



December  
2021

# Industry Update

*News and Information for  
Northwest Automotive Trade Association  
Members*

## Happy holidays to you all from NATA!

All of us at the NATA office (Margaret, Cathi, and Diana) send our warmest holiday wishes to you and your loved ones!

The NATA office will be closed both Christmas Eve (12/24) and New Year's Eve (12/31).



## Cathi Webb bids farewell

NATA wishes all the best to Cathi Webb, who is retiring after many years of service to the association and its members.

"It was a great 16 years, and many of you will remain my close friends," Cathi said in a message to NATA. "Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Insurance Agent and Executive Director. I know I am leaving all of you in the very capable hands with your new Executive Director Margaret Ragan, and your new Insurance Agent Diana Hildenbrand. I am looking forward to my full retirement, but I will miss you all! If you are ever in the Yuma, Arizona, area, come and see me and my husband, Calvin. Life is great here, filled with sunshine, family and wonderful new friends."



## Calendar sales benefit veterans group

NATA and many of our members have over the years supported the annual car show organized by "Saluting Our Veterans," an event that raises fund to help local homeless veterans.

The group is now selling 2022 calendars. Calendars are \$20, or \$15 each if you purchase two or more.

Please [click here](#) to buy some calendars to support this organization helping our veterans in need.



Please  Like **NATA's new Facebook page**

Due to 'technical difficulties' and the impossible task of reaching a person at Facebook, NATA created a new [Facebook page](#) for the association. Like us during the month of December to be entered to win a YETI drinkware product!



November's winner was Shanon Greisen of Bradshaw's Service Center! Congratulations!



***November's winner Shanon Greisen of Bradshaw's Service Center***



***October's winner Lynne Wade of Bob's Ford Parts***

## Watch our end-of-year tax webinar

If you missed NATA's recent meeting, "End of Year Tax Questions with Nick Shepherd of Irvine & Company, CPAs," you can still catch it here:

<https://fb.watch/9DQYU83gdQ/>



Nick's Q&A session touched on some great information about handling technician tool allowances, 1099s for contract labor, this year's Oregon Kicker, how to handle COVID pay, some details of the proposed Build Back Better Act, and items of note

included in the recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act).

We are sorry you missed the meeting – but it's not too late to get some valuable info!

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## ASE updates renewal app

The ASE Renewal App has been updated with new features, including allowing employers to purchase an app subscription for their employees.

“Additions and enhancements to the ASE Renewal App are made on a consistent basis in order to improve functionality and make it easier for automotive service professionals to renew their certifications,” Tim Zilke, ASE president and CEO, said. “Our most recent update allows shop owners and employers to purchase subscriptions for their employees through their myASE company account and provide them with an added benefit to help keep their A1-A9 certifications current without taking time off to visit a test center.”



BY visiting the ASE website at [www.ASE.com/subscribe](http://www.ASE.com/subscribe), users can review the steps to subscribe based on their situation. Automotive service professionals can also access this page by going to [www.ASERenewalApp.com](http://www.ASERenewalApp.com) and clicking on the subscribe button.

A subscription can only be purchased for employees who are not currently subscribed to the app and cannot be purchased by the employer if the employee has chosen autorenewal unless the employee removes the autorenewal request. Employers can select autorenewal for their purchases and can remove techs individually from the autorenewal process.

The ASE Renewal App provides automotive professionals with a remote option for managing their certifications and testing their technical knowledge through an app on their phone, tablet, or computer. Subscribers earn one credit for each question they answer correctly. After earning eight credits in one certification area during the subscription period, the service professional will receive a one-year extension to that certification, allowing them to keep their credentials current without going to a testing center. Users must resubscribe annually to keep their ASE renewal app account active.

Since introducing the ASE Renewal App last year, nearly 11,000 automotive service professionals are now using the innovative application to extend their A1-A9 certifications without stepping foot in a test center. To renew, register or learn more, visit [www.ASERenewalApp.com](http://www.ASERenewalApp.com).

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## Absentee calendar just a click away

Need a calendar to track employee attendance and absences? We've got you covered! [Click here](#) to download a printable form.

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## Helplines can resolve employee issues

Here's some information you may find helpful from NATA Associate Member Vantage Point HR:



Have you ever laid awake at night, tossing and turning, trying to figure out the best way to handle an HR issue? Your employee can now get easy access to a helpline/hotline that provides both managers and employees an opportunity to discuss specific concerns, such as:

- Embezzlement
- Sexual misconduct
- Drug abuse
- Discrimination

### Benefits of an Employee Hotline include:

- Sends the message that employee feedback and workplace happiness matter
- It takes the pressure off managers who may not fully understand their legal obligations
- Possibility for anonymous reporting, which removes the threat of retaliation
- Resolves issues before they escalate
- Reduces risk and potential litigation

Helplines provide unquestionable value for just a small monthly fee and quickly pay for themselves. Vantage Point HR has the most innovative and cost-effective helpline solution for your small to medium-sized businesses, combining both professional counsel for legal protection and an objective, caring representative to listen to concerns. Are you ready for some peace of mind and a good night's sleep? Enroll your company in our [Employee Hotline](#) now!

