



WISCONSIN TOWING ASSOCIATION

Division of Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association

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BULLETIN

JUNE – JULY 2011

PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT INSURERS CONDITIONS ON MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIRS

Assembly Bill 189 has been introduced by Rep. Ed Brooks (R), Reedsburg. The bill amends current law that prohibits an insurer that issues a motor vehicle insurance policy that covers the repair or replacement of motor vehicle glass from conditioning the coverage on whether the insured or a third party making a claim under the policy obtains services or parts from a particular vendor specified by the insurer. **This bill expands that prohibition.**

Assembly Bill 189, if enacted, would require the following:

- An insurer that issues a motor vehicle insurance policy that covers the repair of a motor vehicle may not condition that coverage on whether the insured or a third party making a claim under the policy obtains a damage repair estimate or services or parts from a particular garage, repair shop, or other vendor specified by the insurer.
- If an insured or third party makes a claim for the repair of a motor vehicle, the insurer must inform the insured or third party that they may select any garage, repair shop, or other vendor for a damage repair estimate or the repair and that the insurer will cover all reasonable and necessary costs of the repair regardless of which garage, repair shop, or other vendor they select.
- The insurer also must inquire whether the insured or third party has selected a garage, repair shop, or other vendor for a damage repair estimate or the repair and may make a referral to a garage, repair shop, or other vendor if the insured or third party indicates that he or she has not selected a repair shop or requests a referral.
- It would require that every motor vehicle proof of insurance card issued after the effective date of the bill contain a notice that insurance companies are prohibited from requiring that repairs be made by a particular repair facility.
- An auto body repair facility or automobile insurance claim facility must post in a conspicuous location a notice that insurance companies are prohibited from requiring that repairs be made by a particular repair facility. In addition, an auto body repair facility or an automobile insurance claim facility must include that same notice at the top of every motor vehicle repair estimate that it prepares.
- It would provide that an insurer that pays for the repair of a motor vehicle must pay for the repair at the same rate that the general public pays in that local market area, unless the insurer and repair facility have an agreement otherwise, and that the insurer may not limit or discount the amount paid on the basis that the repair would have cost less if it had been made at a repair facility specified by the insurer.

- It would prohibit an insurance adjuster from preparing a vehicle damage estimate or from altering one prepared by another party without first physically inspecting the damage to the vehicle.
- It would prohibit insurer or anyone acting on behalf of an insurer from unilaterally and arbitrarily disregarding a repair operation or cost identified under a damage repair estimate system.

The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economy and Small Business for consideration. The text of Assembly Bill 189 may be accessed on line at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2011/related/proposals/ab189.pdf>

LEGISLATION PROPOSED TO REDEFINE “RETAIL THEFT” TO INCLUDE THEFT OF SERVICES

Senate Bill 85 has been introduced by Sen. Rich Zipperer (R), Pewaukee and has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee for consideration. Current law prohibits retail theft. A person who steals from a merchant is subject to penalties that vary according to the value of the merchandise that was stolen. Retail theft is a Class A misdemeanor if the value of the merchandise does not exceed \$2,500, a Class I felony if the value of the merchandise exceeds \$2,500 but does not exceed \$5,000, a Class H felony if the value of the merchandise exceeds \$5,000 but does not exceed \$10,000, and a Class G felony if the value of the merchandise exceeds \$10,000.

This bill defines “merchandise” to include a service provided by a “service provider.” A “service provider” is a merchant who provides service to a retail customer without a written contract with the expectation that the customer will pay for the service upon completion of the service.

Under the bill, a person who obtains a service and who intentionally fails or refuses to pay for the service is guilty of retail theft and subject to the same penalties as under current law.

Because this bill creates a new crime or revises a penalty for an existing crime, the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties may be requested to prepare a report concerning the proposed penalty and the costs or savings that are likely to result if the bill is enacted. The text of Senate Bill 85 may be accessed on line at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2011/related/proposals/sb85.pdf>

LEGISLATION PROPOSED TO BAN THE USE LEAD WHEEL WEIGHTS

Senate Bill 146 has been introduced by Sen. Spencer Coggs (D) Milwaukee and has been referred to the Senate Transportation Committee for consideration. This bill prohibits the installation, when replacing or balancing a tire on a motor vehicle, of a wheel weight or other wheel balancing product that contains lead, if the lead was intentionally added during the manufacture of the weight or other product. The bill also prohibits the sale or distribution of such a weight or other product. The text of the bill may be accessed on line at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2011/related/proposals/sb146.pdf>

