



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SCRS Announces 2006 Award Recipients

Prosser, Washington, May 2, 2006 — The Society of Collision Repair Specialists (SCRS) honored the outstanding efforts of a number of collision repair professionals at its annual Corporate Awards Luncheon, which took place on April 5th at the Doubletree Hotel in Portland, Oregon.

The awards ceremony is the centerpiece of SCRS' annual Corporate Awards Luncheon. "It's a chance for SCRS to recognize the people and/or organizations that have given back to the industry directly and indirectly," explains SCRS Secretary Stacy Bartnik who chaired the Awards Committee. "It was a pleasure to honor those that are so deserving."

This year's list of honorees was particularly diverse. Brief overviews of each award and their recipients follow.

Humanitarian Award: Janet Chaney, Jordan Hendler, John Junk, and Mike Quinn

This award is presented to an individual or group that advances the industry through support of humanitarian activities outside the industry. Chaney, Hendler, Junk and Quinn were instrumental in the success of Collision Industry Relief (CIR), a fund-raising effort to assist the collision repair victims of Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters, made possible through the National Auto Body Council (NABC) and its fund-raising arm, the Collision Industry Foundation. "The donations we collect go toward the tools, supplies, household goods and clothing these people need to get them and their families back on their feet again," says Junk. "The award was a wonderful recognition, but it must be noted that literally hundreds have stepped forward to make this possible, and in that process, show the true spirit of this industry."

Affiliate Association of the Year: Missouri/Kansas Chapter of SCRS

To say this was a busy year for the Missouri/Kansas Chapter of SCRS (MO/KAN, Chapter) would be an understatement. The group spent countless hours lobbying state legislators and departments of insurance on behalf of local collision repairers, dealing with such thorny issues as the pursuit of equitable total loss laws and preventing third-party out-of-state administrators from rewriting or negotiating estimates on local vehicles they have not physically inspected.

In addition, the Chapter worked diligently to raise funds for Camp Mak-A-Dream—the summer camp for children with active cancer—through its annual golf tournament and by soliciting other sponsorships. Plus it continued to sponsor its annual competition for the top student technicians in the two states, culminating with a night of recognition which honors one of the founders of SCRS, Jerry Frese. The winners were presented with plaques of recognition and cash awards.

“The Chapter understands the importance of sustaining a quality industry, and they likewise understand that a few people really can make a difference,” states MO/KAN Executive Director Bob Smith. “That wisdom keeps them a motivated bunch. It’s a pleasure to be involved with this outstanding group of individuals.”

Individual Service Award: Barry Dorn and Lou DiLisio

This award recognizes individuals whose actions are exemplary in maintaining and advancing the collision repair industry. SCRS Immediate Past Chairman Lou DiLisio was singled out for his outstanding contributions to various industry committees, most notably his groundbreaking work with the Collision Industry Conference Database Task Force (Task Force). In this capacity, Lou and the other Task Force members continue to collaborate with information providers and other industry segments to address macro-level issues, such as disclosure when there are significant changes made to the database.

SCRS Director-at-Large Barry Dorn received an individual service award for the part he played in getting a collision repair training program, complete with a state-of-the-art collision repair facility, off the ground at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond, Virginia. The course leads to an A.A. degree in Applied Science and can be transferred toward a four-year engineering degree. Students are allowed to choose a concentration in one of four areas of emphasis: collision repair, refinishing, parts sales or insurance.

Though Dorn was intimately involved in practically every area of the program’s creation, from fund-raising to securing equipment sponsors to making curriculum suggestions, he is quick to emphasize it was a group endeavor all the way. “I was really happy to be recognized by SCRS, but it was the advisory board that I am a member of that made it all happen,” he says. “Though we came from all segments of the industry, we were united by the passion to help build a secure future for our profession. That drive made this achievement possible.”

Non-Individual Service Award: Akzo Nobel Coatings

This award recognizes contributions to the collision repair industry that originate at a corporate or company level. Akzo Nobel Coatings (Akzo) was acknowledged for its Acoat Selected Benevolence program (Acoat), which donates refurbished vehicles to those in need during the holiday season. Acoat selected shops that participate in the program—the facilities repairing the cars—work with local charitable organizations to identify potential recipients, such as families in need or non-profit organizations.

Akzo was also responsible for the formation of the Collision Industry Advancement Initiative (CIAI) that donated \$50,000 to technicians affected by Hurricane Katrina, and continues to sponsor the Most Influential Women in the Industry annual award.

“Akzo Nobel is committed to social responsibility, and we strive to allow our local business units to create and participate in programs that give back to the industry,” states John Bosin, Akzo Nobel’s OEM and Industry Relations Manager, North America. “Since our customers—repairers and distributors alike—are key participants in these types of programs, they certainly need to be commended as well.”

Lifetime Achievement Award: Gene Hamilton

The Lifetime Achievement Award is the most prestigious honor bestowed by SCRS. Recipients are few; in the 24-year history of SCRS, there had been only five previous recipients. Gene Hamilton is the sixth.

Gene’s list of achievements spans many decades. While a complete recap of his career would be too long to include here, Gene has served the industry in many different capacities such as SCRS Chairman, I-CAR Chairman and NABC Board Member. He is an inducted member in the prestigious Hall of Eagles, a member of the I-CAR Hall of Fame and has devoted much energy to charitable causes such as the Ronald McDonald House and the Collision Industry Foundation.

Gene’s daughters Jeanette and Michelle, and his mother Norma, surprised him by attending the ceremony. “I was speechless and to tell you the truth, I still don’t know exactly how I feel about the magnitude of the recognition,” he says. “When I started out in this industry, I didn’t know how to repair a car and had to rely on others for that knowledge. Since then, I’ve been trying to give back to an industry that has been so good to me and my family.”

Gene continues, “If I had to pick one thing that has contributed to whatever success I have had, I would say it is building positive relationships within the different industry segments. If you try to find what you have in common with others, good things follow, which is another way of saying ‘Working Together Is The Most Important Work We Do.’”

Through its direct members and 31 affiliate associations, SCRS is comprised of 5,000 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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