



September
2022

Industry Update

*News and Information for
Northwest Automotive Trade Association
Members*

NATA hosts members at our new office

On Thursday, August 25, NATA staff finished organizing those last couple of things, laid out the catering, and opened our office door to break in the new office in style. It was such a pleasure to see and visit with everyone who came out. We had board members, insurance reps, associate members, auto program educators, and a good selection of members from multiple corners of the industry. There was laughter, hugs, eating, drinking, and some good solid networking. Thank you, thank you, to everyone who turned out to help us warm this new office. The NATA staff looks forward to serving you from our new location in Gladstone for many years to come.



Congratulations to our door prize winners: **Steve Hopkins** (gift certificate for \$50 off membership dues), **Daniel Zuniga** (Yeti tall Colster and 4-pack of beer), **Bill Erickson** (Yeti Colster and 6-pack of beer), **Anthony Lam** (Yeti insulated travel mug and a pound of coffee), **Brad Olson** (Yeti water bottle) and **Spencer Hodes** (picnic set & wine).



Executive Director message

Our move is finally complete. I had no idea what goes in to moving from one office to another. The movers, IT, office machine move, low voltage wiring, address changes, bank changes...Ugh, it's exhausting.

Let me tell you about some of our heroes through this process.

Eric Larpenteur was our realtor from SVN Imbrie. Poor Eric! We started our office search in Tigard/Tualatin, then decided to check out Wilsonville, then Clackamas, and then Gladstone- where he found Clackamas River Plaza. He knows his stuff! He worked with the new property manager as well as our Board President Steve Hopkins to secure a terrific lease. He was very patient with us.



We learned rather late in the process that we had to remove all low-voltage cabling from our old office and have new cabling installed in our new office. **Scott Bull** of LEC (Lake Electrical Contractors) was able to get us on his schedule within a week, and finished up the day before move in. He was competitively priced and super knowledgeable.

As always, our **IT folks at Serverlogic** were AMAZING! They simultaneously moved and set up our computer systems in the office AND set us up on the cloud. They conferred with LEC on specific cabling needs. They are rockstars. We were on the phone with them repeatedly as we navigated new systems.

Pacific Office Automation moved our equipment and had us all connected promptly.

Our movers were **Priestly and Sons**. A great crew of gentlemen packed us up and moved everything into place. When they asked us where we wanted something, we'd say "A little more to the right, now a little more to the left." They said, "No problem, that's why we're here."

Above all, we thank all of our Association board members who recognized our need to

move to a safer location. They were supportive and extended their time and expertise. **Steve Hopkins**, President of the Oregon Automotive Trades Association, helped us negotiate a great lease, which included modified deposit requirements, and reduced cost to us for improvements.

If you are in the Portland area, stop by anytime. We love to show off our new space overlooking the Clackamas River at High Rocks. Oh, and we have a small conference room in our office now. Keep us in mind if you need a place to meet.

NATA members get discount for training

The Northwest Auto Care Alliance (NWASCA) is offering NATA members the NWACA-member discounted rate for its 2022 East Automotive Training Expo, being held September 30 through October 1 in Spokane, Washington.



[Click here](#) to check out the schedule of training, and be sure to take advantage of the member discount!

Workplace health and safety conferences

Oregon OSHA is offering two events this fall, one in Bend and one being held in Ashland (as well as virtually), focusing on workplace health and safety.



A two-day event in Bend this month will offer employers and workers a variety of opportunities to learn new skills to improve on-the-job safety and health, network with workplace safety and health professionals, and share best practices.

Topics at the Central Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Conference include providing fall protection, identifying hazards and investigating accidents, implementing safety and health in various welding and cutting tasks, addressing the risks of bloodborne pathogens, and properly recording an injury or illness.

In addition, the conference – September 19-20 at the Riverhouse on the Deschutes – offers sessions that focus on safety and health challenges in fire and emergency services.

On September 19, the conference will feature a keynote address by nationally recognized Marie Knight of Knight Leadership Solutions, focusing on “Life and Leadership Lessons from the Popcorn Bucket,” and offering life and leadership lessons for success.

Other topics will include: reducing the negative impacts of stress; improving the psychological resilience of employees; tips for more effective safety training; lockout/tagout and machine safeguarding; improving your safety culture through safety and health management; safety committee; and respiratory protection program management and requirements

Registration for the two-day event is \$210. Monday-only attendance is \$90. Tuesday-only attendance is \$120. For more information or to register, go to safetyseries.cventevents.com/central22.