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## College reports on employer survey

Linn-Benton Community College (LBCC) thanks NATA and WrenchWay for helping promote the school's 2021 Automotive Employer Survey, and thanks all of you who participated. Here is



what they said about the survey:

"The survey looks very promising in terms of outlook. Almost all employers indicated that they are looking to hire employees with an automotive education but no experience, which is perfect for the automotive program. Employers report that in the next five years they will see 16 people retiring but will hire on 65 new employees. Students should not have any problem obtaining employment when they finish school. Starting wages for an entry level technician is averaging around \$16 an hour. After two years of employment, those numbers will increase to just over \$22 an hour. Most employers said they would be willing to provide a job shadowing opportunity for our students.

"Most reporting employers have not hired LBCC graduates in the past. Those employers that have hired LBCC graduates average around three per employer. Currently the graduates are being employed as apprentice technicians, technicians, service advisors, parts sales, and 'go-fers.'

"Some employees had ASE certifications when beginning employment, and some have obtained ASE certifications while employed. Employers report that in the technical area they would like to see more skill in diagnostics, electrical, and emissions work. Employers also report, that in the non-technical area, they would like to see more skill in communications, professional work habits, and critical thinking/problem solving.

"If the employers had to pick the most important ideas or skills we should teach our students it would be work ethic, cleanliness, integrity, and to be teachable/open minded. Some of the employers' suggestions on how we can better prepare our students for employment were to focus on the fundamentals. Employers also emphasized the need for a computer work, being a team player, and work ethic.

"Thank you to all who responded. The LBCC Automotive Program is grateful for the time and dedication that you, our supporters and employers, have given us over the years."

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## Schools have job openings

Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham has a opening for a part-time automotive tool room attendant. An hourly position, the attendant provides customer service and assistance to students and faculty accessing the tool room. [Click here](#) for more information, or contact Jerry Lyons at [jerry.lyons@mhcc.edu](mailto:jerry.lyons@mhcc.edu) or (503) 491-7203.



Also not yet posted is part-time automotive instructor position at Mt. Hood Community College; again, email or call Jerry Lyons for details.

Gresham High School has not yet posted a position but has an immediate opening

for an automotive instructor. This program has a beautiful new shop with a lot of money into new equipment. The job will be posted [here](#), or you can contact the current instructor, Mike Ruff ([ruff@gresham.k12.or.us](mailto:ruff@gresham.k12.or.us)), if you have questions.

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## Deadline nears for bond requirement

The Oregon Department of Transportation is reminding shops that under current Oregon law, if an auto repair business does not receive payment for repairs to a vehicle, it has the right to apply for a possessory lien through DMV and to sell the vehicle to recover its costs. This “mechanic’s lien” is based on Oregon Revised Statute 87.152.



Under a new Oregon law passed this year, however, as of January 1, auto mechanics must first have a surety bond or an irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of \$20,000 filed with DMV before they can apply for a mechanic’s lien. This protects vehicle owners in case a mechanic’s lien is found to be invalid.

As of January 1, DMV will not accept mechanic’s lien applications without the bond or letter on file first unless the claimant also:

- is a franchised dealership, as defined under ORS 650.120(5);
- is a manufacturer, as defined under ORS 650.120;
- holds a towing business certificate issued under ORS 822.205; or
- is a national auction company titling the vehicle pursuant to ORS 87.152(3).

Those required to file a surety bond or letter of credit must certify to DMV every year, in writing, that the bond or letter remains in effect.

Mechanics or owners of an independent auto repair shop who need more information about filing a mechanic’s lien from DMV can call DMV Customer Assistance at (503) 945-5000 or (503) 299-9999.

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## Collision repairers can 'grade' auto insurers

Pacific Northwest body shops can join with more than 650 others from around the country that have already graded the performance of the auto insurers in their state through *CRASH Network’s* “Insurer Report Card.”

The latest “Insurer Report Card” is now open (until December 15) to shops [here](#). It asks collision repairers to grade each company based on how well the insurers' claims practices help ensure quality repairs and customer service. By assigning insurers a grade from "A+" to an "F," shops can let consumers know which insurers push for quality repairs and provide great customer service when consumers have a claim - and which may have some



room for improvement.

It can be completed in less than three minutes, and all individual shop grades and identification information will remain confidential.

Shops that complete the "Insurer Report Card" and provide an e-mail address will be sent the results, at no charge, once they are compiled.

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## 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](mailto:ed.web@oregon.gov).

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Northwest Automotive Trades Association

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