



# Press Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SCRS Announces 2008-2009 SCRS Board of Directors

*Leadership team ramping up to tackle industry challenges with energy and enthusiasm.*

Prosser, Washington, May 6, 2008 — The Society of Collision Repair Specialists (SCRS) is pleased to announce their newly-elected 2008-2009 board of directors. The new officers were sworn in prior to the SCRS Corporate Awards Dinner that took place on April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Crowne Plaza Philadelphia.

Gary Wano, Jr. (Oklahoma)—fresh off of being selected 2008's Collision Repair Shop Executive of the Year by *Body Shop Business* magazine—assumes the duties of SCRS chairman after several years of service on the SCRS board of directors. Three executive board members are returning for a second term—Vice Chairman Barry Dorn (Virginia), Treasurer Tim Waldren (Nevada) and Director-at-Large Stacy Bartnik (Illinois). Secretary Aaron Clark (Indiana), who served as an SCRS national director last year, will begin his inaugural term as secretary. Farzam Afshar (California) will assume the role as immediate past chairman.

National directors for the upcoming year include returning officers Dan Bailey (Kansas), Toby Chess (California), Rollie Benjamin (Minnesota), Bill Garoutte (Missouri) and Steve Regan (Massachusetts). First time national directors include Dale Matsumoto (Hawaii), Ron Reichen (Oregon) and Joe Skurka (Michigan) who will all begin serving three year terms.

Wano, who started out in the collision repair industry as a paint technician in 1985, co-owns G.W. & Son Auto Body Shop, Inc. with his father, Gary Wano, Sr. His work on the behalf of the industry

includes participation in the National Auto Body Council (as former director-at-large and current chairman of the PRIDE Committee), CIC (past chairman of the Anti-Fraud/Ethics Committee), Collision Industry Electronic Commerce Association (current member of the Repair Advisory Panel), and the Oklahoma Auto Body Association (past president).

SCRS' new chairman anticipates the upcoming year to be challenging but rewarding none the less. Wano stated, "There are a lot of industry issues that we intend on addressing throughout the year. Although some repairers are pessimistic about the general climate of the collision repair industry, we are optimistic about the opportunities that lie ahead. SCRS' job is to identify those opportunities and ensure our members are successful and profitable. Thankfully, the growing varieties of electronic communication methods allow us to respond more quickly to repairer needs, and if needed, mobilize faster than before. We recognize our strength is derived from our members and our state affiliate associations. SCRS will continue to focus on strengthening and leveraging those relationships, as the need for unity has never been more prevalent."

First-time board member Ron Reichen looks forward to representing the industry in the Northwest, as well as helping the industry tackle a variety of significant issues. "The merger of information providers (CCC and Mitchell) is on every repairer's mind," he says. "There is a lot of uncertainty and unanswered questions that could have a negative impact on repairers and their profitability. That's something we will continue to watch closely. There's also the matter of training and lack of readily accessible information—with the diversity of vehicle structures and repair techniques being promoted by various manufacturers. And, of course, insurance industry relations are always a concern—finding the right balance of cooperation and responsible push back to ensure our members get the compensation they need to operate profitable businesses."

In regard to insurer and repairer relations, SCRS is in the process of implementing a strategy they believe could be one of the keys to a more improved and productive relationship. Concerning that subject, Wano states, "What we have found is that often times there is a disconnect between what the insurer's home office has set as policy and what is implemented in the field by local management. In the process of being passed down, the intent and spirit of the policy is often lost, sometimes resulting in negotiations at the shop level that are heated, unproductive and certainly not market-driven. By dealing with the decision-makers at the home office, we may be able to identify solutions which are mutually beneficial that ultimately benefit the consumer. We have used this approach successfully with other industry segments and are confident it will be successful with insurers also, as we believe 'Working Together Is the Most Important Work We Do'."

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).

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