The Southern Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Conference, a joint effort of the American Society of Safety Professionals – Southern Oregon Chapter and Oregon OSHA, includes both in-person and virtual attendance options.

The event's in-person conference – to be held on Tuesday, Oct. 18, at Ashland Hills Hotel and Suites and Convention Center in Ashland – focuses on professional development and networking. It includes presentations about cultivating ethical and moral leadership, and increasing safety by reducing sleep-related errors.

the event's virtual conference – to be held on Wednesday, Oct. 19, and Thursday, Oct. 20 – will bring together a variety of health and safety leaders to cover a comprehensive set of topics. Those topics include safety training, excavation safety, health hazards in construction, psychological safety, ergonomics, and emerging safety technologies.

Registration for the in-person (Oct. 18) workshop is \$100. Registration for the virtual event (Oct. 19-20) is \$120. More information, conference options, and registration are [all available online](#).

Mechanical compensation survey ends soon

The window is closing for you to participate in NATA's mechanical wage survey, but we really need your participation to bring you the most reliable information we can!



Northwest Automotive Trades Association
networking + benefits

We've been getting a lot of calls about employee compensation trends. You can help us get current information by participating in the survey by [clicking here](#).

Your shop's individual information will be kept confidential. Only aggregate data will be released. You need only provide your shop's city/town and zip code. However, if you wish to receive the survey results, please provide an email address.

You will need two things in order complete the survey:

1. An understanding of the benefits your company offers employees (for example, the type(s) of medical insurance offered and the percentage of the premium

- paid by the company).
2. Information on how some or all employees are paid (i.e., hourly, flat-rate, salary), the dollar-rate that each receives, and/or their total annual compensation.

If you have that information before you begin, the survey should take you less than 15 minutes to complete.

Your participation is greatly appreciated. Share the link with your colleagues. The more shops that participate, the more reliable the data we can return to you.

Oregon DEQ may follow California's lead on banning gas-powered cars after 2035

Here's an update from NATA lobbyist Darrell Fuller:

It has been all over the news: California, through its extremely powerful California Air Resources Board (CARB), has adopted a new rule that will outlaw the sale of new gasoline-powered light motor vehicles starting in 2035 (used gas-powered vehicles will continue to be bought and sold). It is a noisy shot across the bow of the auto industry, designed primarily to push manufacturers into investing more heavily in EVs, hoping they will become more plentiful and affordable – even if consumers don't necessarily want them. Currently about 1 percent of vehicles on the road are completely battery operated.



But the vehicles are only one leg of a three-legged stool. The other two legs are a sufficient number of charging stations (and the time it takes to charge a vehicle compared with filling a gasoline tank), and a power grid capable of supplying enough electricity to replace all the gas currently consumed by the motoring public.

Just days after this announcement, in a bit of irony, California asked the tiny number of current EV owners to refrain from charging their vehicles because of power strains on the existing grid due to high heat and wildfires.

But I digress. States can choose to adopt California's motor vehicle efficiency standards rather than enforcing the national standards. Both Oregon and Washington (and about a dozen other states) have historically done so. So, it was not a surprise when politicians in Oregon and Washington immediately announced plans to follow suit. Without much of a notice, a Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) already providing reports and advice to the Environmental Quality Commission, or EQC, (see [here](#) for details on the RAC) began taking public comments until September 7.

Oregon's EQC has the authority to adopt the California rule without a public vote or a vote of the Oregon Legislature. Like CARB in California, the EQC has significant power when it comes to air pollutants. In response to the hasty

deadline, NATA submitted an [email](#) in opposition to a fast-track approach to adopting the rule. This will not be the only opportunity to provide public comment. Once DEQ approves draft language for Oregon's rule, there will be an extensive public comment period. NATA will ensure members know how to make your voice heard. I believe DEQ intends to rush the rule to conclusion before the end of this calendar year.

Even if the rule is adopted, 2035 is a long way off. This is not a sprint. This is not even a marathon. This is an ultimate triathlon. And, representing the auto industry, NATA will be working with other like-minded organizations to protect your business and your customer's ability to buy, service and repair vehicles that make sense for them.

NATA lobbyist climbing for cystic fibrosis

On September 25, NATA lobbyist Darrell Fuller will be climbing the 42 stories of the "Big Pink" building in Portland to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. But wait, there's more: He'll be climbing those more than 800 stairs while wearing 70 pounds of firefighting "bunker" gear. That's not all: He'll be climbing while breathing through a self-contained breathing apparatus.

If you ever wanted to see what our Lobbyist is made of, it's now! Help support his cause and he may give you an update. [Click here.](#)



DEQ holding listening session

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is partnering with the Oregon Department of Transportation to write a report on how to incentivize Oregon's transition to zero emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, and the needed charging infrastructure.



