

MINNESOTA

Professional Towing Association



A September to Remember



MPTA Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Ron Gardas Jr.
Twin Cities Transport &
Recovery
3760 Flowerfield Rd
Blaine, MN 55014
763-784-7501
'21-'24

VICE - PRESIDENT

Lance Burda
Burdas Towing
PO Box 249
Rogers, MN 55374
763-428-9911
'19-'22

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Ron Feist
Feist Automotive
1875 N. Lilac Dr.
Golden Valley, MN 55422
763-544-5512
'20-'23

DIRECTORS:

Jenn Pearson
Twin Cities Wrecker Sales
1301 Jackson St
St. Paul, MN 55117
651-488-4210
'19-'22

Jay Thompson
Lake City Towing
2904 Winter Street
Superior, WI 54880
218-722-7781
'21-'24

Joe Lomsdal
Aggressive Towing
2636 16th Ave So
Moorhead, MN 56560
218-287-2344
'20-'23

Noah Kreitinger
Dean's Towing
1164 W. Frontage Rd.
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-455-1950
'21-'24

Lonnie Krackow
Borkowski Towing & Salvage
PO Box 868
Winona, MN 55987
507-452-9073
'19-'22

Jason Butler
City Line Towing
1305 Litchfield Ave SE
Willmar, MN 56201
320-231-3869
'20-'23

LOBBYIST

Rob Leighton
Nolan, Thompson, & Leighton
952-405-7171

LEGAL COUNSEL

Randy Thompson
Nolan, Thompson, & Leighton
952-405-7171

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lance Klatt
2886 Middle Street
Little Canada, MN 55117
651-487-2231

OFFICE STAFF

Nikki Steger
2886 Middle Street
Little Canada, MN 55117
651-487-2231

MPTA contact information:

2886 Middle Street
Little Canada, MN 55117

Phone: 651-487-2231
Fax: 651-487-2447

Email: admin@mnprotow.org

**If you would like to make a
contribution to help with the legislative
efforts, please send your donations to:**

**MPTA
2886 Middle Street
Little Canada, MN 55117**

Message From MPTA President, Ron Gardas Jr.

September was a great month for the towing industry. MPTA hosted two training classes...a two-day advanced light duty training class where students learned in-depth rigging, levers, snatch block technics, and advanced recoveries and the second was an introduction to heavy duty training class. This training class breaks down the truck and mechanics and explain how and why something is happening. Such as when you “T-Bolt” brakes what is happening and so on. An explanation of air systems, how to pull driveshafts and how dangerous they are.

Following the heavy-duty training class, the MPTA hosted its annual meeting. The annual meeting is open to every member in good- standing and are encouraged to attend.

Following the annual meeting is one of the things that I was most excited about this year. Our very first Hall of Fame Ceremony. At the inaugural ceremony we had better then 60 attendees. I was happy to see there were some members that haven't been present in a while. There were many family members of the gentlemen that got inducted. Some people even flew across the United States to be present.

This year there were 7 nominations. We are only going to induct three per year. We also inducted three lifetime achievement winners. I am already looking forward to next year's ceremony and to see who is going to be nominated. Another congratulations goes out to; Art Smith, Andy Hovanes, Bruce Koehler, Butch Thompson, Dick Pellow, and Joe Sroga.

We also had a member be inducted into the Internarial Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame. Roddy Pellow is Minnesota's fifth person to be inducted into the International Hall of Fame. This honor is not something that should be taken lightly. They take 5-8 new people from all around the world per year.

Congratulations to Roddy Pellow!



Ron Gardas Jr
Vice President - Heavy Operations
President - Minnesota Professional Towing Association

MPTA Shines with Annual Meeting and First Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony



On Tuesday September 28th, the MPTA hosted their Annual Meeting and Inaugural Hall of Fame Inductee Ceremony recognizing six individuals with substantial contributions to the towing and recovery industry. As always, the Annual Meeting is a great opportunity for towing members to share thoughts about the upcoming year. Items discussed were legal, legislative issues, education and continuing how to help our towing industry be the best it can be.

This year was the sixth year MPTA members casted their votes by mailing in their votes. There were four very respective towing members/ operators on the ballot. The unfortunate situation, we can only allow three to be voted in. The three board of Directors voted on the board of directors are Ron Gardas Jr.-Twin Cities Towing & Recovery, Jay Thompson–Lake City Towing, and Noah Kreitingner-Dean’s Towing. I encourage every MPTA member in the future to attend our Annual Meeting, as this is your meeting.

MPTA realizing it was time to display the roots of our membership and profession, each year three nominees making a difference in our industry and in the MPTA are enshrined into the MPTA Hall of Fame. Each August/September a new class will be inducted into the MPTA Hall of Fame.

Congratulations to the class of 2021! Bruce Koehler of Koehler’s Towing, Joseph Sroga of Sroga’s Automotive /Star Sapphire Training and Consulting, Richard “Dick” Pellow of Twin Cities Towing /Twin Cities Wrecker Sales, Andrew Hovanes Jr. of Andy’s Towing, John “Butch” Thompson Jr. of Thompson Motor Service and Art Smith of Auto Medics & Service.

What a great evening topped by a great group of attendees making a very special occasion even better! Hope to see you at next year's Annual meeting/HOF Induction ceremony!





Joseph Sroga

Joe is a second-generation tower taking over the family business (Sroga's Automotive) starting in 1968 after he was released from active duty in the Naval Air Force Reserves as an Aviation Engines Mechanic. In 1984 the gas portion of the business was eliminated, and a second repair facility was purchased. Sroga's Automotive Services, Inc. was no longer a gas station, but one of the larger towing companies in Minnesota with more than 12 tow trucks from light to heavy duty.

