



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tennessee Collision Repairers Association Affiliates with SCRS

Prosser, Washington, March 28, 2008 — One of the newest state associations in the nation is now an affiliate of the Society of Collision Repair Specialists (SCRS)—the Tennessee Collision Repairers Association (TCRA) headquartered in Jackson, Tennessee.

This association fills an important void. Tennessee previously did not have a regional group to address the collective needs of the state's collision repairers.

“Some of us had been meeting informally for over a year, and the conversation often turned to how necessary it was, in this day and age, to be in an association,” explains Bob Mitchell, TCRA President. “Our state's repairers have found their profits eroding, and some feel they are losing control over the way they run their businesses. We thought that by coming together as a group, we could study the situation from different viewpoints and strategize effectively as a result. In addition, we knew being in an association would give us the opportunity to discuss proper repair procedures, and we were eager to institute a strong lobbying presence at the state capital.”



This core of individuals, which included Mitchell's fellow shop owners Steve Hardee and David Wayne, began to take serious steps to formalize an association. Efforts to get the word out, including a string of advertisements in trade publications, uncovered a large groundswell of interest. Inquiries came from all over the state, not just the rural part of western Tennessee where Jackson is located. Rapid progress followed, including affiliation with SCRS.

“I was an SCRS member already, so I knew what they brought to the table,” states Jackson. “Their emphasis on communication between industry segments and continuing education were big selling points to members. They also happen to be on the forefront to effect change, promote a positive image of the industry and, in the meantime, give us a deep national presence. These characteristics will help our members anticipate what's coming down the road, thereby helping them to adapt successfully.”

Though numbering just over fifteen members at present, the TCRA expects to expand steadily across the state in the upcoming months. SCRS congratulates them, and looks forward to helping support their future development.

“We welcome the TCRA aboard and applaud the solid foundation they are building as a leadership presence in the state,” says SCRS Executive Director Dan Risley. “The repairers in Tennessee needed a voice, and the TCRA is giving it to them.”

SCRS Chairman Farzam Afshar believes the TCRA philosophy dovetails nicely with that of the Society. “The pressures the industry faces can be divisive, but these competitors have come together to promote the common good,” he says. “There is no better example to demonstrate that ‘Working Together Is the Most Important Work We Do’.”

Through its direct members and 35 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. You can e-mail SCRS at the following address: info@scrs.com.

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