

# NEWSBREAK

September 2022 Publication of the  
Minnesota Professional Towing Association



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## U.S. Senators Introduce Move Over Law Day Resolution

U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Mike Braun (R-IN) introduced the National Move Over Law Day Resolution (S.Res. 734) supporting the goals and ideals of a National Move Over Law Day and urging the national, state, and regional incident management organizations to promote existence of and adherence to State Move Over laws.

The bipartisan resolution will help raise awareness of the dangers faced by roadside first responders and the need for motorists to slow and move over. The resolution was inspired by Corey Iodice, a tow truck operator for his family's business, who was tragically struck and killed in Connecticut in 2020 while assisting a driver.

Blumenthal said, "Every state has laws directing drivers to reduce their speed or to move over if a vehicle is stopped on the side of the road, yet tragic collisions that injure and kill roadside assistance workers like Corey Iodice continue to happen. This resolution amplifies the simple yet effective way to keep workers safe on the roads: Slow Down and Move Over," said Blumenthal.

The resolution is supported by a number of organizations, including the Towing and Recovery Association of America (TRAA). TRAA stated: "The Towing and Recovery Association of America, Inc.® (TRAA) has been a longstanding champion at the federal level for policy to protect roadside first responders and applauds the introduction of this resolution. TRAA recently met with Members of Congress during its annual Hill Day in DC to advocate for this resolution and is thankful for the support of Senators Blumenthal and Braun."

Source: <https://www.blumenthal.senate.gov/newsroom/>

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## Message From MPTA President, Ron Gardas Jr.

As the summer winds down the MPTA is ramping ready for a busy fall time as usual. First, we have the two-day advanced light duty training class on the 13 and 14th of this month. There is still time to get in your registrations. After the first day of tow school, the MPTA hosting its annual meeting and Hall of Fame Banquette. Last year was a great success and am hoping that this year is even better.

Congratulations to this year's MPTA Hall of Fame inductees:

Ron Hendricks – Plymouth Automotive  
Elwood "Red" Jensen – Tow and Travel  
Frank Letourneau – City Wide Service

For the second straight year, Ed Borkowski took 4th in voting and is automatically nominated for next year's class. I have no doubt that he will get inducted in very soon. Any members thinking someone is worthy of MPTA Hall of Fame consideration, don't forget to nominate them. Remember that we will only be taking three inductions a year and there are so many people that have done great things for our industry, so get your nominations in.

After the advanced light duty school, there is an Introduction to Heavy Duty on the 27th of this month. This is a great class for new drivers to learn the basics such as pulling driveshafts, air systems, and tow ability. Also, this month, the annual Eve of Destruction at Elko speedway was rained out last week and has now been postponed to the 17th.

I hope to see everyone coming together at the Hall of Fame Banquette to support the inductees, the MPTA, and our industry!

Ron Gardas Jr  
*President – Minnesota Professional Towing Association*  
*Vice President – Heavy Operations –*  
Twin Cities Transport & Recovery



## Drug test results uncover troubling trends in transportation



### How many Drivers are Failing Drug Tests?

Overall positivity rates in urine drug tests in the transportation/warehousing industry increased 4.4% in 2020 versus 5.5% in 2021 – a relative 25% increase year over year – according to data compiled by medical lab Quest Diagnostics.

Almost 130,000 truck drivers and tow truck drivers have found themselves in the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse as of June 1. Nearly 97,000 are still in prohibited status, and 72,000 of those haven't even started the return to duty process. Dr. Barry Sample, senior science consultant for Quest Diagnostics, noted that after five years of steady declines in several drug categories, positivity rates based on urine drug tests for the federally mandated, safety-sensitive workforce increased in 2021. Truck drivers/Tow Truck drivers make up most of the federally mandated, safety-sensitive group.

