

**Alliance of Automotive Service Providers, Minnesota (AASP-MN)**  
**Collision Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Recap**  
**Tuesday, November 13, 2019**

Present: Aaron Rolfsrud, Travis Doyle, Matt Feehan, Andrea Ossowski, Jon Philmalee, Jake Moser, Jesse Jacobson, Aaron Swanson, Ramin Hakimi, Will Latuff, Lee Schlosser, Brandon Wistrom, Judell Anderson, Kevin Walli

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

In Randy Miller's absence, the meeting was called to order by Matt Feehan. Participants introduced themselves.

**2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

- Kevin Walli provided a general overview of the Session indicating that the focus will be on passing a Capital Budget (bonding) Bill. It was noted that there may be revenue surpluses, but the overpayments that have been uncovered at the Department of Human Services may absorb a significant amount of funds that may have otherwise been available for supplemental appropriations or tax cuts. The Session will convene on February 11, 2020.

- **OEM PROCEDURE UPDATE**

Kevin, Judell and Will Latuff provided information regarding the status of the Alliance's efforts to make it an unfair claims practice to deny payment for repair procedures performed in accordance with original vehicle manufacturer specifications. We continue to meet with the Insurance Federation of Minnesota to work on language that we hope will be supported by both organizations. The association was contacted by the Automotive Recyclers of Minnesota conveying its opposition to any proposal that would specifically reference OEM procedures. Their concern is that such language would result in original equipment parts being used much more extensively in the repair process, effectively becoming a defacto ban on aftermarket parts. We've also engaged the MN Safety Council as allies in this effort. Judell gave a "shout-out" to both Will and Darrell Amberson for their ongoing involvement in this effort.

Members will be kept informed of all developments regarding this legislation as we move closer to the 2020 Legislative Session.

**OTHER GOVERNMENT/REGULATORY ISSUES**

- Department of Commerce: Judell forwarded an article regarding the issuance of a bulletin by the Commerce Department of Oregon expressing concern over the use of photographs to estimate repair costs. This is as seen as means by which insurance companies can convince customers to accept payment which does not take into account the true cost of returning the vehicle to its pre-accident condition. The information has been shared with the Minnesota Department of Commerce who is looking into the matter.
- 1963 Consent Decree: Judell reported that the 1963 Consent Decree issued by then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy as an anti-trust settlement with insurance companies is proposed to be terminated by the current Dept. of Justice. The Alliance has written to the Department of Justice to ask that it not vacate the Decree. Senator Klobuchar, who serves on the Committee which would have jurisdiction on this matter, has also been contacted. We will continue to follow developments with respect to the legal status of the 1963 Consent Decree.

- Data privacy/access: Participants discussed questions surrounding data privacy in the context of processing claims, particularly the differences between handling first-party vs. third-party claims.

## **2020 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE PROGRAMMING**

Judell sought input from committee members regarding the focus of programming for the upcoming Leadership Conference. She specifically noted that peer-to-peer roundtables have been a popular means by which members share information. She questioned if there was interest in modifying this format to address ADAS, a topic which is important to both collision and mechanical repair shops. A panel would be established to explore ADAS, perhaps followed by a half hour of roundtable discussions to talk about the ramifications of this technology at the shop level. Those present liked the idea, and a subcommittee was established to develop the concept. Matt Feehan, Will Latuff and Travis Doyle volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

## **OTHER OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- Bumper recycling: To fill a void and need in the marketplace, A-Con Recycling has indicated that they are currently in the business of accepting bumpers to be transported for recycling. Members thought that this type of service would be useful and worthy of an e-blast to share throughout the Association.
- New-to-market calibration systems: Several new aftermarket calibration systems have been introduced recently. It was noted that since original vehicle manufacturer certification programs don't support third-party calibration systems, use of these systems would be contrary to the shops' interest in avoiding liability.
- Board Nominations: The transition in leadership for the Association will take place April 1 and members were invited to nominate themselves or others to fill positions on the Board. Will Latuff is serving as Chair of the Nominating Committee.
- The group then discussed whether to include Crash Network's insurer report card survey in the aforementioned e-blast. Members agreed it would be appropriate to do so.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- MNCARS events: various career events throughout the fall and spring months
- Webinar – Attract & Retain Top Talent: November 20
- Race for Automotive Education: January 14 - 16
- SkillsUSA contest (location TBD): April 4th
- Annual Meeting & Leadership Conference: April 23
- Golf Outing: June 16

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be a joint meeting of the Collision Advisory and Governmental & Regulatory Affairs Committees. It will take place at noon on January 28, 2020, at the AASP-MN office. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.