The agency is gathering feedback from community members and industry folks, and would like to hear from you.

Join DEQ and ODOT for a 1-hour virtual public listening session at 11 a.m. on September 27. You will hear an overview of the draft report, learn about its objectives and have time to provide feedback. [Read the meeting agenda online.](#)

The draft report [will be available online for public comment](#) Sept. 21 - Oct. 7. Please submit comments to Morgan Schafer, Oregon DEQ:

[Join Zoom Meeting](#) (Meeting ID: 891 0338 0419; Passcode: 015994)

If you'd like to join by phone, [find your local number](#).

Customer cars destroyed in shop fire

During the early morning hours of August 21, a dumpster fire spread to the building that housed Honest-1 Auto Care at 20th and Southeast Stark in Portland. A neighbor witnessed an individual climbing in the dumpster and, later, the dumpster fully engulfed in flames.



Because of rampant catalytic converter thefts in Portland, all the shop's customer vehicles were parked inside the building. Three cars were total losses, and the other six are being assessed and are likely totaled due to smoke damage. The fire entered the building in the area where new tires were stored. All were lost. The heat damaged plastic and electronic components on multiple pieces of equipment, including hoists, scanners and computers.

Business owner Steve Grimes carried garage keepers, tool insurance, and loss of income insurance in addition to personal property insurance. Tool insurance is going to take care of the cleaning and replacement of employee tools if needed. All employees were relocated to Grimes' other Honest- 1 locations.

Are you adequately insured? Grimes suggests business owners make certain they have adequate coverage for customer vehicles as well as employee tools. Consider the average value of cars inside your building. Again, with the rash number of catalytic converter thefts, shops are parking more vehicles indoors after hours.

NATA wishes Steve all the best in restoring his business. He estimates it may be six months before business will resume.



Welcome new NATA members

NATA is pleased to welcome the following new members to the association:

J & S Automotive in Beaverton - "Finding a mechanic is easy, but finding one you trust is an entirely different story. At J&S Automotive, it's our goal to create a lifetime relationship with you. We pride ourselves on our ability to provide the very best customer care."



Shop Ware - Our newest associate member, "ShopWare's auto shop software helps the automotive community thrive by enabling real-world solutions."

Medford's Midas - Each Midas location is independent, and we're so glad to welcome the Medford store!



Don't miss TechMission 2022

WrenchWay is incredibly excited to be hosting the third annual TechMission virtual event! TechMission brings together technicians, shop owners and managers, and fixed ops directors to discuss how we can work together to promote and improve technician careers.

This year's sessions will ignite and challenge shops to actually take action – working with technicians and schools to elevate the industry.

TECHMISSION '22
Promote & Improve Technician Careers

📅 October 19th & 20th | 📍 Online

This event is free, but [you must register](#). Can't attend live? Register, and you'll receive the recordings [after the event](#). It all takes place October 19 and 20, starting at 7 a.m. (Pacific).

Panel focuses diversifying the industry

A lively and informative panel discussion, focused on making training programs and workplaces more welcoming to everyone, including women and other underrepresented



groups, kicked off the "ASE Instructor Training Conference" held last month in Frisco, Texas. The keynote panel discussion, entitled the "The 2 Percent Solution," featured several female automotive service professionals, students and instructors.

"We had a frank and honest discussion on how we can increase the number of female service technicians and how to make females feel more welcome in schools and in the workforce," Mike Coley, president, ASE Education Foundation said.

"We have a shortage of technicians, an aging workforce, a negative stereotype, a lack of new talent and a tidal wave of new technology," panel moderator Catherine "Cat" Treanor, UK business development manager for Electude, said. "The answers to all these challenges is diversity. We need diversity of gender, ethnicity, of age, physical attributes and more."

The panel and the audience provided a wide array of suggestions to help increase the number of females in schools. The ideas included increasing shadowing opportunities, giving high school students the option to explore automotive classes to see if they like them, providing facts to potential students about the advantages of the industry and financial benefits they could achieve, creating a safe environment for students, eliminating the term non-traditional and working with administrators and counselors to encourage female students to participate in automotive programs.

"The only way we can solve things as an industry is if we work together," said Coley.

Don't forget to 'like' us on Facebook!

If you haven't already done so, check out [NATA's Facebook page](#). It's a great way to keep up-to-date with what's happening with the association and around the industry!



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.

EDUCATION

BENEFITS

CONSUMER INFO

SHOP HELP

INSURANCE

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