



# Press Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SCRS' State and National Leaders Exchange Ideas at the Affiliate Leadership Conference**

*Prosser, WA, October 13, 2008* — The third annual Society of Collision Repair Specialists (SCRS) “Affiliate Leadership Conference” held recently in Chicago gave the association’s national board and state affiliate groups an unparalleled opportunity to exchange ideas and information.

“Representatives from more than fifteen of our state affiliate groups attended the event to hear what’s being done in other states that they might be able to replicate, and to hear first-hand from SCRS’ national leaders. They also provided their input on what they’d like to see the national organization focus on, either continuing or adding to those items,” said SCRS Chairman Gary Wano, who co-moderated the meeting.

“Our entire national board attended this year’s event because we very much wanted to hear first-hand from our state affiliate groups about their concerns and what their members are saying across the country,” said SCRS Vice Chairman Barry Dorn, who assisted in moderating the meeting. “This is an important annual event because we take what we learned and use it to help set a direction for the association.”

Each of the SCRS state affiliate groups represented at the meeting had an opportunity to discuss what they are doing in terms of state legislation, member recruiting and benefits, and other activities.

“I never leave this event without at least one – and generally three, four or more – really good ideas that another group is using that we can also do here in Massachusetts,” said SCRS National Director Steve Regan, who was also there at the event to represent the Massachusetts Auto Body Association.

In addition to the idea exchange, attendees also discussed some key issues in the industry to offer their input as to which they feel SCRS should address by working on both a state and national level.

“Some of these aren’t issues we as a single state affiliate group can have a lot of impact on,” said Ed Dahm, executive director of the Oregon Collision Repair Specialists, said. “But we can suggest things SCRS can do nationally, and by working in conjunction with the national organization and other state groups, we can help make some significant progress for the industry.”

Wano said that in addition to holding the annual Affiliate Leadership Conference, SCRS plans to begin holding regularly conference calls among the affiliate group leaders.

“It’s all part of our belief that ‘Working Together Is the Most Important Work We Do’,” he said.

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Through its direct members and 36 affiliate associations, SCRS is comprised of 6,000 collision repair businesses and 58,500 specialized professionals who work with consumers and insurance companies to repair collision-damaged vehicles. Additional information about SCRS including other news releases is available at the SCRS web site: [www.scrs.com](http://www.scrs.com). You can e-mail SCRS at the following address: [info@scrs.com](mailto:info@scrs.com).