



Automotive Service Association®

COLLISION OPS NEWS

A bimonthly news update from ASA's Collision Division.

Sept./Oct. 2017



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danr@asashop.org

(817) 514-2912

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**Recent activities of the ASA Collision
Division Operations Committee ...**

The ASA Collision Operations Committee was well represented at the NACE Automechanika (NAM) Chicago event, and took the opportunity to reach out to some of our industry partners to discuss issues both new and old. Much of the work of the COC this year has revolved around the telematics issue to ensure that service and collision shops can get the tooling necessary to cope with this new technology, but there are other issues, and the event in Chicago provided the perfect opportunity to network, discuss and get updates on some of the hottest topics in the industry.

Meetings at NACE Automechanika

COC members in attendance at NAM had the opportunity to participate in both the MSO and ATRDF Forums. Both were well attended and provided their respective audiences with insights and information into the latest trends in automotive technology and business outlooks for the collision industry as we move into the second decade of the 21st century. COC members reported many interesting topics and called it time well-spent in Chicago.

While at NACE Automechanika, COC members took the opportunity to meet with representatives of I-CAR to discuss the Gold Class program and its impact on insurer relationships. Some COC members have raised questions regarding the loss of Gold Class status when an employee leaves. In the time it takes to replace the employee and get the new hire trained to re-qualify for the shop's Gold Class status, concerns were expressed about the potential to lose their DRP relationships. The I-CAR representatives answered these concerns and assured the COC members present that they have been made aware of this and other issues and are taking steps to address them. In addition, I-CAR invited the COC members to assist with their Industry Segment Advisory Council (ISAC) committees work on technical topics. The COC expressed appreciation to I-CAR and will work to build on the relationship moving forward.

Two more significant events COC members found at the show were Mike Anderson's panel discussing vehicle scanning and what was billed as Scan-A-Palooza, where several scan-tool manufacturers demonstrated the

capabilities of their diagnostic equipment on the show floor.

As reported last time, ASA's COC and MOC are working together to help bring collision members up to speed on a topic the mechanical members have been dealing with for years – the need for pre- and post-repair scans to check for trouble codes. Although there is ongoing discussion within the collision and insurance industries on this topic, with the complexity of modern driver-assist systems such as stability control and automatic braking, verifying proper system function is fast becoming the norm when performing repairs.

Washington Fly-in

The COC legislative Fly-in to Washington, D.C., is scheduled for Sept. 5-7. Following the successful event for MOC members in May, the COC Fly-in will use the same format, with town-hall type meetings set for various legislators to discuss issues of high importance to the collision repair industry. With topics such as potential changes to the Federal Insurance Office and the impact of Dodd-Frank reform, the COC anticipates a busy schedule and a great opportunity to make our voices heard at the highest levels of government. The agenda will include everything from vehicle safety technologies to parts legislation/policy and even how the telematics issue can impact the collision industry. Many thanks to ASA Washington representative Bob Redding and Holly Wolfe for setting up this opportunity. We'll have a full report in our next issue.

See you at SEMA!

As in years past, many COC members will be making the annual trip to Las Vegas for AAPEX and SEMA. If you're going, look for us at the CIC meeting, on the show floor at both AAPEX and SEMA, and you may even find a few COC members helping out at the CARS event. Hope to see you there!

Automotive Service Association®
8209 Mid Cities Blvd.
North Richland Hills, Texas 76182
817.514.2900 • Fax 817.581.3572
asainfo@asashop.org • www.ASAshop.org

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