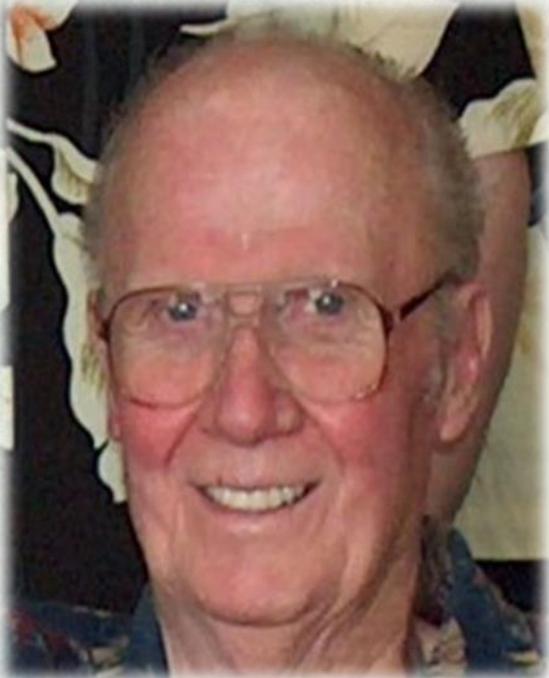
In 1974, Joe presented his first organized training seminar for members of the Minnesota Service Station Association. In 1981, Joe was a chapter member of the

Minnesota Professional Towing Association. He served as the organization's Vice President from 1981-1983 and President from 1984-1986. Joe prepared one of his first training courses for light duty towing for the MPTA. It was his desire to improve the towing industry, through his teaching and explaining the complex facets of towing he forged ahead into many other areas of the industry.

Joe joined TRAA and served as the Chairman of the Education Committee. Over the years, he authored several of the course training manuals for TRAA. He was instrumental in the development of the driver certification program. Joe has served on a committee of the Society of Automotive Engineers, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Transportation Research Board, and the University of Georgia.

Probably one of Joe's greatest contributions to the towing industry has been numerous classes and seminars he has presented over past years throughout the United States. His main emphasis has included light and medium duty towing and recovery techniques, professionalism at the accident scene, safety, and customer relations. His students have included novices to veterans, and he has even lectured to various branches of the military. His towing related articles have appeared in many of the well-known towing publications. Joe was inducted into the International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame Museum in Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1996.

In addition to being active in the towing industry, Joe has also been active in his community of St. Anthony. He has donated vehicles and time to training local police/fire personnel in automotive extrication and recovery.



Bruce Koehler

Bruce, along with his brother, Clarke, co-owned Koehler's towing. The family company their father Ray Koehler started in 1927. Bruce has always been a go getter... When not towing during the week, Saturday mornings he would fly out to Washington state to drive back new Kenworth's for Rhim Motor company.

Koehler's towing was a Minneapolis towing power house. Koehler's towing was in a prime location at 1307 University Ave SE in the Dinkytown area of Minneapolis. Because of that location Koehler's were able to tow for half of the city of Minneapolis.

Bruce could not stand idle any longer. Bruce, along with Tom Eaton sought out Dick Pellow. The three of them knew they needed to stand together and start an association for a voice for all the towers in the state of Minnesota, creating the Minnesota Professional Towing Association.

This was not the first time that Bruce knew people needed a voice. Bruce played a critical part in turning Koehler's towing into the only union run towing company. To this date this feat has never been done again. In 1983 Bruce along with his brother decided to take a property buyout opportunity. They sold their Dinkytown property to Pizza Hut, and their trucks to Twin Cities Towing. Bruce used his knowledge of trucks and ability and know every road in the state of Minnesota trying his hand at dispatching. Bruce not being able to sit still, found an opportunity to start a Dairy Queen franchise. As many know, once the towing industry grabs you it does not let you go. The ice cream business just was different from the towing industry.

Bruce came back to dispatch again, but this time a few things had changed, including the owners. Bruce now dispatched for Twin Cities Transport & Recovery. Ron Gardas Jr. was lucky enough to remember Bruce in the office. Ron Gardas Jr. remembers Bruce saying, and the story is still told at TCTR's shop today, "there is a disagreement on the distance of a place, one person would say 20 miles and Bruce would say 30- Bruce would say you drive the 20 and I'll drive the 30 then we'll walk the difference, and we'll see who gets there first". On April 12th, 2005, at the age of 78 years and after a long full life Bruce left us. He will always be remembered by his friends, family, children, and grandchildren.



Art Smith

Art has been around the repair/towing industry for most of his life. After receiving a medical discharge from the Marine Corps for a blown-out knee injury in 1974, relocating to the Blaine area in 1975 embarking on a whole new challenge. With a love for cars, Art enrolled in the Auto body and mechanics program at Anoka Technical College. While attending school, Art sought employment as a technician at the Sears in Maplewood.

The challenge was just beginning in the fall of 1978. Looking for other opportunities purchasing a small business in Blaine, Beck's Auto Medics specializing in auto body & auto repair in Blaine.

In three short years purchasing Bourke Bros. Towing in Blaine located on Hwy 65 & 105th. In the year of 2000, Art and wife Pam asked by the city of Blaine to relocate their towing business, with much support from the city of Blaine, the move was successful building a state-of-the-art facility on three acres of land boasting a huge garage for auto repair with a major emphasis on towing. A spacious impound lot surrounds three-quarters of the building. Auto Medics was one of the first businesses to build an energy efficient facility with a generator for an emergency back-up. Around that same time, the Smith's sold their location across the street (Beck's) old shop.

The towing industry obviously picked Art over the automotive repair industry Art attributes his families success to their hard work and always doing what the customers want them to do. Always thinking of others, Art will tell you 90% of their success is due to the employees they had. Art is also the first to tell you "Don't be afraid to ask for help from other towing entities on a job. Work as a team on our roadways to better protect the integrity of our industry. If you can't tackle it, don't take it on!" Art's words of wisdom for future generations operating in our industry; "be very careful on the job, use your brain, and be constructive in an ever-changing marketplace keeping track of all expenses such as fuel."