**WISCONSIN TOWING ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE TRACKING REPORT
2011-2012**

ASSEMBLY BILLS INTRODUCED

*SS indicates Special Session

Bill No. – Author	Title	Description	Action	Position
Joint Resolution 31 Petrowski (R)	Transportation Fund	Currently, the revenues generated by use of the state transportation system may be deposited into any fund as provided by law. This proposed constitutional amendment, proposed to the 2011 legislature on first consideration, requires that such revenues be deposited into a transportation fund, and requires the legislature to create such a fund and a department of transportation	Passed Transportation Com – To Rules	Support
AB-1 Williams (R)	Jobs Tax Credit	Would allow an employer to claim the credits for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, and refunds will be paid beginning on July 1, 2011.	Passed Job, Small Bus Com. – To Joint Finance Com.	Support
AB-3 Endsley (R)	Jobs Creation	Would provide tax incentives for job creation, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, and granting rulemaking authority	To Com. On Jobs, Small Bus. & Economy	Support
AB-4 Nygren (R)	Auto Insurance	Would decrease the minimum limits required under a policy that is acceptable proof of financial responsibility to \$25,000 for bodily injury to or death of one person, \$50,000 for bodily injury to or death of more than one person, and \$10,000 for property damage. Does not eliminate the mandatory motor vehicle insurance requirements passed in the last budget bill.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 14	Monitor
*SS AB-5 August (R)	Taxes	Would prohibit either house of the legislature from passing a bill that increases the rate of the state sales tax or that increases any of the rates of the income tax or franchise tax unless approved by two thirds majority. The prohibition would not apply if the legislature authorizes a statewide advisory referendum on a tax increase that is passed by the voters.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 9	Monitor
AB-7 Stone (R)	Voter ID	would require a voter who attempts to register or to vote at the polls on election day to present a valid Wisconsin driver's license, a current ID issued to the person by a U.S. uniformed service, or a Wisconsin ID issued the DOT.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 23	Monitor
*SS AB-7 Vos (R)	Small Business Taxes	This bill creates an income and franchise tax credit for small businesses. Under the bill, a business that has less than \$500,000 in gross receipts in the taxable year may claim as a credit a percentage of the taxpayer's tax liability based on the amount of the gross receipts that exceed \$250,000. If the business has no more than \$250,000 in gross receipts in the taxable year, the business may claim a credit equal to 15 percent of its tax liability. Under the bill, the taxpayer does not receive a refund, but may apply any remaining credit amounts to subsequent taxable years.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 5	Support

*SS AB-8 Tiffany (R)	Regulatory Reform	Makes various changes relating to the authority of a state agency to create administrative rules and requires gubernatorial approval of proposed rules.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 21	Support
*SS AB-11 Assembly Org Com	Budget (Collective Bargaining)	Budget deficit repair	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 10	Monitor
AB- 40	Budget	2011-2012 Biennial Budget Bill (Date of Publication – June 30, 2011)	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 32	Monitor
AB-55 Pridemore (R)	Failure to Yield Violations	Provides that if a person is convicted of a failure-to-yield violation that results in bodily harm, great bodily harm, or death, DOT must suspend the person's operating privilege. Person must attend traffic safety school to reinstate driving privilege.	To Transportation Com	Monitor
AB-80 Krusic (R)	Driver's License	Would increase the penalties for operation without a license or a suspended license who in the course of violation causes great bodily harm to a person	To Transportation Com – Public hearing held	Monitor
AB-106 Ballweg (R)	Small Claims	Would increase the jurisdictional amount of \$5,000 to \$10,000 for small claims actions.	To Judiciary Com Public hearing held	Support
AB-189 Brooks (R)	Insurance Claims	Would prohibit an insurer from requiring a certain vendor for repairing a motor vehicle, requiring adjusters to inspect motor vehicle damage, and insurance payments for motor vehicle repair costs	To Jobs, Economy and Small Business Com	Support

