

Industry Update

News and Information for NATA Members



December 2018

We hope you enjoy the holidays!



From all of us at NATA, we wish you and yours a very happy holiday season!

We will be celebrating with our families...so the NATA office will be closed on December 24, 25 and 31, as well as January 1.

Survey finds rising wages, benefits for techs



A special thank you to the nearly 50 shops throughout the state that participated in NATA's mechanical employee compensation survey this fall. Participating shops were recently sent the results, which included summaries of high, low and average total wages for

more than 220 employees, along with most common payment methodologies and rates for various positions (i.e., entry-level technicians, mid-level technicians, service writers, etc.)

Among the findings were that technician wages in some Oregon markets have outpaced inflation. Diagnostic technicians in the Portland area, for example, are averaging \$67,500 in annual income, about \$10,000 more than in 2014, a 16 percent increase.

In terms of benefits, nearly 9 in 10 Portland area shops offer medical insurance to employees, virtually unchanged from 2014. But shops elsewhere in the state appear to be catching up; four years ago, only about 50 percent of shops outside the Portland area offered medical coverage; now 86 percent do. (Call the NATA office for information about the NATA Health Plan.)

The survey report details the average percentage of medical insurance premium paid for by the business; the (rising) percentage of shops offering retirement benefits, paid sick leave and signing bonuses to new employees; and a decrease in the percentage of shops requiring technicians to be ASE-certified.

Three documents you may find helpful



Here are three documents that have recently come across our desks at the NATA office that we thought you might find helpful:

* Want to help your customers put together a winter emergency car kit? Here's a great [checklist](#).

* Do you install ignition interlock devices for customers' vehicles? Here's a list of [approved devices](#) in Oregon, along with a contact at the Oregon Department of

Upcoming Events

Hunter Engineering "Alignment Fundamentals Level I"

December 17-19
Portland Community
College Sylvania
Campus.

[Click for Details](#)

Hunter Engineering "Advanced Alignment Level III"

December 20-21
Portland Community
College Sylvania
Campus.

[Click for Details](#)

Automotive Industry and Education Roundtable

April 27, 2019
World of Speed
Wilsonville, Ore.

[Click for Details](#)

Transportation, if you have questions.

* Looking to hire a new technician or intern? Diane Jantze, a jobs and intern specialist serving the automotive service technology program at Portland Community College sent us a great [1-page summary](#) of how she can help you get your job posting in front of **students and graduates**.

Watch your mail for NATA ballot...



It's time for NATA's annual board of directors election, so please watch your mail for your ballot, and return it promptly with your vote!

Alignment classes being offered



Hunter Engineering will be holding alignment training at Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus later this month. The 3-day "[Alignment Fundamentals Level 1](#)" course will be held December 17-19, and the 2-day "[Advanced Alignment Level III](#)" course (be sure to note the prerequisites) will follow on December

20-21.

Deadlines nearing for 'OregonSaves'



"OregonSaves" is an easy way to help your employees save for retirement, and **there are deadlines approaching to register or exempt yourself if you already have a 401(k) plan.**

"OregonSaves" allows employees to take responsibility for their own financial future by saving now, through payroll deduction, into a Roth IRA account in the OregonSaves program.

Research shows that employees are 15 times more likely to save for retirement if an option is available at work. OregonSaves can help employers compete to attract and retain good employees, while still only having a simple and limited role in their employees' retirement savings and planning.

[Click here](#) for more information for employers about the program.

NATA members get discount on training event

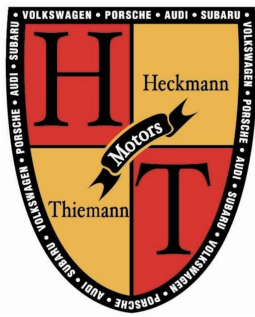


NATA members can enjoy a discount on the training being offered at the 2019 Automotive Training & Expo, being held March 22-24 at the Double Tree Hotel at the SeaTac airport.

[Click here](#) for a full 7-page schedule of the dozens of classes being held, and indicate you are an NATA member on the [registration form](#) to receive the discount.

NATA member shop moves...a few blocks

Congratulations to Heckmann & Thiemann Motors, Inc., for completing a successful move to their new location: 3220 SE 19th Avenue in Portland. The new location is just a couple blocks west of the company's previous site.



"We changed locations in part because of Portland's zoning change," Phyllis Thiemann told NATA about the move. "Due to the zone change, we were considered a 'non-conforming use.' While they did say we were 'grandfathered in' they also said in the event of a complaint from neighbors, 'we would talk.' We decided to find a place that was zoned industrial to limit future re-zoning. This building was close to our old location and zoned

industrial.

"This new location affords us room to grow. We now have an in-house detailer, a new alignment rack, more lifts, a training room with a full kitchen to allow more community connections, a separate employee lunchroom, two customer restrooms, and individual offices for our management team. We now have room for our non-profit to be housed under the same roof, and also have room for training future techs. This is allowing us to have our legacy project of giving back to the industry that has been good to us and our employees over these past 50 years."



NATA welcomes its newest members



NATA is pleased to announce our newest members: **Low Brothers Tire Service**, a Les Schwab tire dealer in Baker City; **MBI Motors**, a Mercedes-Benz and BMW auto repair shop in Portland since 1967; and **Fast lane Oil Change**, located in Tigard since 2004. Welcome to these

new members of the association!

Date announced for upcoming 'Roundtable'



Mark April 27, 2019, on your calendar as the day of the "Automotive Industry and Education Roundtable" being held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the World of Speed museum in Wilsonville.

The event will bring together automotive educators, students, parents and school counselors along with industry representatives to collaborate on the future of automotive careers, discussing goals, needs, expectation and opportunities.

Plan now to attend the event, and watch for more details in January.

Instructor wins award



Congratulations to Mike Melting, automotive instructor at McNary High School in Salem, who recently received a "Crystal Apple Award" from the Salem Keizer Education Foundation for excellence in education. Mike was one of 12 recipients out of 61 nominees from throughout the district.

NATA has absentee calendars available



Need a 2019 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](#) for more details.

The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) offers classroom workshops and online training on such topics as hazard communications, safety meetings, lockout/tagout, personal protective equipment, etc. [Click here](#) for current class description and schedule, call (888) 292-5247 (option 2) or send an email to ed.web@oregon.gov.

Need to reach us?

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