"I am happy with who I am and what I do for a living. If it wasn't for my wife and business partner Pam, I wouldn't been able to do it!". Please welcome in honoring Art Smith.



Andrew Hovanes Jr.

Andy was literally born and raised in the towing & recovery industry, pumping gas at 10 and driving a tow truck at age 15 for his father who owned a service station. With his two brothers, Andy went on to form his own towing and recovery firm growing to over 29 employees over the years.

In their prime, Andy's Towing sponsored a wide range of youth activities, including hockey, softball, baseball, volleyball and bowling and most especially, the Special Olympics.

Andy was a member of the Sauk Rapids Volunteer Fire Department for nearly 40 years, serving as Chief for nine and also chairing two State Firemen's

Conventions. Andy is a charter member of the St. Cloud Metro Lions Club and has served a term as President and has also aggressively supported the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank over the years.

Andy has been an active member of the Minnesota Professional Towing Association, serving on the Board of Directors. Andy also continues to be active in TRAA, the Wisconsin Towing Association, International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame and Museum and of course the Copper Lantern in St. Cloud.

Andy was very instrumental in state legislation supporting the towing and recovery industry and is quick to donate his time and equipment to a variety of industry-related events. Andrew Hovanes Jr. was inducted into the International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame Museum in Chattanooga, Tennessee in 2000.



John “Butch” Thompson Jr.

Butch attended Dunwoody for a short time and later enlisted in the United States Army until receiving a medical discharge. Soon after was employed working on the Railroad, plowing snow for the State of MN, and as a mechanic for Odberg & Ryan in Duluth and Moses Chevrolet in Carlton. In 1967, Butch began working for his father, John Sr. at Thompson Motor Service in Barnum and in 1981 went on his own with Thompson Motor Service while operating “Big T” Truck Center in Carlton for about 5 years. In 1992, Butch purchased Lake City Towing in 1992 which is owned and operated today by son’s Chad and Jay.

Butch was a member of the Barnum Community United Methodist Church, Barnum Community Club, Barnum Fire Department, Barnum Lions Club, and the Moosehorn Rod & Gun Club. As most of us know, Butch had a great love for classic cars and organized several car shows in the area and a member of both the National and Minnesota Impala Clubs. Butch truly loved his Barnum community, supporting and promoting events that were happening. Butch loved to visit and was often found in area restaurants soaking in the latest news or enjoying a game of cribbage with his friends.

Butch was the glue holding the MPTA together. Butch, a past officer as Secretary/Treasurer of the MPTA. Back then, MPTA didn’t have an accounting software program such as Quick-Books or Peachtree. Butch worked with a local accountant at the Bank in Barnum. Most people joke about a little black book containing phone numbers of girls. Butch’s black book contained information about MPTA members. Phone numbers, addresses, names, and other contact information. There was no data base, the data base was Butch.

Butch loved the MPTA and the MPTA loved him back. Serving several terms as a board director and always finding time working and visiting MPTA tow schools. Of Course, Butch always offered his opinion whether you wanted to hear it or not. Just as Butch was a legend, so was his main ride... his Heavy- Duty golf cart with the pink frisbees. Butch had personality.

Becoming a fall tradition, Butch hosted board meetings at his home in Barnum. Where he would serve the best steak (Grilled by grandson Alex), the greasiest cheesy hash browns, large salad and a very heavy calorie desert. Whatever Butch did, it was always over the top! The guy would give you the shirt of his back and never talked bad about anyone.

Butch left us and our towing world on May 22nd of 2017.



Richard “Dick” Maurice Pellow

In 1959 Dick made history in Daytona, Florida as a member of the pit crew of the first ever Daytona 500 for friend and fellow racer, Bernie Hentges. In 1960 Dick purchased his first body shop. In 1967 he purchased Milt’s Towing and Salvage eventually becoming Twin Cities Towing, Twin Cities Salvage Pool and eventually, Twin Cities Wrecker Sales.

Dick’s lifelong tinkering of cars turned into a full-time passion when he purchased his first collector car in 1979, a 1935 Ford Cabriolet. His collection grew from there, now upwards of 50 cars. In the 1980s Dick was critical in advancing the auto body repair, brokerage, and towing industry in Minnesota and on

the national level. He was President, Founder and Director of the Minnesota Professional Towing Association (MPTA) and Vice President of the Towing and Recovery Association of America (TRAA) as well as key member of the Minnesota Service Station Association (MSSA).

His leadership in the auto industry led him down an unconventional road to the Minnesota State Capitol. As a blue-collar business owner, he was elected as a member of the Minnesota State House of Representatives, where he served three terms (1989 - 1992 and 1995 - 1996). His committees included Commerce, Economic Development, Transportation, and Safety. His children and grandchildren often walked the streets of New Brighton on weekends to help him deliver literature and his campaign slogan, “People for Pellow.”

Dick was inducted into the International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame Museum in Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1987.

Dick was one of the original founders of the Minnesota Professional Towing Association as the Associations first President. Dick with his wife Jean Pellow owned and operated Twin Cities Towing until 1988, Twin Cities Wrecker sales until 2000, and Twin Cities Salvage until 1994. On December 23, 2019, Dick left us and the towing world as we will never forget how much he and the entire Pellow family did not only for the MPTA, but for our industry!

Congratulations Roddy!!

International Towing & Recovery Museum Hall of Fame Class of 2021

What is better than one Pellow in the International Towing & Recovery Hall of Fame & Museum (ITRHFM)? Having two Pellow's! Minnesota Professional Towing Association congratulates Roddy Pellow of Twin Cities Wrecker Sales of the highest honor in the Towing Industry being the 346th Inductee into the ITRHFM! Rodney "Roddy" Pellow has been a pioneer in our industry following in the footsteps of parents Richard "Dick" (Inducted into ITRHFM in 1987) and mother, Jean Pellow (ITRHFM's woman of the year in 1984).