7/6/11

SENATE BILLS INTRODUCED

Bill No. – Author	Title	Description	Action	Position
*SS SB-1 Zipperer (R)	Tort Reform	Would make several changes to current law regarding civil actions for negligence in long term care facilities product liability, actions in strict liability, punitive damage awards, and awards for defending a frivolous lawsuit.	Enacted 2011 WI Act 2	Support
SB-5 Hopper (R)	Tax Credits	Currently, employers may claim tax credits based on the wages paid to new employees and on the costs incurred by the employer for certain training activities. If the amount of the credits exceeds the employer's tax liability, the state issues a refund. The credits apply to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2010, but if any employer is owed a refund, the employer will not receive it until after December 31, 2011. Under this bill, refunds will be paid beginning on July 1, 2011.	To Com on Public Health, Human Services and Revenue	Support
SB-8 Olsen (R)	Family Medical Leave	Makes various changes to the Wisconsin family and medical leave law to conform that law to the federal family and medical leave law.	To Labor Com	Support
SS-SB-11 Sen Org com	Budget	Budget deficit repair	Passed Joint Finance Com	Monitor
SB-23 Vukmir (R)	Family Medical Leave	In order to seek statewide uniformity on family medical leave for employees, this bill preempts local units of government from enacting and administering an ordinance pertaining to family medical leave that is not consistent with the provisions set out in the bill.	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 16	Support

SB-32 Moulton (R)	Places of Employment	Prohibits a local unit of government from enacting or enforcing an ordinance that establishes minimum standards for the construction, repair, and maintenance of places of employment and public buildings unless that ordinance strictly conforms to the rules promulgated by the Dept. of Commerce	To Judiciary Com	Monitor
SB-41 Lazich (R)	Motor Carrier Liability	Prohibits any provision of a transportation contract requiring a motor carrier to indemnify or hold harmless against liability for loss or damage due negligence or intentional acts or omissions of the shipper or its employees. (See AB-50)	Enacted as 2011 WI Act 33	Support
SB-85 Zipperer (R)	Retail Theft of Services	Would make a person who obtains a service and who intentionally refuses to pay for the service guilty of retail theft.	To Judiciary Committee Public hearing held	Support
SB-146 Coggs (D)	Lead Wheel Weights	Prohibits the installation, when replacing or balancing a tire on a motor vehicle, of a wheel weight or other wheel balancing product that contains lead,	To Trans Com	Oppose

711/11

All bills and acts may be accessed on line at <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>. Comments on any these legislative proposals are both welcomed and encouraged. Please contact Tom Howells at the association office, (608) 833-8200 Ext. 16.

THE WILD WEST IN YOUR WORKPLACE? EMPLOYERS NEED TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER POLICIES UNDER WISCONSIN'S NEW CONCEALED CARRY LAW

by **Frank A. Gumina** and **Erik K. Eisenmann**, *Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C., Milwaukee, WI*

(Note: Gov. Walker signed the Concealed Carry legislation into law on July 8, 2011. The bulk of the law will be effective in November)

With Governor Walker's signature expected in the next few weeks, Wisconsin will become the 49th state to allow the concealed carry of guns and other weapons. The law allows those with training and registration to carry concealed weapons in most settings, including workplaces, unless employers implement specific prohibitions. The law will go into effect in October or November 2011. In the interim, employers need to carefully consider appropriate rules for their workplaces.

The new law allows licensed individuals to carry concealed weapons (including handguns). To receive a license, an individual must: (1) be age 21 or older; (2) pass a background check; (3) complete a training program; and (4) not be otherwise prohibited from carrying a gun (i.e., not a felon). The license is valid for five years, and license holders must have both the license and a photo ID on their person while they are carrying a concealed weapon.

The new law creates a set of challenges for Wisconsin employers, who must now implement a policy on the carrying of weapons. The law provides that an employer may prohibit a license holder from carrying a concealed weapon "in the course of the [license holder's] employment." This means that an employer is allowed to prohibit its employees from carrying concealed weapons in the workplace, or while they are on duty (e.g., an employer can prohibit a sales employee from carrying a concealed weapon while he/she is working out in the field). However, the law specifically protects an employee/license holder's right to store a weapon in his/her own motor vehicle. This protection applies even if the employee/license holder utilizes the vehicle in the course of his/her employment, or parks the vehicle on the employer's property.

Employers who operate places of public accommodation (e.g., hotels, restaurants, stores) face additional decisions in light of the new law. The default rule would allow license-holders to carry concealed weapons

almost anywhere. (There are narrow exceptions for places such as police stations, courthouses, and airports.) Therefore, if a business owner does nothing, it will effectively permit customers/frequenters to carry concealed weapons on its premises. If a business owner wants to prohibit the carrying of concealed weapons, the owner may do so by posting a sign that is located "in a prominent place" near all of the entrances to the building where the restriction applies.