# 2-Day Advanced Light Duty Hands-On Training Class

Presented By: Western National Insurance

September 13th & 14th, 2022

Held at "Together Place Church" - 3860 Flowerfield Road, Blaine, MN 55014

*This two day course will focus on the advanced towing and recovery including basic/advanced hook-ups and roll-overs/embankments with hands-on training instructed by Ron Feist, Ron Gardas Jr. and the Minnesota Professional Towing Association Board of Directors.*



Please send completed form to:

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

## Hands-On Training

Members: \$350.00 per student  
Non-members: \$450.00 per student

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

## Hotel:

Country Inn & Suites

5995 Rice Creek Pkwy  
Shoreview, MN 55126  
651-784-6000

## September 13, 2022 Agenda

7:30am Registration  
8:00am to 5:00pm Classroom & Hands-on Training  
6:30pm Annual Meeting at:  
Trappers Bar & Grill  
6810 Lake Drive  
Lino Lakes, MN 55104

## September 14, 2022 Agenda

8:00am to 4:00pm Classroom & Hands-on Training

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

\*\*\*All Participants will receive MPTA Certification Of Attendance\*\*\*

## Registration Form

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student (s):

Total \$

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total

Method of Payment: ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Check

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVS Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



# 1-Day Basic Heavy Duty Hands— On Training Class

Presented By: Western National Insurance

**Tuesday, September 27, 2022**

Held at "Together Place Church"

3860 Flowerfield Road

Blaine, MN 55014



**WESTERN NATIONAL**  
INSURANCE

Please send completed form to:

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

## Hands-On Training:

Members: \$320.00 per student  
Non-members: \$420.00 per student

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

## Hotel:

Country Inn & Suites

5995 Rice Creek Pkwy  
Shoreview, MN 55126  
651-784-6000

*The one day course will focus on the basics of everyday towing of heavy duty equipment with hands-on training instructed by the Minnesota Professional Towing Association Board of Directors.*

## September 27, 2022 Agenda

7:30am Registration

8:00am to 4:30pm Classroom and 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 of Attendance\*\*\**

## Registration Form

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student (s):

Total \$

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Grand Total \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment: ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Check

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ CVS Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address for Card \_\_\_\_\_  
(including City, State & Zip)

# 2022 MPTA Scholarship Winners

As an annual tradition, the Minnesota Professional Towing Association awards scholarships funding the future of our members and employees children. These young adults deserve the same, if not a better opportunity in life to improve themselves. The scholarship program assists and rewards the children of our association for their hard work in all extracurricular activities and accomplishments in and outside of the classroom.

Congratulations to, Valerie Miller, Grant Thompson, and Connor Schmit each winning a \$500 MPTA scholarship award.

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## **Valerie Miller, Miller Towing Inc.**

Valerie, daughter of Ryan Miller & Anna Miller, is recent graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School.

Valerie's extra curricular activities included Elementary School Volunteer, Youth Hockey Volunteer, Girls Varsity Ice Hockey and National Honors Society.

Valerie will be attending Winona State University to obtain a Major in Psychology and become a Counselor.



## **Grant Thompson, Lake City Towing**

Grant, son of Jay & Shanna Thompson, is recent graduate of Denfeld Senior High School.

Grant currently works at Lake City Towing. Grant also enjoyed being a Captain on the Robotics team and being involved on the Trap Team.

Grant plans to attend Northwood Technical College in Superior, WI. Grant plans to use his scholarship money for admission, books and supply costs.





## Connor Schmit, Professional Transport Management Company

Connor, son of Steve and Sue Schmit, is a current student at St. John's University.

Connor currently works for M&A Real Estate doing building maintenance and housekeeping. Connor's extra curricular activities include cars, motorcycles, sailing, hunting and the Outdoors.

Connor's future goal is to get his CDL this summer, continuing his education and getting a degree in Business Management.

Connor plans on using his scholarship money to cover the cost of books and tuition.



