

ASCCA September Team Weekend Recap

This weekend, over 50 ASCCA leaders, members, and corporate partners met in sunny Southern California for their September Team Weekend.

New Member Inductions & Membership Milestones

Dave Kusa kicked off the meeting with a new tradition – welcoming new ASCCA members to Team Weekend for an induction ceremony. Since January 1, ASCCA has gained 44 new members, and new member Dave Rogers of SC Fuels was present to receive his induction.

Dave then took time to acknowledge those in the room who are celebrating membership anniversaries, or milestones. This year, 107 members are celebrating a membership milestone, including four 50-year anniversaries and four 40-year anniversaries.

Four of those members were present at Team Weekend, and Dave thanked each of them for their commitment and dedication to the automotive industry, ASCCA, and for serving as an example and a mentor to younger members. Those in attendance were Jack Scrafield of North Hollywood Auto Repair (20 years), Bob Klingenberg of Eye Street Automotive (20 years), Maylan Newton of ESi (30 years), and Nick Modesti of Modesti's Car Care Center (30 years).

ASCCA Board of Directors, Officers, and Chapter Representatives Committee Elections

Following Dave Kusa's welcoming remarks, Chapter Reps Committee Chair Rich Lezcano called the committee meeting to order, who immediately called on Dennis Montalbano, Chair of the Elections Committee, to lead the Chapter Reps in voting for ASCCA's 2018 Board of Directors. This year, ASCCA had eight candidates for seven open board positions. Each of the candidates who attended Team Weekend had an opportunity to address the committee with a candidate statement.

Following the candidate statements, the Chapter Representatives Committee voted and elected the following members to the 2018 Board of Directors: Mitch Mendenhall, Lee Chesnin, John Villa, Carolyn Coquillette, Rory Balmer, Jack Scrafield, and John Eppstein. Congratulations to them!

Following the vote for the Board of Directors, the board elected the 2018 ASCCA officers. When the Chapter Representatives meeting reconvened, Dennis Montalbano announced that the board had elected the following for officer positions: Secretary Rory Balmer, Treasurer John Villa (incumbent), and Vice President John Eppstein. Congratulations to our 2018 officers!

The last election to be held by the committee was for the position of Chair and Vice Chair of the Chapter Representatives Committee (CRC). Two candidates were nominated for the position of Vice Chair, and in the end Mitch Mendenhall was re-elected to the position of Vice Chair. For the position of Chair, only one nomination was submitted, and Rich Lezcano was re-elected to his position as Chair. Congratulations Rich and Mitch!

Chapter Representatives Committee Meeting

Following the election, the CRC proceeded to address its normal committee business. The first topic of discussion was how ASCCA can encourage student involvement at its quarterly Team Weekends. Ideas

were exchanged on how ASCCA can work with the chapters to bring some of the student winners from local chapter competitions for recognition at Team Weekend.

The second topic of discussion focused on ASCCA's new membership liaison program, and how the chapters can help recruit membership liaisons. Membership Committee Chair Mitch Mendenhall announced that the program has officially been launched, and that applications were available on the ASCCA website. Chapter Reps committed to spreading the news with their contacts who may be interested.

The committee's third item of business was a discussion on how to encourage participation from chapters that have not been regularly participating in the Chapter Representatives meetings. On its previous committee call, the Chapter Representatives agreed to propose to the Board of Directors that the committee be given a \$2,500 budget to help in its outreach to these chapters. Six of these chapters were identified at the committee meeting, and various Chapter Representatives near those chapters committed to reaching out to them.

The committee then heard updates from ASCCA's Committee Chairs. John Eppstein, Chair of the Revenue & Benefits Committee, notified the Chapter Representatives that the committee is already ahead of its 2017 revenue goals for corporate partnerships. He also took time to urge everyone to thank our corporate partners for all that they do in keeping our association running, and acknowledged the corporate partners who were present in the room.

Jerry Kubitsky, Chair of the Public Relations Committee, gave a report on the countertop display contest. Currently, Southern California is in the lead with 95 points, and Northern California is behind with 60 points. Jerry let the committee know that while the countertop display contest continues to be popular and successful, he is always open to new ideas continue to promote ASCCA's name.

Dave Kusa, representing the newly-formed Connected Cars Committee, reported to the Chapter Representatives that Connected Cars Committee held its first meeting, where Chair Carolyn Coquillette laid the groundwork and objectives for the committee, and established a regular monthly meeting time, to be held on the second Monday of every month from 6-7 pm.

John Eppstein, a member of the Board of Trustees of the ASC-Educational Foundation (ASCEF) provided the Chapter Representatives with updates on the work ASCEF continues to do primarily through its Cars 4 Careers program, a vehicle donation program, which funds scholarships for students studying automotive repair. He made himself and Mary Kemnitz, Chair of ASCEF, available for anyone who has questions about the foundation, the Cars 4 Career program, or how they can sign up to be a donation center.