Regardless of your position on the reasonableness of the new law, it clearly poses some challenges for employers. The law contains language providing that an employer who allows its employees to carry a concealed weapon, or allows patrons to carry concealed weapons on its premises is "immune from liability arising from its decision." However, these provisions may not completely insulate an employer from liability. Employers who currently have policies regarding handguns and other weapons (including policies regarding the presence of weapons in the employer's parking lot) will need to revisit those policies to ensure they comply with the new law. In addition, those employers who do not currently have applicable policies will need to implement rules and post notices if they wish to maintain a gun-free workplace. We advise that employers carefully consider their policies in light of this new law and consult with an employment law professional to assist in the development and implementation of such a policy. *Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C. Milwaukee, WI.*

For more information, please contact Frank Gumina at (414) 978-5387 or fgumina@whdlaw.com, Erik Eisenmann at (414) 978-5371 or Eisenmann@whdlaw.com, or another member of the Human Resources Law Practice Group.

UCRA FEES TO STAY THE SAME FOR 2012

At its meeting on June 15, 2011, the Board of Directors of the Unified Carrier Registration Agreement recommended to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation that UCRA fees remain the same for calendar 2012 as they have been in 2010 and 2011. The board also recommended to the states participating in the UCRA program that they begin collections of the 2012 fees in October this year, and begin enforcement January 1, 2012. There is at least some potential interest among the states in seeking a UCRA fee increase for 2013.

Courtesy ATA State Laws Newsletter

2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jul 15-17** **Indiana Towing and Wreckage Association 2011 Trade Show**, Holiday Inn North, Indianapolis, IN 765-288-6041 sallie235@aol.com
- Aug 5-6** **Professional Towing and Recovery Operators of Illinois**, Wyndham Chicago, Lisle, Ill. 800-286-0519 www.towingillinois.com www.ptroi@ntslink.net
- Aug 12-13** **22nd Annual Waupun Truck-N-Show**, Waupun, WI <http://waupuntrucknshow.com/>
- Aug 16** **WMCA Annual Tailgate Party, Milwaukee Brewers vs. Los Angeles Dodgers**, Miller Park, Milwaukee, WI 608-833-8200
- Aug 19-21** **Eau Claire Big Rig Truck Show, Eau Claire, WI** <http://www.eauclairebigrigtruckshow.com/>
- Sep 16-18** **Tennessee Tow Show**, Chattanooga Choo Choo Convention Center, Chattanooga, Tenn. 423-920-1219 jerry.riggs@comcast.net
- Sep 22-25** **Midwest Regional Tow Show**, Great Wolf Lodge, Mason, Ohio 877-341-3400 or 513-791-3555 www.trao.org dbrock@trao.org

PROPOSED SPECIAL INTEREST ASSESSMENT ON EMPLOYERS

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) recently mailed a letter to employers regarding a special assessment for interest on outstanding federal loans. [A sample letter is available](#) on the DWD website, along with answers to several [frequently asked questions](#) on this issue.

Due to economic conditions and the strain on the unemployment trust fund, the DWD was forced to borrow from the Federal Unemployment Trust Fund in 2009. As part of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), interest assessments on these federal loans were waived through December 31, 2010. Along with other unemployment provisions, President Obama's federal budget proposal extends the loan interest waiver for 2011 and 2012. However, if the proposed loan interest waiver is not passed for 2011 soon, the State of Wisconsin will need to move forward and collect the funds necessary to make an interest payment by September 30 on the \$1.3 billion borrowed. The consequences of not making the interest payment when due include withheld federal unemployment compensation benefits and the loss of certification for the state's unemployment program, causing employers to no longer be eligible for the 5.4% credit against the FUTA tax. The estimated amount of the assessment is described in the letter from the DWD.

The Federal Unemployment (FUTA) Surtax is Set to Expire

The Federal unemployment tax rate of 6.2% is comprised of a 6.0% tax and 0.2% FUTA surtax. Historically, employers have received a 5.4% credit for taxes paid in to a state's unemployment fund, resulting in a net tax rate of 0.8%.

Although it has been in place since 1976, the FUTA surtax is actually a "temporary" tax that has been extended numerous times over the years. Most recently, the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 extended the FUTA surtax to June 30, 2011.

The proposed federal budget bill includes a provision to extend this 0.2% surtax for 2011, 2012 and 2013. However, if the surtax is *not* extended, the effective rate paid by most employers will be **reduced to 0.6%** effective July 1, 2011. Stay tuned for future updates on this issue.