## MPTA's Eve of Destruction has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 17th.

Those of you parking trucks in the paddock area by the grandstands and bringing cars for the spectator race, please arrive between 2:00pm-3:00pm. Concessions will be open at 3:00pm as MPTA picnic is from 3:00pm to 5:30pm with raffle drawing (s) at 5:00pm.

For those wishing to buy extra admission tickets and food vouchers, please contact Nikki at the Association office at [nikki@mnssa.com](mailto:nikki@mnssa.com) or by calling 651-487-2231. For those who no longer have a use for your admission tickets/food vouchers, please mail to the MPTA by September 9th to:

MPTA  
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Please note: only tickets/food vouchers that were purchased are available for refund.



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## TRAA's Legislative Action Workshop & Hill Day



Mark your calendar, the dates for TRAA's 5th annual Legislative Action Workshop & Hill Day are set! Next year's event will run from **Tuesday, March 7 to Thursday, March 9, 2023.**

This premium event is the towing and recovery industry's only national "hill day". Each year we focus on particular topics that align with TRAA's legislative priorities. During the event, we work collaboratively during constituent meetings with our Members of Congress to secure co-signers and essential support for bills that will help all towers be safer and operate more efficiently. Past legislative priorities have included:

- National Move Over Law Day Resolution (H.Res.1052)
- Amending federal weights and measures regulations (23 U.S.C. 127)
- Combating federal insurance increases
- Supporting the DRIVE Safe Act



Plus, the group collectively meets with influential regulators, Members of Congress, and professional staff on committees of jurisdiction such as the House and Senate Transportation & Infrastructure Committees. This is your opportunity to make real, substantial change for the whole towing community and have fun with industry friends while doing it. So, save the date because registration opens in August!

### Congratulations Ron Feist – Runner up in Stock Eliminator at the Lucas Oil Nationals At BIR!



With a little skill, great car and awesome crew, MPTA Member and Board Director Ron Feist raced his 1967 Ford Fairlane as runner-up in the Stock Eliminator at the Lucas Oil Nationals on August 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> at Brainerd International Speedway. Ron went on to thank his Dad (Bill Feist), Mom, favorite step-Mom and his crew. Dan Woody, Paul Woody, Mike Crepeau, Jake Hanson and our boy Scott "Tippy" Dugdale. Gotta give a shout out to Lance Line, Gene Mosbeck-master engine builder from Line Performance for working his tail off to get my engine ready for Nationals.

Ron can't even begin share how much Lance and the rest of the Line family has helped him in his racing experience. Stockers/Super Stockers are way cool! "Grateful for the racing family and the privilege to see everyone in the staging lanes"- Ron Feist

## California Moves Step Closer to 100% ZEV New-Car Sales by 2035

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) on Thursday approved a rule establishing a year-by-year road map so that by 2035, 100% of new cars and light trucks sold in the state will be zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs).

The Advanced Clean Cars II rule "sets California on a path to rapidly growing the zero-emission car, pickup truck and SUV market," CARB said.

The timeline is "ambitious but achievable," CARB said, noting that by the time a child born this year is ready to enter middle school, only ZEVs or a limited number of plug-in hybrids will be offered for sale new in California.

The new regulation accelerates requirements that automakers deliver an increasing number of zero-emission light-duty vehicles each year beginning in model year 2026. Sales of new ZEVs and plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEVs) will start with 35% that year, build to 68% in 2030 and reach 100% in 2035.

"Once again, California is leading the nation and the world with a regulation that sets ambitious but achievable targets for ZEV sales," CARB Chair Liane Randolph said in a statement. "Rapidly accelerating the number of ZEVs on our roads and highways will deliver substantial emission and pollution reductions to all Californians, especially for those who live near roadways and suffer from persistent air pollution."

The regulation "includes ground-breaking strategies to bring ZEVs to more communities," he added.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality called the move a "landmark regulation" and noted that it is moving forward with a similar rule, which it said "is vital to help achieve greenhouse gas emission reduction targets across the state and result in improved air quality and public health outcomes."

