

# NEWSBREAK

## February 2025 Publication of the Minnesota Professional Towing Association



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### In Memorium



### Frank Anthony Manaro

Long-time MPTA member Frank A. Manaro, age 63, of Golden Valley, Minnesota passed away unexpectedly in the early hours of January 9th, 2025.

Frank was born on October 16th, 1961 in Chicago, Illinois to Anthony and Theodora Naimoli. After earning his GED, Frank moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1985.

Frank worked for several years in the towing industry before founding his own successful towing business, Frankie's Towing, in 1988. Frank's life was forever changed when he began towing for a local Denny's restaurant in 1989. There, he met the love of his life, Gina, who was working as a server. The pair welcomed their son, Marcus, in 1996 and were married in 1998. Renowned in the towing industry for his unwavering work ethic, Frank continued to own and operate Frankie's with his wife, and later his son, for 37 years.

A career in towing is one wrought with long hours, late nights, frigid winters, and persistent stress. Despite all of this, Frank loved the job and always recounted his favorite towing stories with a smile. In the rare moments he wasn't hard at work, Frank enjoyed watching hockey games, spending time with his family, and spoiling his cherished dogs. Frank was as humorous as he was hardworking, and his pranks and quick wit will be deeply missed by many.

Frank is survived by his beloved wife of 26 years Gina; son Marcus (Julia); siblings AJ Naimoli and Debra Vlcek (Paul), and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and close friends.

Preceded in death by parents Anthony and Theodora Naimoli, and step-daughter Cheyenne Hommerding.

Visitation was held on Friday January 17th and funeral services was held Saturday, January 18th at the Glen Haven Chapel in Crystal, Minnesota. A luncheon followed with many great stories at the Basset Creek Room at Brookview Golden Valley.

# MPTA Board of Directors

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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**

## Message From MPTA President, Ron Gardas Jr.

Hello everyone and welcome to spring. When writing this it's sunny and 50 degrees out. With spring in the air don't forget to get signed up for our annual spring "Introduction to Towing" class (Registration forms coming out soon)

In the last few weeks I was able to attend a few Traffic Incident Management (TIMS) classes put on by the state. I highly recommend attending these classes- highlighting the dangers of our job on the side of the road and how to control things that you can control. A few big take aways-how we place our tow trucks when on a scene, and lights. If you have the ability to shut off your front facing lights while working a scene it is helpful for traffic going the opposite direction.

I hope everyone has a safe spring

Ron Gardas Jr.



## National Move Over Law Resolution Passes in U.S. Senate

*Source: Towing and Recovery Association of America (TRAA) press release:*

TRAA celebrates the passage of the Move Over Law Day Resolution (S.Res.913) in the U.S. Senate.

The resolution supports the goals and ideals of Move Over Laws and urges relevant federal and state agencies, as well as nongovernmental organizations involved in traffic incident management response, to promote the existence of and adherence to state Move Over laws.

As with past House and Senate versions, TRAA is proud of our part in assisting with several of the cosponsors and generating support for the resolution. The passage of these resolutions increases public awareness of Move Over laws and the need for drivers to slow down and move over when they see any incident responder on the side of the road.

Note, "simple resolutions" are entirely within the prerogative of one chamber or the other. They can be reintroduced annually and do not require the approval of the other chamber or signature by the president.

TRAA appreciates the support of every stakeholder who contributed to making the passage of this resolution possible.

**Source:** By Editorial Staff | January 24, 2025 **Tow Times Magazine**





## Minnesota Paid Leave is coming. Is your business ready?

Paid Leave supports your employees when they need it most and strengthens connections in our families, communities, and workplaces. Paid Leave means Minnesotans don't need to choose between financial stability and their families and will support improved retention, performance, and morale on the job.

**The first major Paid Leave milestone for employers—submitting wage detail reports—is coming October 31, 2024.** To learn what, if any, steps you must take to meet the first reporting deadline and your other obligations under Paid Leave, visit the Paid Leave website: [paidleave.mn.gov](https://paidleave.mn.gov)

### Key Minnesota Paid Leave Milestones



### Paid Leave: Employer Roles and Resources

As an employer, you play an important role to help your employees access Paid Leave when they need time to bond with a new child or care for themselves and their loved ones. Employers will partner with Minnesota Paid Leave to:

- Educate & inform your employees
- Submit reports & pay premiums
- Collaborate & improve the program over time

Visit the Minnesota Paid Leave website for more information about employer roles and responsibilities, and for resources to help spread the word about Paid Leave to your employees, professional networks, and communities.