Courtesy Schenck SC

FINAL DRAFT – REVISED EMERGENCY TRAFFIC CONTROL AND SCENE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

As you may be aware from previous newsletters or if you are on the stakeholders email list, WisDOT has been working on an update to the ***Emergency Traffic Control and Scene Management Guidelines***. We have attached a PDF file of the final draft of the guidelines document for your information. (Note: The quality of some images was reduced to decrease the file size to allow for distribution via e-mail.)



WisDOT Emergency
TC & SM Guidelines - I



National Motor Vehicle Title Information System Provides Crucial Support in Combating Vehicle-Related Crime

Scope of the Problem

Automobile fraud and theft negatively impact public safety and often result in tremendous financial loss to the public. Fraud involving vehicles is a profitable business for criminals and heavily burdens consumers. In 2009, nearly one million vehicles were stolen nationwide at an estimated value of \$5.2 billion, according to the Uniform Crime Report, while consumers and insurance companies lost nearly \$8 billion per year from auto theft, as reported by the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

Criminal investigations have shown that those involved in domestic auto theft enterprises often perpetrate violent crimes, such as homicide, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and terrorism. To help combat vehicle-related crime, the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) was created to promote information sharing among state Division of Motor Vehicles (DMVs) as well as federal, tribal, state and local law enforcement personnel. Operational since 2009, NMVTIS is the only national information system that requires junk and salvage industry reporting. The system is designed to protect consumers from fraud and unsafe vehicles and to prevent stolen vehicles from being resold. NMVTIS also assists law enforcement in deterring and preventing title fraud, Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) cloning, and other crimes.

To date, BJA has over 100 active nonreporting referrals in 23 states. Current enforcement efforts have added over 100,000 previously unreported vehicles to NMVTIS.

The Role of NMVTIS

The Anti-Car Theft Act of 1992 established NMVTIS as a national information system enabling states and others to access automobile titling information. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has had responsibility for the oversight and operation of NMVTIS since 1996. As part of that role, DOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is responsible for enforcing civil fines on junk and salvage yards, towing operators, insurance carriers, and others who fail to report on a monthly basis, as required. Failure to report to NMVTIS is punishable by a civil penalty of \$1,000 per violation; therefore, a failure to report 100 junk or salvage automobiles could result in a civil fine of up to \$100,000. All fines collected under NMVTIS are turned over to the U.S. Treasury.

NMVTIS Enforcement Activities

BJA provides the field with information on NMVTIS reporting requirements, the methods for reporting, and the penalties for non-reporting. BJA is coordinating its efforts with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and state and local law enforcement to identify and investigate NMVTIS reporting violations.

Enforcement efforts include:

- **Outreach** – BJA undertook a major NMVTIS education campaign with mass mailings for the junk/salvage/recycler and insurance industries. In 2010, over 20,000 letters were sent to NMVTIS reporting entities. This was followed by a targeted mailing to auto insurance underwriters across the country. BJA will continue these efforts, including targeted outreach to the towing and used automobile industries, and other sectors that process junk and salvage vehicles.

Regardless of which industry a company may operate, if that company is in the business of owning or acquiring five or more junk or salvage vehicles per year for resale (in their entirety or for spare parts), rebuilding, restoration, or crushing, it is required to report to NMVTIS.

- **Site Visits** – On-site inspections of junk/salvage/recycler facilities have occurred in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. In addition, BJA continues to coordinate with NHTSA inspectors from across the country to facilitate enforcement of NMVTIS reporting in all 50 states.
- **Office-based Monitoring** – NMVTIS records are regularly monitored to identify nonreporting entities. This includes reviewing auction and insurance industry submissions to determine which businesses have not submitted timely reports. Once identified, nonreporting businesses are contacted by phone and a 30-day nonreporting notice is mailed. If the required NMVTIS entries are not made in a timely manner, civil penalties are pursued. **To date, nonreporting notices have been sent to businesses in 30 states and these efforts resulted in approximately 100,000 additional vehicles being reported to NMVTIS.**
- **Nonreporting Referrals** – A nonreporting referral process has been developed to enable the general public to use the NMVTIS web site to send confidential e-mails concerning nonreporting companies. Referrals are reviewed and, if necessary, appropriate follow up enforcement actions taken. **To date, BJA has over 100 active referrals in 23 states.**

Any member of the public, who wishes to notify DOJ of an entity that is not currently reporting, can e-mail nmvtis@usdoj.gov and include “Non-reporting Referral” in the subject line of the message. For answers to general NMVTIS questions, please visit the NMVTIS web site and refer to the Frequently Asked Questions section at www.nmvtis.gov/nmvtis_faq.html.