American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM) President and CEO Chet Thompson, however, said the ban "will have devastating implications for consumers, energy security and the U.S. manufacturing economy."

Thompson called the move "one of the most expensive and inefficient ways to address emissions and climate change," adding: "Liquid fuels, and competition among various technologies, offer a faster and much more affordable pathway to cleaner transportation than any California-style ban."

--Reporting by Michael Schneider, [mschneider@opisnet.com](mailto:mschneider@opisnet.com); Editing by Barbara Chuck, [bchuck@opisnet.com](mailto:bchuck@opisnet.com)







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## Car Repossessions Surging



Over the last couple of years, with supply shortages mounting from automakers and demand for autos at a premium, as the price of cars have surged, so too have higher auto loans and more repossessions.

In a report by Kelley Blue Book, the average MSRP for a new car has gone up 13.5% to \$47,148 in May 2022. Add in higher monthly payments and limited budgets, more Americans are having trouble paying for cars bought in the last two years. According to Edmunds, 12.7% of customers that bought a new vehicle in the last two years are making payments for at least \$1,000 per month.

It's been noted that subprime borrowers, or those with the worst credit history, are defaulting, up 11%, but even those with excellent credit have doubled in the past 2 years.

Besides supply shortages, many auto loans were put into forbearance during the pandemic while economic stimulus and unemployment benefits gave consumers the confidence to take on more debt to purchase a car. But as progress was made against alleviating the pandemic, inflation has heated up and interest rates have risen, causing distress with borrowers.

Lisa Beilfuss, a writer for Barron's who covers the repo market, potentially sees a bubble bursting, citing several indicators, including the ones mentioned as factors. She added that one auto dealer that she spoke to who buys repossessed vehicles said that he sees repos surging based on what he's buying in the repossession car market.

Don Adams of Don Adams Towing and Recovery of Owensboro, Kentucky, said last year that he reported approximately 175 repossessions and says this year alone he has repossessed 250 vehicles with another half year to go.