[paidleave.mn.gov](https://paidleave.mn.gov)

**mn MINNESOTA**  
PAID LEAVE

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development  
180 E 5th St Suite 1200 | Saint Paul, MN 55101

## **m MINNESOTA** PAID LEAVE

Back on February 12<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Employment and Economic Development hosted a webinar (many more to come) instituting Minnesota Paid Leave effective for January 1, 2026. Starting in January of 2026, funding will be available to support small businesses (like MSSA members) during an employee's absence. Leave Administrators will be able to apply for this funding once an employee is approved for leave. Qualifications include:

- 30 or fewer employees
- Average employee wage of under 150% of statewide average annual wage (\$104,286 in 2023)

Benefits:

Funding up to \$3,000 to:

- Hire temporary workers
- Increase an existing workers' wages to substitute for an employee

For more information go to: <https://info.paidleave.mn.gov/>

I strongly recommend all MSSA members attend Minnesota Employment and Economic Development hosted webinars. (Will send out email on next one)- Lance

## **Local MPTA Member Pulver Towing in the Local News**



### **Local towing company sees increase in jumpstarts and tows.**

ROCHESTER, Minn.-The current colder temperatures have been hard on cars and semi's alike.

Local towing company, Pulver Towing said it's been seeing more people needing jumpstarts. Over the past couple of days the company has had jumpstart 15 cars.

On Friday when it was snowing, the company says it has to tow about a dozen cars from accidents that took place. Cars aren't the only ones needing roadside assistance, semi's have been breaking down alongside the road as well. Pulver Towing said it's had to tow 15 semi's in the past day.

Pulver Towing operator and dispatcher Kanya En said, "more for semis, being that it's so cold the fuel in the diesel in their filters are plugging and they're breaking down along the sides of the road."

Source:





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# TRAA at the Florida Tow Show 2025

TRAA will again be hosting a variety of events during the **Florida Tow Show** at the Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace (host hotel). Our event schedule includes the 2025 Annual General Membership Meeting, Spring Board of Directors' Meeting, and our members-only Meet & Greet!



Here are the preliminary details to assist you in making your plans:

## Wednesday, April 9, 2025:

- **8:00 AM Emergency Response Day 2025** - Our crucial mission is to increase the personal safety of responders and motorists while restoring mobility for emergency, commercial, and personal traffic incidents. Space is limited, register now at [https://traaonline.com/ev\\_calendar\\_day.asp?date=4/9/2025&eventid=27](https://traaonline.com/ev_calendar_day.asp?date=4/9/2025&eventid=27)

## Thursday, April 10, 2025:

- **1 PM TRAA Spring Board of Director's Meeting** - Invitations will be sent to eligible Affiliate State Directors and attendees in good standing in advance.
- **4:30 PM TRAA Members-Only Meet and Greet** - Invitations will be sent to members in good standing in advance.

## Friday, April 11, 2025:

- **10 AM Annual General Membership Meeting** - The annual meeting is your opportunity to hear about current association business.

## Saturday, April 12, 2025:

- **10:30 AM WTRAA Member Mingle** - invitations will be sent to WTRAA members in good standing in advance.



# Cones, Flares, Triangles: Are You Protected?



**By Randall Resch**

It's time for tow operators and company owners to rethink roadside safety. A recent lawsuit resulted in a massive settlement after a motorist crashed into a parked tow truck. The case highlights a harsh reality: Tow companies can be held liable for failing to provide adequate emergency warnings.

If you think Slow Down, Move Over laws are enough, think again. Legal precedents are shifting, and vicarious liability is a growing threat. Are your safety protocols enough to protect your business, your operators—and your life?

## **A Higher Standard for Tow Operators**

Tow operators are held to higher safety standards, especially on highways. Some claim that setting up cones, flares, or triangles takes too much time. But when motorists crash into parked tow trucks—resulting in fatalities—does that argument hold up in court?

With 733 U.S. tow operators killed and another 90-plus internationally, very few investigations confirm the use of warning devices. If most tow trucks carry them, why aren't they being used?

## **Legal Liability: Are You Defensible?**

When roadside crashes result in lawsuits, the key legal question becomes:  
Should towers be held responsible, knowing that parking on the shoulder is dangerous?

If a vehicle collides with a parked tow truck, plaintiffs will argue:

"How could my client have known a tow truck was working?"

Without law enforcement present, towers must defend their actions. Attorneys frequently ask:

- Are you trained in highway incident response?
- Have you completed a National TIM (Traffic Incident Management) course?
- Can you provide a valid training certificate?
- Were your tow truck's emergency lights activated at impact?
- When was your last safety meeting?
- Did you deploy cones, flares, or triangles?
- Did you request law enforcement assistance?