The Department of Justice respectfully requests that if any individual or organization disseminates this article to members and interested parties, then the entire article should be provided.



REVIEW OF ANNUAL CONVENTION

Election of Directors – David Rottinghaus, Zip’s Truck Equipment, Inc. New Hampton, IA was elected to one year term to expire in 2012. Mark Block, Ray’s Towing, Inc., Milwaukee; Ryan Tessman, Emergency Starting & Towing, Watertown; John Schmidt, Schmidt’s Auto, Inc., Madison; Homer Schultz, Homer’s Service & Towing, Milwaukee and Tom Schopen, Schopen Automotive, Whitewater were elected to 3-year terms to expire in 2014. Mark Bradfish, Mount View Mobil Service, Wausau was elected to a 2-year term to expire in 2013 and Sean Zacher, Zacher Truck Service, Milwaukee was elected to a 1-year term to expire in 2012.

Election of Officers – Mark Block, Ray’s Towing, Inc., Milwaukee and Jamon Ingelse, Lanser Garage & Towing, Inc., Belgium were elected respectively to serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors. Their terms of office will expire in 2012.

We have enclosed a copy of the minutes of the annual meeting along with a current list of the Association's directors and officers for your use and information.

Results of the Working Tow Truck Contest – There was an excellent turn out of operators' equipment again this year. As always, the trucks were all very competitive. They were well equipped and their appearance and condition were immaculate. We also extend our thanks and appreciation to the owners and drivers for their efforts in preparing these trucks for the contest and bringing them to the convention for all to enjoy and learn from. We also commend the judges for their work on a very warm afternoon as they had the unenviable and challenging task of evaluating them.

Light Show

Best of Show - Davis Citgo Service, Janesville – Steve Davis

Class A - Light Duty ('08 and newer)

Best of Show - Jerry’s Towing, River Falls – David Wilkens
2nd Place - Extreme Towing & Recovery, North Liberty, IA – Matthew Gragg
3RD Place - Jensen Towing & Recovery, Kenosh – Paula Jensen

Class B - Light Duty ('07 and older)

Best of Show - Krug’s Towing, Medford – Brian Krug
2nd Place - Nieman’s Service, Inc., Wisconsin Rapids – Chris Nieman
3RD Place - Emergency Starting & Towing, Watertown – Andy & Ryan Tessman

Class C - Medium Duty ('08 and newer)

Best of Show - Reliable Truck & Auto, Hartford – Steven Klapka
2nd Place - Whealon Towing & Service, Fond du Lac – Dave Whealon

Class D - Medium Duty ('07 and older)

Best of Show - Andy’s Towing, St. Cloud, MN – John Hovanes

Class E - HD Single Axle

Best of Show - Kabus Auto Body & Recovery, Independence – Ted Kabus
2nd Place - Mount View Service, Wausau – Mark Bradfish

Class F - HD Tandem Axle ('08 and newer)

Best of Show - Zacher Truck Service, Milwaukee – Sean & John Zacher
2nd Place -

Class G - HD Tandem Axle ('07 and older)

Best of Show - Topel Truck Service, Lake Mills – Michelle & Shawn Topel
2nd Place - Rod’s Towing & Service, Merrill – Wayne Lammert

Class H - HD Tri-Axle ('08 and newer)
Best of Show - Twin Cities Transport & Recovery, St. Paul, MN – Ron Gardas

Class I – HD Tri-Axle ('07 and older)
Best of Show - Guy's Truck & Tractor Service, Kieler – Guy Richard
2nd Place - Irvington Garage, Menomonie – Merv Doane

Class J - HD Specialized
Best of Show - Emergency Starting & Towing, Watertown – Andy & Ryan Tessman
2nd Place - Bill's Towing & Auto Repair, Lodi – Matthew Sellner

Class K - Carrier ('08 and newer)
Best of Show - Al's Towing & Recovery, Darlington – Alex Douglas
2nd Place - Liberty Towing, Madison – Rod Timmerman

Class L - Carrier ('07 and older)
Best of Show - Reliable Truck & Auto, Hartford – Steven Klapka

