



Automotive Service Association®

MECHANICAL OPS NEWS

A bimonthly news update from ASA's Mechanical Division.

Jan./Feb. 2018



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

MOC Helps Develop Webinar Wednesdays

One of the Mechanical Operations Committee's (MOC) projects last year was key to development of ASA's new membership benefit we're calling Webinar Wednesdays. The initial presentations will be a series of 30-45 minute sessions developed in partnership with BOSCH to fill you in on everything you need to know about pre- and post-repair vehicle scans for both mechanical and collision shop personnel.

The Mechanical and Collision Operations Committees worked with BOSCH to provide our members with a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding the need for pre- and post-repair vehicle scanning, and to further help our collision members understand these critical operations when writing estimates. ASA's Marketing and Communications department captured the content and will continue to engage our industry partners on a variety of planned topics throughout 2018.

The live versions of the webinars will be open to all automotive professionals, but the recorded version of each will be a members-only benefit. So even if you miss one, it will be there to watch at your leisure.

**Plans for 2018 Include Telematics and
PMVI Programs**

The MOC will continue its activities with the Aftermarket Telematics Task Force (ACA, AASA, MEMA, ETI, ASA and Global OEM's) on issues surrounding the potential impact of telematics on the aftermarket service community. We're also refocusing our efforts on fighting to preserve the periodic maintenance and vehicle safety inspection (PMVI) programs across the nation, which continue to come under fire from some state legislators. Missouri Rep. J. Eggleston, R-2, recently introduced House Bill (HB) 1444 that, if enacted, would repeal Missouri's vehicle safety inspection program. Working with the MOC, ASA hosted a number of safety inspection forums to draw attention to the importance of vehicle safety inspections.

By incorporating input from all segments of the automotive industry, including state vehicle administrators, policymakers, automotive repairers and other sectors of the automotive industry, we will continue to educate legislators and the public on the value of these programs and the positive potential for improving vehicle safety. Missouri and other state studies have shown the value of these vehicle safety inspection programs in terms of

saving lives, preventing injuries and damage to property. Regular vehicle safety inspections by a qualified technician can identify and repair most safety issues that arise from normal wear and tear on the vehicle. The MOC joins in urging all ASA members in Missouri to contact their state legislators and voice their support for preserving this important program.

Collective Efforts to Turn Around the Tech Shortage

As many ASA members continue to report that one of their greatest concerns and challenges is finding qualified talent in the service bay, the MOC is engaging with the TechForce Foundation to add another resource to help identify and find qualified technicians. TechForce is working with other industry associations to organize our collective efforts to help attract new talent into our industry and promote the advantages of an automotive career. In addition, ASA has offered to provide blogs and interviews to the trade and consumer press as the opportunities arise from the TechForce efforts to raise awareness among parents, students and educators of the many opportunities available in the automotive service and collision repair industries.

**Shop and Technician Licensing Discussion
Continues**

ASA and the MOC are also continuing to monitor the ongoing discussions in some states centering on the subject of licensing for shops, technicians or both. This topic has been an ongoing debate within the industry for years, but may be gaining momentum due to the increasing complexity of today's modern vehicles, and the move toward autonomous vehicle development. The MOC has convened a task force to review existing licensing programs with an eye toward developing recommendations from the industry should legislators move in this direction at the state or national level.

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