Source: <https://www.wevv.com/news/>





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<b>Albert Lea</b>	T&W Towing LLC 507-402-9829		Schmit Towing 763-253-1568		
<b>Anoka</b>	North Star Towing 763-427-4160	<b>Dayton</b>	North Suburban Towing 763-428-8940	<b>Minneapolis</b>	Blaine Brothers 763-780-5130
<b>Apple Valley</b>	Dick's Valley Service 952-432-2848	<b>Duluth</b>	Dukes Towing 218-722-8885		Bobby & Steve's Auto World West Minneapolis 612-377-4743
<b>Austin</b>	Otomo's Auto Towing 507-450-0051		Get Hooked Towing 218-461-1234		Bobby & Steve's Auto World Downtown Minneapolis 612-333-8900
<b>Big Lake</b>	Bob's Towing & Recovery 763-262-8697	<b>Eagan</b>	Mark's Towing 651-454-1533		Bobby & Steve's Auto World South Minneapolis 612-861-6133
<b>Blackduck</b>	Bogart's Towing 218-835-4548		Magnum Towing 651-423-7201		City of Minneapolis Public Works 612-704-0428
<b>Blaine</b>	Twin Cities Transport & Recovery, Inc. 651-642-1446	<b>East Bethel</b>	Schmit Towing 763-253-1568		Miller Towing 612-827-5591
	Dan's Complete Auto Care 763-784-8668	<b>Eden Prairie</b>			Schmit Towing 763-253-1568
	Frovik's Towing 763-786-9220		Bobby & Steve's Auto World 952-944-1690		Silverback Towing & Recovery 763-332-1563
	Citywide Service Corp 763-786-9020	<b>Eden Valley</b>	Jack's Towing 320-453-6560		
<b>Blooming Prairie</b>		<b>Elk River</b>	Collins Brothers Towing 763-241-9177	<b>Minnetonka</b>	Kustom Karriers 952-938-4680
	Darrick's Preferred Auto 507-583-9994	<b>Excelsior</b>	Williams Towing 952-446-9650	<b>Monticello</b>	Burdas Towing 320-257-5525
<b>Bloomington</b>		<b>Faribault</b>	Glenn's Service LLC 507-334-4202	<b>Moorhead</b>	
	Bobby & Steve's Auto World 952-831-8833	<b>Fergus Falls</b>	Beyer Towing 218-205-6137		Aggressive Towing & Recovery 218-287-2344
	Bobby & Steve's Auto World West Bloomington 952-881-1024	<b>Forest Lake</b>	Dan's Towing 654-464-5551		Ed's Towing Service 218-233-7740
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<b>Brooklyn Park</b>		<b>Golden Valley</b>	Feist Automotive 763-544-5512		Collins Brothers Towing Of Motley 320-257-5525
	Citywide Service 763-424-4900	<b>Hamel</b>	MN Towing and Repair 612-326-6687	<b>Mountain Iron</b>	
<b>Brainerd</b>	Collins Brothers Towing Of St. Cloud, 218-822-5525	<b>Inver Grove Heights</b>			Iron Range Towing and Automotive 218-780-1726
<b>Burnsville</b>	Captain Towing 952-856-2901		South East Towing 651-451-9721	<b>New Brighton</b>	Freeway Towing 651-633-5525
<b>Cannon Falls</b>	Siewert's Towing 507-263-4791	<b>Ironton</b>	AutoSmith Service Group 1-218-545-5715		Statewide Towing 651-633-4262
<b>Clearwater</b>	Blaine Brothers 320-558-9966	<b>Lafayette</b>	Five Star Towing 507-843-2677	<b>Newport</b>	
	Collins Brothers Towing & Repair 320-257-5525	<b>Lakeville</b>	Marek's Towing & Repair 952-469-3182		Absolute Towing & Recovery 651-337-2149
<b>Columbia Heights</b>		<b>Little Falls</b>	Collins Brother Towing Of Little Falls 320-257-5525	<b>Oakdale</b>	Twin Cities Transport & Recovery, Inc. 651-642-1446
	Bobby & Steve's Auto World 952-944-1690	<b>Loretto</b>		<b>Owatonna</b>	Dean's Westside Service 507-455-1950
<b>Coon Rapids</b>	Highway 10 Towing 763-757-6789		Burdas Towing 320-257-5525		Sweet Towing & Repair 507-451-3424
	Corky's Towing 612-919-1106	<b>Mankato</b>	Affordable Towing 507-388-8697		



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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

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  
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## 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  
Elite Towing of Minnesota, Inc.  
952-808-0808

## Stillwater

Stillwater Towing  
651-439-5744

## Strandquist

Nordic Towing  
1-833-667-3421

## Sunburg

Dans Diesel Inc  
320-264-5852

## 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

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The Shop, Inc.  
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715-684-3359

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US Bank  
Sean Poppen 763-639-3192

### 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

### Roadside Assistance

TowTrax  
Dan Messina 769-774-0340

### Uniforms

Cintas  
Brad Beyer 763-391-5266

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **2-Day Advanced Light Duty Training Class**

September 13th & 14th, 2022

7:30am Registration  
8:00am-5:00pm Classroom &  
Hands-On Training

**Please see registration form on  
Page 4**

## **Annual Membership Meeting and Annual Hall of Fame Ceremony**

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

Trappers Bar & Grill located at  
6810 Lake Drive, Lino Lakes, MN  
55104



## **1-Day Heavy Duty Training Class**

September 27, 2022

7:30am Registration  
8:00am-5:00pm Classroom &  
Hands-On Training

**Please see registration form on  
Page 5**

MPTA contact information:

2886 Middle Street  
Little Canada, MN 55117

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

Email: [admin@mnprotow.org](mailto: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**