Class M – Antique Wrecker
Best of Show - Bill's Towing & Auto Repair, Lodi – Matthew Sellner

Class N – Mechanical (Lt. & Med. Duty)
Best of Show - Bill's Towing & Auto Repair, Lodi – Matthew Sellner

Class O – Mechanical (HD)
Best of Show - Platt's Garage, Inc., Wisconsin Dells – Mark & Marty Platt

Class P – Service Truck
Best of Show - Guy's Truck & Tractor Service, Kieler – Guy Richard

Paint & Graphics Award
Best of Show - Guy's Truck & Tractor Service, Kieler – Guy Richard
Most Innovative Award

Best of Show - Krug's Towing, Medford – Brian Krug

Best Fit & Finish Award
Best of Show - Guy's Truck & Tractor Service, Kieler – Guy Richard

THANK YOU!!!!

- ***A special thank you to all of the vendors and associate members*** that brought they're towing and recovery equipment and related products to the convention for our members to see and evaluate. **Even with the obviously down economy and its negative impacts on business conditions, our vendors really stepped up to support us and arrived with a great selection of new equipment to inspect and compare which is exactly why we have the trade show with our convention. This was really above and beyond what anyone could have expected and was certainly appreciated by all. Our Association is very fortunate to have a loyal, cooperative and supportive group of vendors that attend and participate in our annual event year after year. Without exception, they work to accommodate the program in everyway possible.**

We all realized that their support of this year's convention enabled us to provide those in attendance with an excellent program. Please keep this fact in mind when you are contemplating

the purchase of equipment, supplies or services. They deserve an opportunity to solicit your business.

Please support them as they have supported our Association and Wisconsin's towing and recovery industry.

- **A big thank you to all of general and event program sponsors.** Their considerable support has allowed the convention to remain affordable (see attached list).
- **Thanks to all of the companies that brought equipment.** When all is said and done, it's the operators, their families and their trucks that make our convention worthwhile, enjoyable and memorable. The trucks were great! Thanks again.
- **Some more folks whose efforts helped make the convention successful and deserve a thank you for a job well done:**

Mark Platt our convention chairman again this year. We have been to Wisconsin Dells so many times for our convention and each time Mark Platt and his family have stepped forward to help organize, promote and implement the convention program.

Homer Schultz, family and friends who did the Pig Roast Friday night. We again had close to 400 folks joined us for this wonderful meal.

Bill Tomlinson and Craig Goldbeck, for the excellent educational programs presented Saturday morning which again were well attended and well received by those who participated.

Greg Roskopf for producing a very entertaining video of the weekend's events that was shown at the banquet.

The Topel Family, Topel's Truck Service for organizing the Lego Tow Truck Building Contest.

Wendy Grunewald from Ken Weber's Truck Service for organizing and overseeing the Kid's P.J. – Pizza Party.

Ted Kabus, Tom Hedglin, and Mark Bradfish who arrived early on Thursday to help with the set-up and the parking of trucks during the weekend.

From the desk of Geri Roskopf ~ Aloha!

Sure hope you had fun during the 2011 Wisconsin Tow Show at the Chula Vista Resort in the Wisconsin Dells.

*Once again, Wisconsin towers were "Hooked on Helping" by raising \$820.00 for Wisconsin Special Olympics after the pig roast on Friday night. This was made possible by the generosity of **Floyd's Towing, Ken Weber Truck Service and Whealon's Towing** for their donation of the Wisconsin Towing Association jackets, hats and LED lights and **O'Hare Towing Service** for a signed picture from their Wrecked show and other O'Hare collectables. My family donated the Wisconsin Towing Association lawn chair. It was getting late and dark, but members stuck it out and came through for a good cause!*

*What fun the ladies had learning how to hula dance and then finding out how to say their name in Hawaiian – all made possible by sponsorships **from AAA and Tom and Bonnie Hedglin - Area Wide Services.** Thanks to all of you who donated door prizes and to Kathy Sellner, Bill's Towing & Auto Repair for the yummy cookies and little Hawaiian shot glasses – too cute.*

*Many thanks to those who donated raffle items and especially to those of you who bought tickets. The following members donated some wonderful items to make this possible –**Bill's Towing & Auto Repair, Floyd & Sons, Dewey's Services, Ray's Towing, S & R. Towing, Recycled Parts Plus, Lakeside International, Guy's Truck & Tractor Service, O'Hare Towing Service, Merten's Auto, Davis Citgo Service, Roskopf's, DD Sling & Supply and Ken Weber Truck Service.** Congratulations to the lucky winners! If you were a winner of a raffle item or door prize, it would be great if you could take a moment to call or send a thank you card to those companies who donated them.*

