

# The Industry Update

*A membership service of the Northwest Automotive Trades Association  
For the weeks of November 16-23, 2009*

**NATA Members Interested in Serving on the Board of Directors** – The Nominating Committee will be meeting in November to consider candidates for the 2010 Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving on the Board, contact Bob Anderson, AJ's Auto Repair, Salem, 503 581-7737.

**Oregon Tax Amnesty** - The Oregon tax amnesty program is drawing to a close. The deadline for filing a tax amnesty application is November 19, 2009. Under the amnesty program, a taxpayer who has unfiled taxes or tax returns that need to be amended for tax years 2007 and earlier can apply to file without paying any penalties and with a 50% reduction in the interest due. The application form is quick and easy to complete requiring the taxpayer(s) name, address, phone number, social security number or EIN, the type of tax for which you are requesting amnesty (personal, business, Trimet self employment, trust or inheritance), and the tax year(s) for which you are filing.

The tax returns can be filed with the amnesty form or prior to January 19, 2010. You must write the word "AMNESTY" across the top of the return. These must be mailed to: Oregon Department of Revenue, Attn: Oregon Tax Amnesty, P.O. Box 14750, Salem, OR 97309-0466. Installment plans are available through the program by checking a box on the amnesty application. A representative from the Department of Revenue will contact you to discuss the terms.

This program is available to most taxpayers unless they have been notified by the Oregon Department of Revenue of a tax deficiency. It does not apply to 2008 tax returns.

One caution- by filing for tax amnesty, you forfeit the right to receive a refund of any tax paid. You also waive your right to appeal any tax reported on a tax return filed, or any tax paid, under the Tax Amnesty Program. You won't want to use the amnesty program to file a tax return for a year in which you anticipate a refund.

For additional information go to [www.taxamnesty.com](http://www.taxamnesty.com)

**A Long-Time NATA Member Passes** - Dan C. Hall, born in 1938 and died on November 10, 2009. Dan was born in Portland. He owned and operated Dan Hall's Automotive Machine Shop on North Killingsworth in Portland. He is survived by his wife, Elaine Brockbank; and stepson, Ross Brockbank. No services will be held at his request.

**NATA Members Benefit from Health Plan Approach** – This year, NATA features both Kaiser Permanente and Colonial Life in its insurance offerings. The Readers' Choice Awards 2009 articulate the many reasons Colonial Life has risen to the top in the Best Consumer-Driven Health Care Products. This year's vote was DOUBLE the tally for last year!

In the best consumer-driven health care products, Colonial Life is the Winner. Powered largely by the carrier's indemnity-based limited benefit medical plan, Colonial's effort to reach out to the uninsured (and underinsured) is more relevant than ever.

Colonial Life prides itself on understanding its customers. The company knows cookie cutter approaches to employee benefits simply don't work. Employees today need flexible insurance products that can be individualized to meet their personal needs. They need help in better understanding their benefits choices and appreciate the support of personal benefits counselors. In addition, they need an enrollment process that's simplified and able to meet them where they are, at any time, whether they're working nights, enrolling from home on the Internet or attending a group meeting with their fellow coworkers.

Colonial Life's approach to employee benefits has struck a chord with working Americans. At the heart of its value proposition is benefits education and communication, which the company provides through a

nationwide network of benefits counselors. The company's broad portfolio of personal insurance products and enrollment expertise work in tandem to help consumers find the solutions they need.

And for the second year in a row, Kaiser Permanente Northwest topped all other Oregon and Washington health plans in U.S. News & World Report's annual list of "America's Best Health Plans.™" U.S. News & World Report worked with the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) to rank plans on the basis of consumer assessment, preventive care, and treatment provided. Nationwide, they were ranked 46th this year among commercial health plans, up from 50th last year. Their Senior Advantage plans ranked 7th among all Medicare plans, up from 20th in 2008.

Rankings were published in the November 16, 2009 issue of U.S. News & World Report. They are available online at [www.usnews.com/healthplans](http://www.usnews.com/healthplans)

**The Top Three on NATA's Website** - Just a reminder, that NATA website **Calendar** lists upcoming classes and events. The **Education** tab includes a swap page of items needed by school automotive programs around the state. And the **Employment Referral Page** is available to post job openings or resumes, all FREE of CHARGE! at [www.aboutnata.org](http://www.aboutnata.org)

**NATA wishes you a happy Thanksgiving on November 26.** The office will be closed on Thanksgiving and the Friday after (November 27) so that staff may celebrate the holidays with family and friends.

Have questions? Want more information? We are here for you!  
Northwest Automotive Trades Association  
7931 NE Halsey St. Ste. 212, Portland, OR 97213  
503 253-9898 | Toll Free 1 800 730-7282  
[www.aboutnata.org](http://www.aboutnata.org)