use the shop of their choice prior to giving any shop recommendation. If a vehicle-owner does not choose an insurer-recommended shop, the insurer may not limit the cost of repairs "other than as stated in the policy or as otherwise allowed by law." Fuller said he expects lawmakers in 2008 to consider proposed legislation that would require recycling rather than disposal of used oil filters, and may again consider an NATA-supported bill directing the Oregon Department of Education to conduct a study on career and technical education - which includes automotive and autobody training - in Oregon high schools.

NACE and CARS to merge next year

Starting next year, ASA's CARS mechanical event will be combined with ASA's NACE collision event. The two have been held the same week but at different hotels in Las Vegas for several years. In 2008, both events will be held during the first full week of November at Las Vegas' Mandalay Bay Convention Center. Though each event will maintain its own name and own schedule of classes, a joint trade show will include vendors from both the mechanical and collision sides of the automotive aftermarket. ASA is designating the week "Automotive Service & Repair Week," although it will still take place during what is already called "Automotive Aftermarket Industry Week" in Las Vegas, when the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) and Automotive Aftermarket Products Expo (AAPEX) trade shows are held.

Good News: SAIF will issue a dividend!

Those of you with workers' comp insurance through SAIF will share in a \$60 million dividend SAIF's board of directors approved earlier this month for its 41,000 policyholders. Call our office if you are not part of NATA's SAIF plan to see if we can save you some money!

Welcome New NATA Members!

Tom's Bronco Parts in Medford, and **River City Automotive Service** in Aloha, have joined NATA.

The Calendar

NATA's 'Express Lunch and Learn'

Topic: Year-End Financials and Tax Tips

Wednesday, November 28 • 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

NATA Training Room • Northeast Portland

NATA's 'Express Lunch and Learn'

Topic: Financial Planning

Wednesday, January 16 • 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

NATA Training Room • Northeast Portland

Have Questions? Want More Info? We're Here for You!

Northwest Automotive Trades Association

Administrative Offices / Mailing Address: 7931 N.E. Halsey Street, Suite 212 • Portland, OR 97213

Training Room: 1710 NE 82nd Ave. ■ Portland

Phone: (503) 253-9898 ■ (800) 730-7282

Fax: (503) 253-9890

<http://www.aboutNATA.org>