



# Press Release

**Society of Collision Repair Specialists** • P.O. Box 909, Prosser, WA 99350 • (877) 841-0660 • Fax (877) 851-0660

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For Further Information

Contact Aaron Schulenburg, SCRS Executive Director

Phone: (302) 423-3537 or Email: [aaron@scrs.com](mailto:aaron@scrs.com)

## **SCRS' 2009 Affiliate Leadership Conference Sparks Valuable Dialog Amongst Participants**

*Prosser, Washington, October 8, 2009* — September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 marked the successful completion of the Society of Collision Repair Specialists' (SCRS) fourth annual Affiliate Leadership Conference. The Affiliate Leadership Conference, founded by SCRS in 2006, is a forum dedicated to providing the state and regional affiliates of the society with a meeting dedicated to fostering increased communication between the state and national level organizations and participants. This year the conference included the hallmark affiliate update, where affiliate associations discuss the means that each association has taken to either overcome challenges in their market or that have lead to their successes. In addition to the affiliate updates, the conference also provided insight into the activities of SCRS, both over the past year and looking forward in 2010, an update from I-CAR and a presentation on market pricing dynamics and economic contributors.

“Having attended for the last four consecutive years, the conference seems to get better and better each year,” remarked Howard Batchelor, executive director for the Georgia Collision Industry Association (GCIA). “To hear from all of the other associations about the challenges and accomplishments they are experiencing helps all of us work together towards the goal of improving our industry. We are so thankful to be a part of a group such as SCRS that puts value into these types of direct interactions and continues to provide us an opportunity for these discussions.”

Jordan Hendler, executive director for the Washington Metropolitan Auto Body Association (WMABA) further added to Batchelor's comments. “The biggest thing that differentiates this event is that it is really the only opportunity for the leaders of the state level associations to gather in person and have very candid discussions about the inner workings of our organizations and the topics and issues we face. In addition, it allows us insight into the tremendous amount of work SCRS is doing for each of us on the national level as well. Being able to communicate in a more intimate forum permits a unique dialogue to take place that has always allowed me to walk away inspired on the strategies and ideas I can bring back to WMABA.”

In addition to veterans of the event, SCRS welcomed six new attendees to the conference.

“I am pleased to see SCRS' direction, with the collision repair professional as the absolute focus in driving its initiatives,” shared first time attendee, and president of the US Alliance of Collision

Professionals (USACP), Phil Mosley. “One of the biggest things that stood out for me was how encouraging it was to see the unified efforts taking place across the nation by other associations who are equally as passionate and driven to bring positive change to this industry.”

Another first time attendee, Jim Quentin, president of the Automotive Parts & Service added, “I gained a ton of information from attending this event. I am continually impressed with the quality of the participants, both in SCRS and its affiliates, and the business savvy of the group. We are very glad to be a part of it.”

“It is always inspiring to see our membership come together to work in partnership at an event like this,” recognized Aaron Schulenburg, SCRS Executive Director. “For many of these individuals, participating in the conference required significant effort and travel to attend, and SCRS is so fortunate to be working with a group of such dedicated repairer representatives that embrace the tremendous collaborative value that can come from an event such as this conference.”

Participants of the conference included representatives from the following industry associations:

<b><u>Affiliate Association</u></b>	<b><u>Acronym</u></b>	<b><u>State/Region</u></b>
Alliance of Automotive Service Providers, Minnesota	AASP/MN	MN
Auto Body & Painting Association of Hawaii	ABPAH	HI
Arkansas Collision Repair Association	ACRA	AR
Automotive Parts & Services Association	APSA	TX
Automotive Service Association of Michigan	ASA/MI	MI
Automotive Service Council of Kentucky	ASC/KY	KY
Georgia Collision Industry Association	GCIA	GA
Indiana Auto Body Association	IABA	IN
Iowa Collision Repair Association	ICRA	IA
Montana Collision Repair Specialists	MCRS	MT
Northwest Automotive Trades Association	NATA	OR
Oregon Collision Repair Specialists	OCRS	OR
Oklahoma Auto Body Association	OKABA	OK
Missouri/Kansas Chapter of the Society of Collision Repair Specialists	MO/KAN SCRS	MO/KS
US Alliance of Collision Professionals	USACP	OH
Washington Metropolitan Auto Body Association	WMABA	DC/MD/VA

“SCRS recognizes that one of the most important resources a national trade association can offer is the network of its membership and the ideas and momentum that can be built when tapping into that pool of talent,” added SCRS Chairman and co-moderator of the event, Barry Dorn. “We were certainly pleased to have been joined by 16 of our affiliate associations from 19 different states, and privileged to receive their feedback on areas of importance to them as a collective body. As has been said each previous year, SCRS places great emphasis on that feedback we receive during this event and utilizes the input collected to help develop and refine the direction of the organization.”

For information about joining SCRS as a member or as an affiliate association, please contact Executive Director Aaron Schulenburg at (302) 423-3537 or via email at [aaron@scrs.com](mailto:aaron@scrs.com). You may also contact the SCRS administration office at (877) 841-0660 or via email at [info@scrs.com](mailto:info@scrs.com).

Through its direct members and 34 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).

###