



Automotive Service Association®

COLLISION OPS NEWS

A bimonthly news update from ASA's Mechanical Division.

March/April 2015



Collision Operations Committee

Division Director

Dan Stander, AAM

Assistant Division Director

Scott Benavidez

Tommy Clayton

April Hernandez, AAM

Mike LeVasseur

Steve Tomaszewski

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

ASA Annual Meeting & Lobby Day

It was great being with everyone at the Automotive Service Association's annual meeting and Washington, D.C., Fly-In, seeing familiar faces and meeting new ones.

Now, I'd like to introduce the newly selected ASA Collision Division Operations Committee for 2015. First, Scott Benavidez, from Mister B's Paint & Body in Albuquerque, N.M., will serve as division director. And the new committee members include:

- Joe Amodei: The Collision Centers, Patchogue, N.Y.
- April Hernandez, AAM: Hernandez Collision Center, Savannah, Ga.
- Mike LeVasseur: Keenan Auto Body Inc., Clifton Heights, Pa.
- Daren Pierce: Arizona Collision Specialist, Scottsdale, Ariz.
- Steve Welch: Caliber Collision Centers, Leesburg, Va.
- Dan Stander: Fix Auto Highlands Ranch, Littleton, Colo.

I'll be working on the committee to help with the transition. If you know any of these members, please extend your thanks to them for their volunteer service. Also, you're always welcome to give them ideas or suggestions for future industry topics.

I'd also like to offer special thanks to ASA members who previously served on the committee, including Tommy Clayton of Tommy's Dent Service in Gibsonville, N.C. (2010-2014) and Steve Tomaszewski of Alpine Collision Center in Grand Rapids, Mich. (2010-2014).

Haas Moves On

One more bit of news: Robbie Haas, Mechanical Division and Collision Division manager for 19 years, left ASA as of February 2015 to move closer to her family. We appreciate Robbie's years of service and the friendship she provided the industry. Robbie will be greatly missed, but we wish her the best in future endeavors.

Collision Division Update

ASA's Collision Division has been working on a few projects that I'd like to share with you. Members of the Collision Division and the association volunteered their time and efforts to fly to Washington, D.C., in April to meet with our government representatives to discuss industry-related topics.

At the forefront of issues facing the collision repair industry is the topic of Most Favored Nations. You may know that Farmers Insurance recently removed the Most Favored Nations clause in their agreement.

The ASA Mechanical Division was also present in full force to discuss vehicle safety inspections. Scott Benavidez has been instrumental with legislation in New Mexico regarding used-car inspections. He has implemented safety inspections within his business and throughout ASA to help others gain an understanding of the law. This has been a great program that benefits sellers and buyers by letting both parties know more about a vehicle's history.

OSHA ... OSHA ... OSHA

Has an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) representative visited you? We in the automotive industry have experienced an increasing number of OSHA inspections. OSHA places an emphasis on inspection programs for all automotive-related shops: auto body, mechanical, tire, lube and dealers. What does this mean for you?

The program examines every automotive-related facility, with an emphasis on "lift safety" and "respirator fit training." This doesn't mean that they only look at these two areas. It means that they'll look at these two first.

Your vehicle lifts, alignment racks and frame machine need to be inspected annually and logged. Medical aids such as respirators need to be periodically inspected, too. Medical evaluations of each employee need to be done prior to the hiring process and then every two years after that. Fit testing needs to be done annually. Again, these are not the only areas they will inspect.

I can speak knowledgeably about this topic because many shops in Colorado have been inspected, including our facility. But I'm happy to report our inspection went well and took only about three hours.

If you need help, your workman's compensation insurance company might be able to offer it, usually at no charge. You can also contact OSHA for free help or hire a third party. If you proactively contact OSHA, they'll inspect your facility and identify items you need to correct, without issuing citations. However, remember that you must correct any deficiencies they find, or they'll come back and, this time, you'll get citations.

Closing Comments

Again, thank you for the volunteer time and effort of ASA Collision Division members. If you have questions or comments, you can contact the division members at <http://asashop.org/leadership/committees/#collision>. It's been a pleasure to serve as Collision Division director the past two years. – Dan Stander

Collision Division Mission Statement

To elevate the professionalism of the automotive service and repair industry by providing ASA members and industry allies with information and services that will benefit the collision repair industry and the motoring public.

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