If you can't provide satisfactory answers, you're at risk of major legal exposure.

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### **Investigations and Their Findings**

When towers are struck and killed, investigations often conclude:

"The only warning device used was the tow truck's flashing light bar."

Regulatory agencies like FACE, OSHA, and NIOSH repeatedly issue post-incident safety recommendations:

- ✓ Complete TIM Responder Training, regardless of company size.
- ✓ Use wireless controls for tow truck beds and winches.
- ✓ Deploy warning devices when working outside the truck.
- ✓ Limit time on the traffic side of the vehicle.
- ✓ Use cones, flares, and bi-directional triangles to alert motorists.
- ✓ Carry warning devices in front of your body for visibility.
- ✓ Never turn your back to traffic while setting up.
- ✓ Allow motorists enough reaction time by placing devices at proper distances.

Even attorneys stress that towers should wear high-visibility gear and use warning devices to establish a clear hazard zone.

### **Industry-Wide Accountability**

Fatality investigations often note:

"The tow truck's warning lights were on, but no hazard signs were placed on the roadway."

Some operators say, "I'm only there for three to five minutes." But if you acknowledge the dangers, doesn't that reinforce the need for better protection?

### **When asked in court,**

"Did you take steps to identify your active work zone?"

There are only two answers:

1-Something – showing due diligence and safety awareness.

2-Nothing – signaling negligence to the judge and jury.

And that's how explosive settlements happen.

What side do you want to be on?

The logo for "TOW INDUSTRY & WEEK" is displayed in a bold, stylized font. The words "TOW INDUSTRY" and "WEEK" are in a dark, blocky font with a slight 3D effect. A large, orange, multi-pointed star with a white outline is positioned between the words "INDUSTRY" and "WEEK", partially overlapping them.

# Corporate Transparency Act - Deadlines Reinstated

The nationwide injunction prohibiting enforcement of the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) has been stayed; meaning, FinCEN will resume enforcement of the required beneficial ownership information (BOI) filings.

Simply put, the CTA filing requirements are reinstated.

FinCEN has issued a notice that reset the filing deadline for most companies to **March 21, 2025**.

See notice here: [FinCEN Notice, FIN-2025-CTA1, 2/18/2025](#).

As a reminder, the Corporate Transparency Act requires most small businesses in the United States to make a filing with FinCEN (see here: <https://boiefiling.fincen.gov/>).

Each required entity must file a report containing the following information about the company:

- Entity's full legal name
- Trade names
- A complete current address
- The jurisdiction it was formed in or jurisdiction in which a foreign company first registers
- Internal Revenue Service Taxpayer Identification Number and Employer Identification Number
- Information about each beneficial owner of the company, including this about each person:
  - Full legal name
  - Date of birth
  - Current business or residential address
  - A unique identifying number from an acceptable identification document (i.e., passport, driver's license, etc.)

So that's the bad news – the CTA is back in effect.

What's the silver lining? Several opportunities for success remain. First, bipartisan legislation recently passed the House that would delay filing until the end of the year. A companion bill has been introduced in the Senate by Banking Chair Tim Scott. This legislation is unlikely to move forward on its own, but it could catch a ride on a must-pass bill like the upcoming CR. This ruling could be the catalyst to get that done.

Second, the following statement from FinCEN also opens the door for further administrative relief:

*Notably, in keeping with Treasury's commitment to reducing regulatory burden on businesses, during this 30-day period FinCEN will assess its options to further modify deadlines, while prioritizing reporting for those entities that pose the most significant national security risks. FinCEN also intends to initiate a process this year to revise the BOI reporting rule to reduce burden for lower-risk entities, including many U.S. small businesses.*

What exactly they have in mind is unclear, but both the 30-day grace period and the recognition that the current CTA rules overreach is a massive step forward and a signal that the new Administration intends to take a more business-friendly approach to the CTA. Is a further filing deadline delay part under consideration?

Finally, yesterday's ruling is not the final say in the courts either. By our count, there are *eleven* challenges to the CTA pending in federal courts and the lead case – *NSBA v. Treasury* – is awaiting a decision by the Eleventh Circuit any day now. We have a good chance to win that decision but the case is all but guaranteed to end up before the Supreme Court this year either way.

So the courts might save us from this poorly-conceived law in the end, but in the meantime we need help from the Administration. Vice President Vance and Secretary McMahon have already weighed in against the CTA. The court ruling means it's time for our friends at Treasury to do the same in a meaningful way.