Roddy's career began at Twin Cities Towing at an early age spending most days and nights towing alongside his father, two brothers and brother-in-law, Ronald Gardas (ITRHFM class of 2009). Building trucks in their family shop, the Pellow family started Twin Cities Wrecker Sales in 1979, Roddy later buying Twin Cities Wrecker Sales in 1996 from his family.

Roddy is well known within the towing community for his knowledge and ability to work with many manufacturer's over the years. Roddy was instrumental in restoring a 1913 Cadillac wrecker known as the original Holmes Wrecker and manufacturing frame restoration on "The World's Fastest Wrecker". Both trucks are on display at the (ITRHFM).

Roddy and the Pellow family continue committing their time and energy to the towing community. Members of TRAA since its inception, the Pellow family were one of the organizers of the Minnesota Professional Towing Association and members of the Minnesota Service Station Association. Roddy and the Pellow family are also members of many State Towing Associations and car clubs.

Roddy enjoys spending as much time with his family as possible. A love of restoring antique cars while always working hard for progress!

Congratulations Roddy and the entire Pellow Family! Our industry would not be what it is without you and your family! Thank you for allowing all of us into your family!





Barb Anne Beyer
October 18, 1940 - September 23, 2021

Barbara Anne (Satovich) Beyer, 80, of Fergus Falls reached for her daughters Amy and Lisa's hands to be united with Jesus in their heavenly home on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at Pioneer Heartland Cottage. She was deeply loved by all who took care of her along with hospice.

Barb was born on October 18, 1940 in Hibbing, Minnesota to Frank and Anne (Yelenich) Satovich. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Leo's Catholic Church. Barb graduated from Hibbing High School in 1957. She attended Hibbing Junior College from 1957-1959, and NDSU in Fargo, North Dakota from 1959-1961, graduating with a major in-home economics and a minor in physical education.

On August 25, 1962, she married her lifelong soulmate Paul H. Beyer. Barb began her teaching career in 1961 as a Home Economics teacher in Clinton, Minnesota. When Barb and Paul started their family, they began their dedicated partnership in raising their five children: Mike, Lynn, Lisa and twins Amy & Anne. Also, during that time, they began their partnership as business owners of the Ford Dealership in Ortonville, Minnesota from 1962-1965. In 1965, they started their own business, Beyer Body Shop and Towing in Benson, Minnesota. In 1976 they moved Beyer Body Shop and Towing to Fergus Falls, Minnesota; retiring in 2017 when their son Mike took over.

Barb enjoyed living the lake life at the log cabin her and Paul built on Silver Lake in 1978, to building their home on West Battle Lake in 1995. They also enjoyed their "Deer Farm" where their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren all learned their love of deer hunting, countless hours fishing year-round, four-wheeling, snowmobiling and all things related to the outdoors. This has become one of their greatest joys in life, as they have lovingly nurtured a family legacy with and for their family for generations to come.

Besides all activities of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren over the years, one of Barb's favorite activities was following the Minnesota Twins Baseball team. Barb and Paul attended the Twins Spring Training games in Fort Myers, Florida for 33 consecutive years. The last game they attended was in March of 2020, the day before the MLB shut down, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many friendships from all over the USA were formed at spring training over the years. The deepest bond of friendship was formed at the Hilton Homewood Suites in Fort Myers with fellow baseball fans from Minnesota, Boston, Virginia and New York who became "family".

Barb was a member of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Battle Lake, and Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Fergus Falls as an active member sharing her many beautiful talents. She was also a member of the Fergus Falls Lioness club.

She was preceded in death by her parents and daughters Amy (1998) and Lisa (2007).

She is survived by husband Paul Beyer, son Mike (JoLynn) Beyer, daughter Lynn (Scott) Remsberg and daughter Anne Beyer. Grandchildren Nicky (Jake) Boehland, Justin (Josey) Beyer, Jason (Cassie) Jorgenson, and Jenna (Mason) Hegstad. Great grandchildren Vivian and Oliver Boehland, Colby, Chase and Carly Beyer, Quinn and Redick Jorgenson, Savannah and Maverick Hegstad and her brother Frances Satovich.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 AM on Saturday, October 2nd at Our Lady Of Victory Catholic Church in Fergus Falls.

MPTA Members have a Blast at Elko Speedway

“Once again the MPTA’s Eve of Destruction didn’t disappoint”

This past August marked the seventh time the MPTA has hosted and sponsored its annual picnic at Elko Speedway. Over 125 MPTA towing members, friends and family attended this perfect evening of fun and excitement as the threat of rain loomed. The early afternoon began with towing members displaying their trucks and equipment out on the plaza for the crowds of people to view.

With a afternoon filled with food, fun, laughter DQ Gift cards (for Kiddo's) and opportunities, MPTA members and guests raised \$750 for the Survivors Fund (International Towing HOF & Museum) through our 50/50 Raffle. Congratulations to Deb Krackow for winning the other \$750 in cash!

This was MPTA's first year of a live Raffle for the MPTA as proceeds benefitted MPTA's lobbying fund. Everyone had a chance to win a 65" TV, Apple Watch, Air Pods, \$250 Cash and other prizes.

Of course, what every race fan salivates over every year at Elko Speedway, "The Twin Cities Wrecker Sales/ Western National Spectator Drags". MPTA owners/ tow truck operators "wowed" the crowd with their on track usual mayhem! Congratulations to Tyler Dehmer of Original Collins Brothers Towing taking home first place and \$250 cash. Second Place awarded to Brett Letourneau of Citywide winning \$150 cash and Third place to two-time winner of the MPTA Spectator Drags, Karra Kreminski winning \$100 Cash!

Thank you to all MPTA members, sponsoring partners and guests for making this year's Eve of Destruction a huge success!

See you Next Year!