Tracy Renee, Chair of the Government Affairs Committee, provided a brief legislative update to the Chapter Representatives Committee. Primarily, she focused on Assembly Bill 1274, which would extend the smog check requirements on vehicles from six years to eight years. She reported that the bill is currently awaiting a vote in the State Senate, and must be heard before the legislative deadline of September 15. She encouraged those in attendance to contact their State Senator and urge them to vote against AB 1274 for the negative impact it'll have on the auto repair industry, the environment, and consumers.

Finally, the Chapter Representatives took turns updating the committee on the exciting work they're doing within their chapters, including launching scholarship programs, membership growth techniques, toy drives, chapter events, and more.

Paul Frech Memorial Lunch

Following the Chapter Reps Committee meeting, ASCCA Vice President Rocky Khamenian led a memorial lunch in honor of Paul Frech, a former member of ASCCA and long-term president of Chapter 50 from 1987 until he died from lung cancer.

Rocky gave a heartfelt speech on what Paul Frech meant to him as both a colleague and a friend. Remarking on the challenges the automobile industry faces, Rocky said ASCCA members are "fortunate to have the memory of Paul to serve as an example of how to handle them." Following his remarks, as well as the remarks of Chapter 48 member Ira Newman, Rocky announced that the ASCCA Board of Directors had voted unanimously to induct Paul to the ASCCA Hall of Fame, the highest honor the board can bestow.

Update from Bureau of Automotive Repair

Following lunch, the attendees received an update from Matt Mahlke of the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) Technical Training Unit to give a brief overview of the steps BAR is taking in response to the emergence of autonomous vehicles. Matt stated that BAR will continue to work to get information to the consumers out as this new technology continues to develop. Matt Mahlke's update was an excellent lead-in to our afternoon speaker, Fred Gruner.

The Future Is Now. Are You Along for the Ride?

For our afternoon program, we were joined by special guest Fred Gruner, who gave a talk titled "The Future Is Now. Are You Along for the Ride?", an insightful discussion on the inevitable emergence of autonomous vehicles, and what that will mean for auto repair shops, consumers, and the industry as a whole.

Fred, a principal hardware engineer at NVIDIA in charge of functional safety for CPUs for driverless car technology, has 23 years of experience in high speed computer chip design. He provided an in-depth look at how autonomous vehicles are designed from artificial intelligence, to simulated driving to computer mapping and more. Questions abounded as people wondered what this would mean not only for them as repair shop owners, but as a regular driver.

Fred ended his talk with this pointed question about the reality of autonomous vehicles: "How many people said 10 years ago, 'Who Needs an iPhone?' And look where we are today. It's going to happen, and it's best that you be ahead of the game."

A Word from John Gustafson

The day ended with Team Weekend attendees hearing from John Gustafson, the owner of our Team Weekend venue Gustafson Brothers. John was a generous host, gave attendees a tour of the facility, and spent time answering questions about he and his team have built such a successful auto body and

mechanic shop, giving advice on customer service, integrity, marketing, and more. Thank you to the team at Gustafson Brothers for hosting us!

Board of Directors Meeting

Sunday morning kicked off with the Board of Directors meeting. President Dave Kusa opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance and a reading of ASCCA's Core Purpose: To elevate and unite automotive professionals and give them voice.

The meeting began with Executive Director Gloria Peterson providing an update on ASCCA's relationship with its corporate partners and member benefit providers. Glen Dailey of Armstrong and Associates then gave an update on workers' compensation, liability, and auto insurance as well a financial report on its relationship with ASCCA.

In Dave Kusa's president's report, he noted that Steve Elstins has officially resigned from the board, and announced that the board will be making an appointment to fill his open seat at the next board meeting. Dave thanked Steve for his service to ASCCA over the years. Dave then reported on his visits to several chapters, and has a few more planned for the rest of the year.

Gloria Peterson then provided her Executive Director report, in which she discussed the progress on ASCCA's new website redesign, and reported that Kukui has already proven to be a great partner throughout the initial process.

Mitch Mendenhall then led the group in a discussion about membership strategies. First, the board discussed board members mentoring new state-only members to keep them engaged and active in the association. The board then discussed a new membership exit survey, which aims to identify reasons why members choose to leave the association. The board committed to helping the Membership Committee in these endeavors.

At the end of the meeting, the board discussed some goals for 2018, and preliminary discussed an ASCCA apprenticeship program, developing guidelines for ASCCA members on how independent repair shops can prepare for the emergence of autonomous vehicles, and continuing to increase ASCCA's brand recognition amongst auto repair dealers.

In conclusion, Dave thanked the current board members, and he congratulated the newly-elected board members and officers.

Thank you to John Gustafson of Gustafson Brothers for generously hosting us, to our team weekend sponsors Digital Financial Group, Castrol, Motul, Kukui, ESi, and Napa Auto Parts, to our guest speaker Fred Gruner, and to all who participated in our Team Weekend. We hope to see you in Sacramento in November!