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# Minnesota Professional Towing Association 2025 Scholarship Application

The purpose of this scholarship program is to assist young men and women whom are seeking a higher education in order to develop advanced skills.

**Three scholarships of \$500.00 each will be awarded annually to applicants who must be at least a senior in high school and/or 18-25 years of age and is a son, daughter, or member in good standing with the MPTA.**

## MPTA Scholarship Guidelines

- Applicant must have a 2.5 GPA to qualify.
- Applicant must provide proof of performance with application (official school transcript).
- Applicant must provide proof of enrollment for institute of higher education with application.
- Applicant must provide two letters of recommendation from either a teacher, school advisor, or extra circular advisor (i.e. sports coach, club advisor).
- Applications must be returned to MPTA by **May 20<sup>th</sup>** of each year.
- Students may apply for scholarship a maximum of three times.
- Applicants do not need to study in the automotive industry.

### **Selection Process:**

- The MPTA Board of Directors will select scholarship winners based on the criteria below from the applications:
  - Accomplishments specified on application (i.e. DECA, FBLA, sports, leadership roles, etc.)
  - Student's goals, both long-term and short-term
  - Student's GPA
  - Student's work ethic (Does the students hold a part-time job as well as attend school?)
- The applications will be reviewed by the Board of Directors at the May Board meeting.
- Scholarship winners will be contacted in late May.
- The Association will give the checks to the students in the spring of each year.

## Applications due no later than May 20th

All applications, letters of recommendations, and transcript should be sent to:

Minnesota Professional Towing Association  
2886 Middle Street  
Little Canada, MN 55117

Phone: 651-487-2231

Fax: 651-487-2447

Application, letters of recommendations, and transcript must be received by **May 20th** for consideration.  
(Please print or type – if not enough space is provided please attach a separate sheet)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (best number to reach you) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of current school \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent or guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the MPTA member with whom you are associated:

(Applicant must be the son, daughter, or member in good standing of the MPTA)

Business's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the institute of higher education that you plan to attend:

\_\_\_\_\_

Reason for applying (financial need): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List extra curricular activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any awards, honors, or leadership positions you have held/received:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Future goals (long and short term): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you currently hold a job outside of school? If so please provide name of employer:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do you plan to use this scholarship for higher education?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

# Member Directory

<b>Aitkin</b>	Dennis' Towing 320-684-2825	<b>Detroit Lakes</b>	DL Towing 218-847-6362	<b>Minnetonka</b>	Kustom Karriers 952-938-4680
<b>Albert Lea</b>	T&W Towing 507-473-2999	<b>Duluth</b>	Dukes Towing 218-722-8885	<b>Montevideo</b>	Monte Motor Sales, Inc. 320-269-6264
<b>Anoka</b>	North Star Towing 763-427-4160	<b>Eagan</b>	Magnum Towing 651-423-7201	<b>Moorhead</b>	Aggressive Towing & Recovery 218-287-2344 Ed's Towing Service 218-233-7740
<b>Apple Valley</b>	Dick's Valley Service 952-432-2848	<b>Eden Valley</b>	Jack's Towing 320-453-6560	<b>Mountain Iron</b>	Iron Range Towing and Automotive 218-780-1726
<b>Arlington</b>	After Burner Auto Body & Towing 507-964-2809	<b>Elk River</b>	Bob's Towing of Elk River 763-441-3666 Collins Brothers Towing 763-241-9177 Lynch Wrecker Services 612-578-5168	<b>New Brighton</b>	Freeway Towing 651-633-5525
<b>Austin</b>	Otomo's Auto Towing 507-450-0051	<b>Faribault</b>	Glenn's Service LLC 507-334-4202	<b>Newport</b>	Absolute Towing & Recovery 651-337-2149
<b>Big Lake</b>	Bob's Towing & Recovery 763-262-8697	<b>Fergus Falls</b>	Beyer Towing 218-205-6137	<b>Oakdale</b>	Twin Cities Transport & Recovery, Inc. 651-642-1446
<b>Blackduck</b>	Bogart's Towing 218-835-4548	<b>Forest Lake</b>	Dan's Towing 651-464-5551	<b>Owatonna</b>	Dean's Westside Service 507-455-1950
<b>Blaine</b>	Citywide Service Corp 763-786-9020 Frovik's Towing 763-786-9220 Hooked Up Towing & Recovery 612-913-0702 Twin Cities Transport & Recovery, Inc. 651-642-1446	<b>Grand Meadow</b>	Gregerson Towing & Recovery 507-272-4088	<b>Plymouth</b>	Frankies Towing Co 763-595-0321 Twin Cities Transport & Recovery 763-544-3202
<b>Blooming Prairie</b>	Darrick's Preferred Auto 507-583-9994	<b>Howard Lake</b>	K&H Towing & Recovery 612-735-4534	<b>Red Wing</b>	Midway Auto 651-388-8296 Siewerts Garage 651-388-9163
<b>Bloomington</b>	Chief's Towing, Inc. 952-888-2201	<b>Inver Grove Heights</b>	South East Towing 651-451-9721	<b>Rochester</b>	CSC Towing 507-289-8344 Gregerson Towing & Recovery 507-272-4088 Rochester Towing, LLC 507-288-7317 Pulver Towing 507-282-3851
<b>Brooklyn Center</b>	Sandoval Services 612-845-0623	<b>Ironton</b>	AutoSmith Service Group 1-218-545-5715	<b>Savage</b>	Allen's Service Inc. 952-894-1000
<b>Brooklyn Park</b>	Citywide Service 763-424-4900 Feist Towing 763-544-5512	<b>Lafayette</b>	Five Star Towing 507-843-2677	<b>Scanlon</b>	Blaine Brothers 218-879-6681
<b>Burnsville</b>	Captain Towing 952-856-2901	<b>Kasson</b>	T & K Towing Service 507-250-4573	<b>Shafer</b>	PLC Recovery 651-257-3975
<b>Cannon Falls</b>	Siewert's Towing 507-263-4791	<b>Lakeville</b>	Marek's Towing & Repair 952-469-3182	<b>Spring Lake Park</b>	Citywide Service 763-432-4550
<b>Clearwater</b>	Blaine Brothers 320-558-9966	<b>Luverne</b>	G&S Auto LLC 507-283-8146	<b>St. Anthony</b>	Twin Cities Transport & Recovery, Inc. 651-642-1446
<b>Columbus</b>	Blaine Brothers Truck Aline 763-786-8863	<b>Mankato</b>	Affordable Towing 507-388-8697	<b>St. Cloud</b>	Andy's Towing 320-251-5691
<b>Crystal</b>	Twin Cities Transport & Recovery 651-642-1446	<b>Marshall</b>	Pulver Towing 507-828-5720		
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651-247-9783