Thank You to our Sponsoring Partners

Suite Sponsor (s)



Event Sponsor (s)



Spectator Drag Sponsor (s)



Dinner Sponsor



MPTA Hosts Two-Day Advanced Light Duty Tow School



On September 14th and 15th, the MPTA supported our towing operators with a 2-day advanced light duty tow school. MPTA board directors Ron Feist and Ron Gardas Jr. taught the early classroom portion of the school with new information and safety statistics and everyday basics of getting ready for each towing shift. With an ever-changing industry, always nice to open the classroom up for instruction and FAQ's. Students were taught everything from size of chains, straps, pressure points, Lever's, recovery and even how to better prepare yourself mentally and professionally.

With nearly twenty students in attendance, MPTA board directors hosted several training sessions featuring difficult hook ups, recovery situations, roll-overs, working load limits and experiencing use of chains and straps getting a feel for what our industry has to offer. Although the school gives you a great "Hands on" experience, it can only prepare you for the "real thing!" Teaching student's the advanced lessons of recovering vehicles in a tough environment while learning the "Do's and Do not's" of our industry.

MPTA Board Directors sponsored the event providing many vehicles and the use of their equipment. The students did not disappoint. They were promised to get hands on training while getting dirty- just like every MPTA sponsored tow school. Every school the MPTA conducts, all of us learn more from the instructors as well as from our students. Special thanks to Ron Feist & Ron Gardas Jr. for teaching recovery fundamentals in the classroom as the well as Many MPTA Board of Directors assisting in the classroom and recovery sessions. Thank you to Twin Cities Transport & Recovery and MPTA board directors for many of the salvaged vehicles.

Shout out to the Gardas family for allowing us to use their rental property and Western National Insurance for sponsoring our event! Together we support our industry, but more importantly our professionalism. I would say when one looks at the time, money and personal commitment, at the end of the day, it's all well worth it!

Hope to see you or your employees at the next MPTA endorsed tow school!







AAA: Recent Roadside Tragedies Underscore Need to Slow Down, Move Over



AAA press release:

AAA Research Reveals That Some Drivers May Not Grasp the Danger They Pose To Those at the Roadside

Following the deaths of two AAA tow providers, The Auto Club Group is raising awareness of the dangers emergency responders face on the roadside and how critical it is that drivers follow move over laws.

Glenn Ewing, 32, was killed July 4 near Cincinnati, OH, while placing a disabled vehicle on the back of a flatbed on the side of the road. He leaves behind a fiancée and two children. Only three weeks later, 30-year-old David Meyer was assisting a driver on the left-hand shoulder in Castle Rock, CO, when he was also struck and killed. As of August of this year, 14 tow providers have been killed while helping others at the roadside in 2021.

“Deaths like these can be avoided if drivers slow down and move over to give these people room to work safely,” said Scott VerBracken, Vice President of Automotive, AAA – The Auto Club Group. “We can’t stress enough how important it is to pay attention so you have time to change lanes when you see AAA, an emergency responder, or simply anybody along the side of the road.”

An average of 24 emergency responders including tow providers are struck and killed by vehicles while working at the roadside each year – meaning someone in this line of work is killed, on average, every other week.

It’s not just tow providers and other emergency responders being killed on the side of the road. Since 2015, over 1,600 people have been struck and killed while outside of a disabled vehicle.

In Florida, a total of 125 people were killed while outside a disabled vehicle, between 2015 and 2019. That’s the third-most roadside fatalities in the nation, after Texas (263) and California (248).

“These men and women who work on our roadside are just trying to make a living while caring for others,” VerBracken continued. “They already combat bad weather conditions like rain, snow, extreme cold or heat. They shouldn’t also have to also worry about a vehicle drifting into their line of safety. Please slow down and move over, so these workers can get home to their families.”

To protect these individuals, AAA and other traffic safety advocates have led the way in getting Move Over laws passed in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The law requires drivers to move over a lane or slow down for first responders on the roadside.

Why aren’t Drivers Complying with Move Over Laws? There are many reasons these types of crashes happen—unfamiliarity with Move Over laws, the driver being distracted and not realizing there is someone at the side of the road until it’s too late, etc. Impairment is another factor, which greatly reduces a driver’s judgment and reaction time.

The reality is that drivers are increasingly distracted while driving. Previous AAA Foundation research has found that drivers are up to four times as likely to crash if they are talking on a cell phone while driving and up to eight times as likely to be in a crash if texting.

“If you drive distracted, you may not notice the person on the roadside until it’s too late; and that’s how tragedies occur,” said Mark Jenkins, spokesman, AAA – The Auto Club Group. “Drivers should constantly scan the road, not their phone. If you see something, anything, on the shoulder ahead, slow down and move over. It could literally save someone’s life.”

(continued on next page)

To protect roadside workers, drivers with disabled vehicles, and others, and to improve highway safety, AAA offers these precautionary tips:

Remain alert, avoid distractions and focus on the task of driving.

Keep an eye out for situations where emergency vehicles, tow trucks, utility service vehicles or disabled vehicles are stopped on the side of the road. When you see these situations, slow down and if possible move one lane over and away from the people and vehicles stopped at the side of the road.

Since 2007, AAA has been instrumental in passing Move Over laws in all states, including advocating for those laws to cover tow providers and other emergency responders. Additionally, AAA clubs have participated in educational and advocacy initiatives, creating public service announcements and reaching out to state officials. But, there is more work to be done. AAA is committed to raising awareness of the Move Over laws and the dangers associated with working at the roadside.

These laws require motorists to move over one lane or slow down when approaching an incident where tow providers, police, firefighters or emergency medical service crews are working at the roadside. Many states have also expanded their laws to cover other vehicles, such as utility and municipal (e.g. sanitation vehicles) fleets, as well as any disabled vehicle on the side of the road.

5 Ways You Can Prepare for the Workplace Vaccine Mandate

The action plan will help you navigate the impending OSHA rule.

