

Alliance of Automotive Service Providers, Minnesota (AASP-MN)
Joint Meeting of the Collision Advisory & Government & Regulatory Affairs Committees
Meeting Recap
Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Present: Roger Bonn, Matt Feehan, Dale Feste, Darrell Amberson, Jesse Jacobson, Carol Keyes, Greg Larsen, Will Latuff, John Ritter, Jr., Lee Schlosser, Mike Kraft, Randy Miller, Dan Sjolseth, Dan Swenson, Judell Anderson, Kevin Walli, Tom Kluver Guests: Mike Nelson & Hassan Bouchareb

I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Will Latuff. Participants introduced themselves.

II. AIR QUALITY PERMITS

Mike Nelson and Hassan Bouchareb of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency made a presentation to the committee about the Agency's upcoming rulemaking on air quality permits. The MPCA is at the beginning stage of shaping the new rules and asked members to comment on proposed concepts for those amendments. Kevin Walli, Judell Anderson and Carol Keyes will attend the stakeholder meeting on January 19th and will be submitting written comments to the Agency on behalf of AASP-MN members.

III. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Will Latuff gave a report on the AASP-MN meeting with Commerce Commissioner Mike Rothman and his staff on November 29. One of the key issues discussed was increasing pressure from insurers to use older parts that do not constitute "like kind and quality" as required by state law.

The Department indicated a willingness to investigate insurers who pressure shops to use substandard parts. However, it is the responsibility of repair shops and/or consumers to provide the evidence the Department needs to pursue an investigation.

IV. 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Kevin Walli provided a general overview regarding the 2017 Session, noting the change of party control in the Legislature and the number of new legislators who have taken office. Also noted was the change of leadership on the Senate Commerce Committee – with Senator Gary Dahms, a long-time insurance agent, as Chair of the Commerce Committee and Senator Paul Gazelka, a long-time State Farm Insurance agent, as the Senate Majority Leader. Having Senate leadership so close to the insurance industry will make it even more challenging to have repair industry provisions enacted when they are opposed by insurers.

One approach that was discussed is to take the legislation proposed by the association the past two years and separate it into 3 individual bills. One bill would prohibit steering for estimates. A second would prohibit the mandatory use of a particular electronic estimating system and a third bill would prohibit the requirement to use particular parts procurement software.

Possible authors were also discussed. Senator Ron Latz (DFL-St. Louis Park) has indicated a willingness to work with AASP-MN again – although he has noted the challenge we will face in the Commerce Committee. Representative Bob Loonan (R-Shakopee) has also indicated willingness to work with the association – although at times, Representative Loonan takes a different path than AASP-MN's approach.

The Fryberger firm's role in monitoring other Committees that deal with issues of interest or concern to the auto repair industry was discussed. The firm will watch the Environment and Natural Resources Committee to determine whether there is any new legislation on the environmental front which would affect shop operation.

Fryberger representatives will also be watching and will weigh-in with AASP-MN support for proposals to exempt certain business property from the state business property tax. There may also be proposals to repeal the annual inflator for the state business property tax rate. Either or both of these proposals would directly benefit every repair shop in Minnesota.

Kevin will watch these Committees and will report to the association on a regular basis.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

- **MNCARS Speakers Bureau**

Judell Anderson asked members to volunteer to support MNCARS activities by being a part of the new Speakers Bureau.

- **Leadership Conference Roundtable Topics**

Several potential topics were identified, including:

- Scanning
- OEM certification
- Parts sourcing
- Benchmarking – KPIs for internal operations

VI. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Annual Meeting & Leadership Conference – scheduled for April 13.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the AASP-MN Collision Advisory and Government & Regulatory Affairs Committees is set for noon on Thursday, March 2, at the AASP-MN office.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.