**St. Charles** Whitewater Wrecker Service  
507-718-9669

**Strandquist** Nordic Towing  
1-833-667-3421

**Virginia** Armory Shell Towing & Service  
218-741-6050

**Waseca** Bocks Service Inc.  
507-835-5407  
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507-835-4610

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

**Willmar** City Line Towing  
320-231-3869  
Ed's Service Center & Sales  
320-235-5945

**Winona** Borkowski Towing & Salvage  
507-452-9073

## 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

**Watertown** Performance Towing  
218-722-7781

## WISCONSIN

**Ashland** Tomlinson's Inc.  
715-684-3359

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

**Balsam Lake** Lake Services Unlimited  
715-857-5753

**Hixton** Jensen Towing and Repair  
715-963-3431

**LaCrosse** Goldbeck Towing Service  
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Midwest Insurance Service

John Hall 651-439-5939

**Insurance Subrogation**

Corrective Action Recovery Solutions, LLC (C.A.R.S.)

Greg Schafer 507-530-5032

**Management Consulting**

Professional Transport Management Company

Steve & Sue Schmit 612-366-0525

**Uniforms**

Cintas Kevin Gaskins 763-391-5266



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **MPTA Board Meeting**

March 18, 2025

Dinner: 6:00 pm

Meeting: 6:30 pm

MPTA Office  
Little Canada, MN

Meetings may be cancelled due to weather please check <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mnprotow> for all event updates.

## *Fun Facts about February*

- ◇ February is the shortest month of the year, with 28 days.
- ◇ The name February comes from the Latin word februum, which means “purification”.
- ◇ Amethyst is the birthstone for February. The Ancient Greek word Amethystos translates to “not drunk”.
- ◇ In leap years, February has 29 days, making it the only month to have four full weeks.
- ◇ Valentine’s Day has a long history that includes Roman fertility festivals and Christian martyrs.
- ◇ In the Southern Hemisphere, February is a summer month, similar to August.
- ◇ The Saxons called February Sol-monath, which means “cake month”. They offered cakes to the gods during this month.
- ◇ The Welsh call February y mis bach, which means “little month”.
- ◇ The odds of being born on Feb. 29 are about 1 in 1,461. If you’re born on a leap day, your’re typically known as a “leaper” or “leapling”. And depending on where you live, Feb. 28 or March 1 is considered your birthday in non-leap years.