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—Last Thursday, the Biden Administration announced that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will soon issue a rule that will require all employers with 100 or more employees to either ensure their workers are vaccinated or require unvaccinated employees to produce a weekly negative test result before coming to work. It's estimated that 80 million workers, or two-thirds of the country's workforce, will be impacted by the rule, according to law firm Fisher-Phillips.

In light of the announcement, many employers are left unsure how to navigate these uncharted waters. Fisher-Phillips lays out a five-step action plan for employers to implement immediately.

- 1. Adopt procedures for determining employees' vaccination status:** Employers should be ready to implement an organized, confidential process to determine vaccination status, and companies are OK to ask employees about COVID-19 vaccination status as indicated by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
- 2. Determine if you will mandate the vaccine or allow unvaccinated employees to be tested weekly:** Some employers may choose to not allow weekly testing, as it could be onerous to collect and keep track of test results.
- 3. Develop a plan for handling accommodation requests:** Employers who plan to have a mandated vaccination policy must also have a detailed, crystal clear accommodation policy for any employee exempted from the vaccine for religious or disability reasons. Companies who implement weekly testing will also need an accommodation policy.
- 4. Have a plan for tracking test results:** Employers who do decide to allow weekly testing will not only need to have a set plan to track the test results, but they also need to find out if they will have to cover the cost to test. Non-exempt workers also must get paid for time spent getting tested, according to FLSA.
- 5. Prepare for OSHA complaints and inspections:** Any existing OSHA and CDC compliances in place at a company relating to the mitigation and prevention of COVID-19 will need to stay in place, as a mandated vaccine and/or weekly testing policy does not negate these compliances. OSHA could ask for an employer's COVID-19 response plan and training records if it receives a complaint or inspects a workplace. Employers should have a COVID-19 policy and communicate it to employees, and those in charge should be trained on how to handle an OSHA visit.

MPTA Hosts One- Day Heavy Duty Tow School



For those who missed the MPTA's Heavy Duty Tow School on September 28th, two words sum up the condensed one-day event, experience, and knowledge. In a full one-day class, students of the MPTA Heavy Duty tow school taught by some of the best local instructors; MPTA Board Directors.

The MPTA Board Directors felt this year's Heavy- Duty Tow School should be an abbreviated one-day class as the MPTA is planning a two-day Heavy-Duty class with Tom Luciano or a Miller Industries Instructor next summer. The morning session began with an extensive classroom presentation taught by Ron Gardas Jr. of Twin Cities Transport & Recovery. After lunch, a four hour "hands on" afternoon session taught by MPTA board directors covering Towability, basic hook-ups, Air Systems, and Drive Lines.

The class ended with a 30- minute question and answer "hands on" approach finding every student involved and eager to learn more.

Even though the day was warm, all who participated in the Heavy- Duty Tow School will tell you, for time, money, knowledge, and the teaching of professionalism in our industry, was well worth the experience. The students were so involved, by end of day, they shared industry stories.

Thank you to the Gardas Family for the use of their rental property, Western National Insurance for their sponsorship!





W
WESTERN NATIONAL
 INSURANCE
The relationship company



Light Duty Tow Truck Operator

One Day Hands-On Training Class

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Held at "Together Place Church"

3860 Flowerfield Road

Blaine, MN 55014



The one day course will focus on the basics of everyday towing with a 1-ton, flatbed, basic hook-ups, use of dollies, and wheel lifts with limited classroom instructed by Ron Feist, Ron Gardas Jr. and the Minnesota Professional Towing Association Board of Directors.

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 Agenda

7:30am Registration

8:00am to 4:30pm Classroom & Extensive Hands-On Training

- Breakfast and lunch will be provided.
- A pair of gloves and work clothes will be needed, expect to get dirty.

****All Participants will receive MPTA Certification Certificate****

Please send completed form to:

MPTA
2886 Middle Street
Little Canada, MN 55117
Phone: 651-487-2231
800-627-6782
Fax: 651-487-2447

Hands-On Training

Members: \$195.00 per student
Non-members: \$295.00 per student

- Minimum of 15 participants to hold class
- Cancellation Policy - credit only for future



Registration Form

Business Name _____ Member #: _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Name of Student (s):	Total \$
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Method of Payment: Discover MasterCard Visa Check

Credit Card # _____ CVS Code _____

Name On Card _____ Exp. Date: _____

Address for Card _____

HYDRAULIC REAR STIFF LEGS

EXCLUSIVELY CUSTOM BUILT & INSTALLED AT

TWIN CITIES
WRECKER SALES



1301 Jackson Street
St. Paul, MN 55117

TWIN CITIES
WRECKER SALES

800-287-4210
tcwreckersales.com



In Memory

Virgil Elmer Siewert
February 22, 1934 ~ September 25, 2021



Virgil Elmer Siewert, 87, of Red Wing, passed away peacefully, Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021. He was born February 22, 1934, in Red Wing, to Elmer and Mildred (Diercks) Siewert and graduated from Red Wing Central High School. He enlisted in the US Army and later joined the National Guard. He returned to Red Wing and worked for his father at Siewert's Garage for a time and then started his own trucking company. He returned to work for his father, until becoming a top regional insurance agent for AAA. Virgil came back to work with his dad, eventually buying the business. He worked with many family members keeping the business in the family for four generations including his father, Elmer, sons, Todd and Karl, and grandson, Kyle before his retirement when he sold the business to his sons. The business has been a success for 75 years.

Virgil was a charter member of the MN Professional Towing Association, Towing and Recovery Association of America, a member of the MN Service Station Association, Hay Creek Valley Saddle Club and Goodhue County Sheriff Posse. He also belonged to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, RW Elks Lodge BPOE #845, Leo C. Peterson American Legion #54, Fireball Buick Club and the Gopher State Buick Club. He enjoyed racing stock cars at Hiawatha Speedway, where he was the track champion in car #47. Virgil truly loved his job and all it entailed. He also enjoyed cars, scrapping, animals and most of all, his family.