Michelle Topel – Topel Truck Center – is proud to announce the following LEGO Contest Winners: 6 – 8 years Winner – **Kaitlyn Wedel**; Dewey's Service and Runner-up – **Kody Sellner**; Bill's Towing & Auto Repair. 9-11 years Winner – **Kalli Wedel**; Dewey's Service, 12-17 years Winner - **Matthew Sellner**; Bill's Towig & Auto Repair and Runner-up – **Jamison Rogers** – Dewey's Service. Judges Favorite – **Matthew Sellner**, Best Flatbed – **Kaitlyn Wedel**, Best Light Duty, **Miguel Ebel** – Frovik's and Best Heavy Duty, **Matthew Sellner**. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks once again to the following for their sponsorship and for supplying the judges: **Zip's Truck Equipment, Bob Fish and Lynch Truck Equipment**.

I received a phone call from **Glenn Meyer of Day & Nite Towing** asking if I could use some serving spoons for the tow show. I asked him to send me a sample and after I saw what they looked like, I did - in fact - use them. Each guest who attended the banquet Saturday night received a spoon with a red ribbon around it with the saying – “The Wisconsin Towing Association – We're Here to Serve You”. Thanks Glenn for your donation. Glad I was able to think of some way to put the spoons to good use. Chocolate covered macadamia nuts donated by **Floyd's Towing** and candy bars donated by **Junior Merten** were a big hit as extra treats for Saturday's banquet – thanks guys!

I have so many wonderful ladies who year after year volunteer to help with whatever I need done. Heartfelt thanks to **Julie Rogers** and her daughters **Jess** and **Jackie** - **Dewey's Service, Kathy Leonard – Floyd's Towing, Betty Parnham – Johnson Towing of Steven's Point, Nancy Brust, Kathy Sellner and her sister – Bill's Towing & Repair, Kim Kumbier – Kumbier Towing & Recovery, Bonnie Hedglin – Area Wide Services, Cathy Davis and Norma Davis - Davis Citgo, Kayla Zacher – Zacher Truck Service, my daughter, Jess and my right hand assistant – Mary Weber – Ken Weber Truck Service - and all of her family – especially Wendy Grunewald who coordinated the activities for the kids party.**

The Wisconsin Towing Association will be celebrating 45 years next year. Jeff and I are having a planning meeting and would love to have you join us to get some ideas and plans in place to make it a memorable tow show. Pencil in Wednesday, August 24, 2011 around 3 in the afternoon at our shop. After the meeting, we will have a cook-out. There are lots of things to do in the Milwaukee area if you would like to stay over ~ visit the Harley Davidson Museum, the Milwaukee County Zoo and Museum, Potawatomi Bingo, Miller or Sprecher Breweries ~ something for everyone. To help in planning, please email me to let me know if you would be attending this meeting- all are welcome - or if you are not able to attend, send me your thoughts and ideas.

There are five reasons we are burned out. **#1. Life is hard and life is fast.** Our daily lives include a good dose of media glutted with bad news. Technology has made our lives busier, but then, not necessarily better. **#2. Do as I say, not as I do.** We get the idea that eating healthy and keeping fit is okay for everybody else. Bad nutrition and a lack of exercise contribute to the feeling of fatigue and various aches and pains. **#3. Winning is Everything.** Being number one! Society doesn't place much value to those who are number two or even worse – average! **#4. The Control Factor.** Having either too much or not enough control – leads to frustration and eliminates the sense of accomplishment. **#5. We Forget to Recess.** People have forgotten how fun recesses and vacations can be. The very idea of recess is about having free time – with no schedule or too many expectations.

In order to keep burnout at bay, start each day quietly with a few minutes of reflection, meditation and prayer. No more couch potatoes – get up and get moving. Eat right and drink lots of water. Give up the idea that you need to be accessible to everybody all the time and have recess – permit yourself to play and remember to be have SmileMakers – things we do or experience that surprise and delight us – they are the joys of life.

Have a wonderful summer – just hope Mother Nature would look at the calendar to see “it is” summertime in Wisconsin! geroskopf@sbcglobal.net 262-251-0600.

WISCONSIN TOWING ASSOCIATION 2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

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