

# MECHANICAL OPS NEWS

*A bimonthly news update from ASA's Mechanical Division.*

March/April 2016



## Mechanical Division Operations Committee Division Director

Bob Wills, AAM  
Todd P. Black  
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Frank Leutz  
Vernon E. Menke Jr., AAM  
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**ASA President/Executive Director**  
Dan Risley  
danr@asashop.org  
(817) 514-2912

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## Recent activities of the ASA Mechanical Division Operations Committee ...

### Goals Reviewed, Projects Continue

Members of the Automotive Service Association's (ASA) Mechanical Division Operations Committee (MOC) most recently participated in the April ASA Annual Meeting and Lobby Day, meeting with legislators and reviewing goals for 2016 in a joint session with the Collision Operations Committee (COC). Work continues on several projects, including a proposal for a Periodic Motor Vehicle Inspection (PMVI) best-practices document to explore the creation of a generic program profile that can be used across the country in those areas that do not currently have a formal safety inspection program. In addition, several new initiatives are being launched to build on the work already done and move the industry dialogue forward on several key issues.

### Technician and Shop Licensing

ASA supports shop licensing and technical certification regulations that include, but are not limited to, proper training; compliance with federal, state and local regulations; certifications of technicians, minimum level of insurance and minimum level of equipment standards for automotive shops.

The Mechanical Division Operations Committee is working with ASA's Washington representative and several committee members to continue the investigation into the value of technician and shop licensing, and it will examine how licensing and certification can work together to improve the industry. This issue has been raised most recently in connection with discussions in the area of technician certification to better establish and recognize the qualifications of those individuals who diagnose and service the sophisticated electronic control systems typically found on today's vehicles. The MOC will examine existing programs that ASA supports, including ASE Certification, to develop a Best Practices document to help define the resources already available that should be part of the discussion.

### Telematics and Cybersecurity

ASA has been engaged in discussions about vehicle security and telematics for some time, and the MOC continues to support the work being done in cooperation with both OEM and auto care industry segments. This discussion is focused on the need for those individuals responsible for servicing today's highly complex vehicles to have access to sensitive or security-related informa-

tion or data in the course of vehicle diagnosis and repair. Working in an advisory capacity, the MOC is currently reviewing information with an eye toward providing input from the service and repair community into the process to ensure that industry needs are considered in any proposed process of providing access to this information and qualifying an individual providing automotive diagnostic and repair services in the proper handling of such data.

The implications of telematics on both the mechanical and collision repair segments was explored in a joint MOC/COC meeting at the ASA Annual Meeting with a presentation by ASA Chairman Donny Seyfer to both committees to bring them up to speed on the latest developments and plans moving forward.

### Heavy-Duty Update

The MOC helped in identifying trainers and topics for a heavy-duty (HD) training track at NACE | CARS in Anaheim, Calif., in August. Both mechanical and collision repair topics focused on the specific needs of the independent heavy-duty service and collision repair community will be offered and include sessions on HD vehicle control systems, estimating and structural repair. The MOC is continuing the dialogue with the HD community in 2016 to further explore ways the organization can help address the challenges being faced in that segment of our industry.

### Recognizing Excellence and Service of MOC Members

At the ASA Annual Meeting, the MOC took the opportunity to thank and recognize those committee volunteers whose terms ended in 2016. Steve Geiling, Dave Kusa, Diane Larson and John Vallely were honored for their service and commitment to the MOC during their volunteer terms. We also want to thank all of our volunteer leadership, whose enthusiasm, talent and dedication to excellence represents the best our industry has to offer. Your hard work and support benefits both ASA and our industry at large, and we can't say often enough how much it is appreciated.

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

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