

The TRAW Update

January, 2015

Volume 3, issue 1

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Special Features

- The “Grapevine” talks about getting the most out of being a member, and why “you” are the key to what you get out of TRAW.
- Legislative reception and Board of Directors meeting schedule of events
- Education meeting set for January 24th at Christmas party event site.
- 2015 NW Tow Expo continues to expand and grow as sponsors line up to participate

It’s Legislation time!



Jarod Storer, Les Reynolds, Ken & Lori Schmidt, Theresa Gault, & Joanne Walcker present representative Judy Clibborn with our “Legislator of the Year” award.

Once again, it’s time to head to Olympia to help support bills that improve the quality of our industry and to support our elected officials as they deal with a mountain of issues that effect every citizen of our state. I don’t think we give enough credit to those who serve, weather we agree with them or not. These folks face tremendous pressures from all sides and work long hours to come up with laws and policies that we can all live with. We take time every year to thank those who listen to our concerns in the towing industry, and have a

designated event each year to talk about specific issues that concern towing companies. All TRAW members are welcome to join us on February 6th, 2015 at the Red Lion in Olympia at 6pm for this year’s Legislative Reception. Our elected officials who attend love to talk to folks from their own districts, find out what is on your mind as far as legislation, and get your ideas. It’s your chance to go one-on-one with the person who represents you and your company and tell them exactly how your business works and how proposed legislation may affect you.

“THE GRAPEVINE” FROM THE DESK OF Mike Walcker

Most of us have heard the story about the guy who died in a flood. When the water was up to his front step, his neighbor came by in a truck and offered to help him get out. The guy refused, saying “GOD will take care of me!” When the water was up to the middle of his house, the Sheriff came by in a boat and told him to jump in, and the guy refused, saying “GOD will take care of me!” When the man was sitting on the roof of his house, completely surrounded by torrents of floodwater, the Coast Guard sent a helicopter to pluck him to safety, but he again refused, saying (you guessed it) “GOD will take care of me!” He eventually was swept away and drowned. When he arrived at the Pearly Gates, he questioned the LORD, saying, “LORD, why did you let me drown?” The LORD answered, “I don’t know what you are talking about, I sent your neighbor, the Sheriff and the Coast Guard to rescue you!”

It’s a cute story, but in the message, we can all learn some lessons. As everyone knows, it’s the first of the year, and that means sending out notices for dues and our New Year letter. In response to that mailing, I received a call from a company who didn’t want to renew, and very abruptly told me that they got NOTHING from our association. In the course of the conversation, I found out that they never attended meetings, didn’t really read emails, didn’t use any of the benefit programs or even pay that much attention to anything we did, but they got NOTHING out of being a member. Obviously, I was very disappointed to lose a valuable member, and I racked my brain for the rest of the day trying to make sense of that phone call.

Fortunately, my frustration was put to rest after talking to a few of our other members, who quickly reminded me that our association has benefited every tow company in the State in many ways, even non-member companies, but it’s membership that paves the way. The more members, the more we can do, the better off we all are. And if you want to feel the full effect of our efforts, you simply must participate. If you want to get the financial benefits, you still have to call to sign up for a fuel card, or place an order for tires, or call Towpartners and place an order, or use any of our vendors. You must look through “the Update” magazine when it comes out to know what’s going on. Continued from page 2...

As I was drafting this article, I took a call from a new company who had many questions about towing, and by finding our website and calling, he now has some direction and information and is excited to participate and be a part of our industry. He was invited to the next District meeting in his area, where he will be welcomed and will feel a part of something larger than his individual business. But it was his efforts that got him to this point. We are here, we are willing and able, but we can’t do it without you.

Be safe and enjoy what you have.....Mike






CALLING ALL EDUCATORS!

On January 24th, 2015 at the Icicle Inn in Leavenworth we will be holding our 2015 Education planning meeting at 10 am. Anyone interested in volunteering to help out with our education program or if you are just interested in where this program is going and would like to hear first hand what is planned for this year, you are welcome to attend. Some of the topics will be:


- **Setting a schedule for 2015 schools**
- **Locating locations for each school**
- **Planning our new “office staff” class**
- **Talking about out of state classes in Oregon and Montana**
- **Developing instructor groups and instructor responsibilities**
- **Inventory of equipment, technology, and what might be needed in 2015**
- **Staying on top of training for the cars of tomorrow.**

We value you input and participation, so if you are at all interested in being a part of this valuable and exciting TRAW program, join us for this important meeting. Remember, Good drivers are trained, not born!

FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  <i>Super Bowl</i>	2	3	4 District 3- <i>Yakima Meeting</i>	5 Legislative Reception- Olympia Red Lion 6pm	6 Board of Directors Meeting 9am	7
8	9	10	11 District 1- <i>Tacoma Meeting</i>	12 District 5- <i>Kalama Meeting</i>	13	14  <i>Valentine's Day</i>
15	16 President's Day Holiday	17 District 3- <i>Pasco Meeting</i>	18 District 6- <i>Wenatchee Meeting/Expo meeting 5:00 pm</i>	19 District 4- <i>Spokane Meeting</i>	20	21
22  <i>Datoyna 500</i>	23	24 District 2- <i>Seattle Meeting</i>	25 District 8- <i>Bremerton Meeting</i>	26	27	28

MARCH 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 District 3- <i>Yakima Meeting</i>	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 District 1- <i>Tacoma Meeting</i>	12 District 5- <i>Kalama Meeting</i>	13	14
15	16	17  <i>District 3-Pasco Meeting</i>	18 District 6- <i>Wenatchee Meeting</i>	19 District 4- <i>Spokane Meeting</i>	20	21
22	23	24 District 2- <i>Seattle Meeting</i>	25 District 8- <i>Shelton Meeting</i>	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Under the Dome

January 18, 2015

Well another legislative session has started. A long one, with issues including funding of schools under a Supreme Court contempt order and trying to deal with a myriad of other issues.

I write this report after just watching the Seahawks win the Conference Championship over Green Bay in a game I had almost given up on by the end of the third quarter. How can we explain that amazing come from behind win?

Years ago Paul Bressi said about the TRAW that we had “The Power of The Team” and that is so true, but there is more to it than that. Things we cannot forget and be successful.

The Seahawks today, in the first three quarters had a team. That is not in doubt. What they didn’t have was *TEAMWORK*. They ran around and missed receptions and didn’t protect their quarterback. They were eleven players on the field not working *TOGETHER*. That is not what Paul meant when he commented about the Power of the Team.

We can’t all be squabbling and disagreeing and pushing our personal agendas or side deals. We need to pull together. And we can’t just sit back and expect that someone else will save the day or even do what they need to do while we don’t even try to contribute and let the other side sack the quarterback or run through a hole in the line for a touchdown. We can’t.

A legislative session is kind of like a game, but kind of not. With a bill having to go through two Houses of the Legislature, the House and the Senate, before the Governor even sees it, well, if we don’t *WIN* the first half we don’t even get to play in the second. We are on the sidelines.

Yes, the session just started, but we need you to pay attention *NOW*. We need you to help us *NOW*. When we ask you to contact Legislators with a message we give you, we mean you need to do it *NOW*. If we ask you to call, don’t just send an email because you are too busy. If we ask you to send an email don’t just assume someone else can do it because you are too busy. If we ask you to come to Olympia for our reception or to testify, don’t expect someone else to do what you won’t make an effort to do.

If you don’t take this seriously, you cannot complain if we fail. You are the Green Bay Packers and won’t be in the Super Bowl.

Two bills you need to act on now are Senate Bill 5207 sponsored by Senators Liias and King and House Bill 1195 sponsored by Representatives Rodne, Clibborn, Buys and Pollet. They both are *OUR* bills to allow RTTO’s to close for an hour for lunch if they leave a phone number on the door and come back in a half hour if they are called. *CALL YOU LEGISLATORS NOW!* Tell them to please support both these bills. Don’t wait until the second half or you will be too late. We will *LOSE*.

If you ever need help with who your legislators are or how to contact them, call the TRAW office and Mike and Joanne will be happy to tell you.

GO HAWKS and *GO TRAW!*

Stu Halsan - TRAW Lobbyist



Sign up your truck NOW for the 2015 NW Tow Expo “World Record” parade. Go online at www.towingandrecovery.net and then click on the “EXPO” page to pre-register trucks. We need 350 tow trucks from all over the greater pacific northwest and Canada to take back the record that we set in 2005.

This will be the biggest, longest, loudest, most interesting, busiest, and best tow show we have ever had. This is one show that you