### Session will help shops with new equal pay law

NATA's "Lunch & Learn" in February will help businesses understand and comply with Oregon’s new equal pay act.

The law gives Oregon businesses until the end of this year to close pay gaps and document compliance. This may not be simple and may require getting some outside help.

Tom Engel of Vantage PBS will be the speaker at the February 22 "Lunch & Learn" to explain the new law and how to comply in order to avoid fines.

The "Lunch & Learn" will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the NATA classroom in Portland, 7931 N.E. Halsey, Suite 300. The cost is $20 and includes lunch.

Please call (503) 253-9898 to reserve your spot!

### NATA members get discount for training expo

NATA members are eligible for special pricing for the 2018 "Automotive Training Expo," being held March 16-18 at the Doubletree Hotel, Seattle Airport.

More than 50 classes for both mechanical and collision repair shops are being offered at the event, sponsored by the Automotive Service Association Northwest. An expo, meals and keynote speakers are also on the agenda.

Click here for more details on the event and to register. NATA thanks ASA-NW for offering this savings to NATA members!

### Collision shops asked, "Who Pays for What?"

Collision Advice and CRASH Network this month are conducting the first "Who Pays for What?" survey of 2018, asking collision repair shops about their billing practices - and the payment practices of the largest auto insurers - related to "not-included" refinish labor operations.

This past fall's "Who Pays" survey found that 11 percent of collision shops said they are paid an administrative fee for OEM procedure research "always" or "most of the time" by the top eight-largest auto insurers. This was up from 7 percent in the same survey a year earlier, and up from just 6 percent in the 2015 survey.
The percentage of shops saying they have never billed an administrative fee for OEM research also has declined from about 76 percent in 2015 to about 70 percent in the latest survey.

Mike Anderson of Collision Advice said that even apart from OEM information subscription fees, there are real costs associated with researching information.

"I'm seeing the typical amount of total sales a single estimator can handle decline, because the estimating process continues to become more complex, including research of OEM repair information," Anderson said. I'm starting to see a few shops with an employee doing nothing but scanning vehicles and researching OEM repair procedures. I think it will be interesting to watch what shops report about billing and being paid for this moving forward."

The current "Who Pays" survey focuses on refinish procedures and includes some all-new questions to offer the industry even more helpful information; shops can take the survey before the end of January by clicking here.

**Mileage rate increases for 2018**

Be aware that as January 1, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (van, pick-up or panel truck) is now 54.5 cents for every mile of business travel taken, a 1-cent increase from last year. The mileage rate for medical or moving purposes is also up 1-cent to 18 cents per mile driven.

**AAPEX grows, signals change in industry**

Last fall's AAPEX 2017 demonstrated beyond a doubt that the $740 billion global automotive aftermarket is a high-tech industry being reshaped by the many new products, technologies and services that enable mobility and connectivity. The event took place October 31 through November 2 in Las Vegas.

With a sold-out trade show, hundreds of new product announcements and innovative programs to show the impact of technology, AAPEX 2017 provided automotive aftermarket professionals with the tools to stay ahead of the curve and prepare for the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Throughout AAPEX 2017, new programs, exhibits, product demos, AAPEXedu sessions and keynote speakers focused on mobility, connectivity services, consumer preferences, vehicle data, autonomous vehicles, new product technologies and disruptive technology-driven trends. These technological advancements and changes stand to alter the way the automotive aftermarket does business.

AAPEX 2017 featured 2,515 exhibiting companies, 5,433 booths, 50-plus AAPEXedu sessions and unmatched networking opportunities. The event drew 49,382 targeted buyers representing a 4.5 percent increase, and approximately 162,000 automotive aftermarket professionals were in Las Vegas during AAPEX and the SEMA Automotive Training Expo March 16-18

Seatac, Wash. Click for Details

62nd Annual Portland Roadster Show March 16-18

Portland Expo Ctr. Click for Details
AAPEX 2018 will be held October 30 through November 1 at the Sands Expo, Las Vegas. To be notified when registration opens, sign up at www.aapexshow.com/regopen.

Portland Roadster Show coming up

Portland Roadster Show, being held March 16-18 at the Portland Expo Center. Click here for more details.

Oregon school news

The industry should be aware of a number of job postings and upcoming events involving automotive training programs and schools around the state:

* The Salem-Keizer Public School District has posted two job openings for a mechanic and a mechanic technician; click on the links for more information about the job openings and how to apply.

* This year’s SkillsUSA Oregon State Conference will take place April 20-21 at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas. The Automotive Service Technology competition will occur on Friday, April 20, at Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus. NATA's Margaret Ragan is the chair of the automotive event. For more information or to donate gifts (pens, hats, shirts, stickers, etc.) for students competing in the event, please call her at (503) 423-7355.

* Redmond High School is hosting the premier Central and Eastern Oregon Automotive Skills Competition on February 10. For more information, contact John Stroup, (541) 419-3085, john.stroup@redmondschools.org.

* Just a reminder that all school automotive training programs are in need of vehicle donations. If you have a vehicle and its title, give NATA a call at (503) 253-9898 and we can help connect you with a school. The vehicles do not need to run/drive, though the newer the vehicle, the better (must be model year 2000 or newer).

NATA welcomes new members

NATA is pleased to welcome as new members: Mak Service, LLC, AAA contractors located in Beaverton and providing emergency road service; and Phil's Auto Clinic, offering mechanical repair and maintenance services in Lake Oswego.

Auto repair shops for sale

A Lake Oswego, Ore., property is available for sale, including a 3-bay shop that has been used for automotive repair. Click here for more details about the listing.
Also, an auto repair shop with Highway 26 frontage in the Sandy / Mt. Hood area is for sale. Established in 1969, this shop is the only AAA-approved auto repair shop east of Gresham to Mt. Hood, one of fastest-growing areas in the state. It is a full-service business, located on a large lot that can be used for vehicle sales as well. The sale will include all equipment, records, customer list and specialty tools. The business currently has some commercial accounts - and unlimited potential. The property is not included. All principles are retiring. Priced for quick sale. Contact Bill at (503) 667-8135, or email info@ars-autorepair.com.

NATA has absentee calendars available

Need a 2018 absentee calendar? Get one free from NATA. Just email Laurie or call her at (503) 253-9898.

Oregon agencies offer business training

Three Oregon agencies offer regular training for companies within the state.

The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI) offers training seminars on such topics as wage and hour laws, discipline and discharge, and the latest developments in employment law. Details are available by clicking here.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality invites businesses that handle hazardous waste to sign up for a class covering basic management of such waste. Registration is free but on a first-come, first-served basis. Click here or check the calendar of events to the right more details.

The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) offers classroom workshops and online training on such topics as hazard communications, safety meetings, etc. Click here for current class description and schedule.

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