He is survived by his children, Tracy (Kelly) Woods, Todd (Leah) Siewert, Karl (Lisa) Siewert and Robin Khosa, and step-daughter, Carla (Mark) Ludwig; grandchildren, Matthew, Laura, Kyle, Kristie, Stephanie, Tescha, Jada, Laney, Sunita and Rekha; 7 great-grandchildren; his companion, Ruth Mitchell and her children, Sue (Ken) Handzel, David (Lori) Mitchell and grandchildren, Sheana, Garret, Aaron, Kendra, Kristina, Bryan and Alyssa; and great-grandchildren. Virgil is also survived by his sisters, Marian "Skip" (Don) Nelson and Katherine "Katy" (Merrill) Bjorngaard; sister-in-law, Patricia Busch and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Ardyce Cook.

Funeral service was hosted on Friday, October 1st at 11:00am at United Lutheran Church with Virgil's granddaughter, Pastor Laura Smith presiding. Burial took place at Burnside Cemetery.



800-222-6047



Just a click away. Zips.com



YOUR LOGO HERE
Purchase & personalize your apparel with us.

We build trucks, too!

Besides distribution, our company also builds light, medium and heavy duty wreckers, industrial carriers and service trucks.



Work with a personal sales consultant.



Brian McDermott
C: 612-209-1366
E: brian@zips.com



Scott Sinclair
C: 612-209-1545
E: scott@zips.com

*Free shipping is only valid on purchases of \$199 or more and ground shipments within the contiguous 49 states for products weighing less than 150 lbs.

Member Directory

Aitkin	Dennis' Towing 320-684-2825	Crystal	North Suburban Towing 763-535-2201	Marshall	Pulver Towing 507-828-5720
Albert Lea	T&W Towing LLC 507-402-9829		Schmit Towing 763-253-1568		
Anoka	North Star Towing 763-427-4160	Dayton	North Suburban Towing 763-428-8940	Medina	Kelly's Wrecker Services 763-473-0558
Apple Valley	Dick's Valley Service 952-432-2848	Duluth	Dukes Towing 218-722-8885	Minneapolis	Blaine Brothers 763-780-5130
Big Lake	Bob's Towing & Recovery 763-262-8697		Get Hooked Towing 218-461-1234		Bobby & Steve's Auto World West Minneapolis 612-377-4743
Blackduck	Bogart's Towing 218-835-4548	Eagan	Mark's Towing 651-454-1533		Bobby & Steve's Auto World Downtown Minneapolis 612-333-8900
Blaine	Twin Cities Transport & Recovery, Inc. 651-642-1446		Magnum Towing 651-423-7201		Bobby & Steve's Auto World South Minneapolis 612-861-6133
	Dan's Complete Auto Care 763-784-8668	East Bethel	Schmit Towing 763-253-1568		Miller Towing 612-827-5591
	Frovik's Towing 763-786-9220	Eden Prairie			Schmit Towing 763-253-1568
	Citywide Service Corp 763-786-9020		Bobby & Steve's Auto World 952-944-1690		
Bloomington		Eden Valley	Jack's Towing 320-453-6560	Minnetonka	Kustom Karriers 952-938-4680
	Darrick's Preferred Auto 507-583-9994	Elk River	Collins Brothers Towing 763-241-9177	Monticello	Burdas Towing 320-257-5525
Bloomington		Excelsior	Williams Towing 952-446-9650	Moorhead	Aggressive Towing & Recovery 218-287-2344
	Bobby & Steve's Auto World 952-831-8833	Faribault	Glenn's Service LLC 507-334-4202		Ed's Towing Service 218-233-7740
	Bobby & Steve's Auto World West Bloomington 952-881-1024	Fergus Falls	Beyer Towing 218-205-6137	Motley	Collins Brothers Towing Of Motley 320-257-5525
	Chief's Towing, Inc. 952-888-2201	Forest Lake	Dan's Towing 654-464-5551		
Brooklyn Park			Twin Cities Transport & Recovery, Inc 651-642-1446	New Brighton	Freeway Towing 651-633-5525
	Citywide Service 763-424-4900	Golden Valley	Feist Automotive 763-544-5512		Statewide Towing 651-633-4262
Brainerd	Collins Brothers Towing Of St. Cloud, 218-822-5525	Hamel	MN Towing and Repair 612-326-6687	Newport	Absolute Towing & Recovery 651-337-2149
Burnsville	Captain Towing 952-856-2901	Inver Grove Heights	South East Towing 651-451-9721	Oakdale	Twin Cities Transport & Recovery, Inc. 651-642-1446
Cannon Falls	Siewert's Towing 507-263-4791	Ironton	AutoSmith Service Group 1-218-545-5715	Owatonna	Dean's Westside Service 507-455-1950
Clearwater	Blaine Brothers 320-558-9966	Lafayette	Five Star Towing 507-843-2677		Sweet Towing & Repair 507-451-3424
	Collins Brothers Towing & Repair 320-257-5525	Lakeville	Marek's Towing & Repair 952-469-3182		
Columbia Heights		Little Falls	Collins Brother Towing Of Little Falls 320-257-5525		
	Bobby & Steve's Auto World 952-944-1690	Loretto	Burdas Towing 320-257-5525		
Coon Rapids	Highway 10 Towing 763-757-6789	Mankato	Affordable Towing 507-388-8697		
	Corky's Towing 612-919-1106				

Member Directory

Paynesville
Collins Brothers Towing & Repair
320-257-5525

Plymouth Plymouth Automotive
763-544-3202
Frankies Towing Co
763-595-0321

Ramsey Nicety Towing
763-245-2619

Red Wing Midway Auto
651-388-8296
Siewerts Garage
651-388-9163

Rochester CSC Towing
507-289-8344
Rochester Towing, LLC
507-288-7317
Pulver Towing
507-282-3851

Rogers Burdas Towing
763-428-9911

Sauk Centre Centre Towing Inc.
320-352-1500

Savage Allen's Service Inc.
952-894-1000

Scanlon Blaine Brothers
218-879-6681

Spring Lake Park Citywide Service
763-432-4550

Spring Valley Southland Auto & Diesel
507-724-8778

St. Anthony Twin Cities Transport
& Recovery, Inc.
651-642-1446

St. Cloud Collins Brothers Towing
Of St. Cloud, Inc.
320-257-5525
Andy's Towing
320-251-5691

St. Francis Ark Towing & Recovery
763-434-1686

St. Paul Twin Cities Transport &
Recovery, Inc.
651-642-1446

Stillwater Stillwater Towing
651-439-5744

Strandquist Nordic Towing
1-833-667-3421

Sunburg Dans Diesel Inc
320-264-5852

Vadnais Heights
Toufong Towing & Autobody, Inc.
651-770-0403

Vernon Center
Giefer Towing & Service, Inc.
507-549-3300

Virginia
Armory Shell Towing & Service
218-741-6050

Waseca Bocks Service Inc.
507-835-5407
Tesch Service Center
507-835-4610

West St Paul
Bobby & Steve's Auto World
651-455-2788

White Bear Lake
Twin Cities Transport &
Recovery, Inc.
651-642-1446

Willmar City Line Towing
320-231-3869
Dans Diesel Inc
320-995-6108
Ed's Service Center & Sales
320-235-5945

Winona Borkowski Towing & Salvage
507-452-9073

Zumbrota Bergs Towing & Repair
507-732-5613

IOWA

Des Moines Hanifen Co, Inc
515-243-3205

Sioux City Meier Towing Inc
712-258-0609

NORTH DAKOTA

Bismarck Berg's 24 Hour Towing
701-663-6491

Grand Forks Nordic Towing
1-833-667-3421

SOUTH DAKOTA

Big Stone The Shop, Inc.
605-862-8215

Sioux Falls Ace Towing Inc.
605-332-2173

WISCONSIN

Baldwin Day & Nite Towing, LLC
715-684-3359

Balsam Lake Lake Services Unlimited
715-857-5753

LaCrosse Goldbeck Towing Service
608-781-4869

Independence Kabus Auto Body & Recovery
715-985-2252

Roberts Jerry's Towing
715-749-4450

Superior Lake City Towing
218-722-7781

ASSOCIATE

Auto & Equipment Sales
Twin Cities Wrecker Sales
Rod Pellow 651-488-4210
Worldwide Equipment Sales
Jeff Irr 815-725-4400
Zip's Truck Equipment
Paul Rottinghaus 1-800-222-6047

Health Insurance
Health & Life Financial Services
Kevin Urlaub 763-287-0055

Insurance
Insuring Minnesota
Rick McIntosh 952-469-0425
Midwest Insurance Service
John Hall 651-439-5939
Prime Insurance
Glenn Lukacs 801-304-3776

Roadside Assistance
TowTrax
Dan Messina 769-774-0340

Safety Alerts
HAAS Alert
Noah Levens 833-433-4227

Uniforms
Cintas Brad Beyer 763-391-5266

UPCOMING EVENTS

MPTA Board Meeting

October 26, 2021
6:00pm

Place to be determined.
Check Facebook

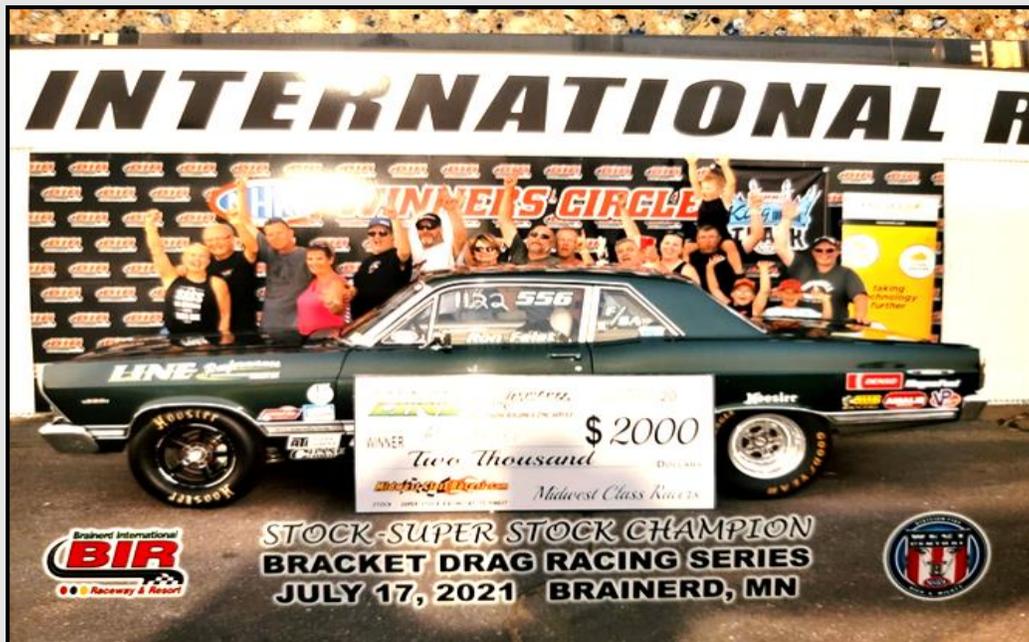
1- Day Basic Light Duty Training Class

October 26 , 2021
7:30 am - 5:00pm
Held at "Together Place
Church"

**see registration form on
page 22**



Congratulations Ron Feist!



MPTA member and Board Director Ron Feist of Feist Automotive put his Fairlane in the winner's circle back in July at the Line Performance sponsored Midwest Class Racers race winning a cool \$2,000!
"Thanks to everyone in this picture and all the stock/super stock racing family. I've learned from every one of you and I consider it a privilege to spend time with and race together. I could go on & on. I'm truly blessed to do what I love. Topeka humbled me fast the next weekend!"- Ron Feist