



Executive Director's Report June 2005

O-712

CIC Database Task Force

The CIC Database Task Force spearheaded by SCRS, AASP and ASA met with the information providers in April, prior to the Collision Industry Conference (CIC) in Charlotte, North Carolina. A considerable amount of time was spent with each of them discussing how they develop their times. Additional time was spent discussing the integrity of their database, and the need for it to be a neutral entity that is not influenced by any one segment(s) of the industry especially as it relates to labor times and features or enhancements. We will continue to meet with the information providers until such time that we are comfortable that the collision repair industries' issues are addressed. Reporting upon these meetings will be conducted as part of the committee presentations at subsequent CIC meetings.

NCOIL Meeting

As stated in the previous Executive Director report, July 7-10th in Newport, Rhode Island, the National Coalition of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) will be considering legislation regarding certified aftermarket parts. This legislation states that certified aftermarket crash parts are equal to or better than OEM, among other things. The SCRS Board of Directors is opposed to this legislation and decided to take immediate action. As a result, we sent a letter in opposition to the Certified Aftermarket Crash Parts Model Act to the 40+ members of the NCOIL Property-Casualty Insurance Committee that are conducting the hearing. In addition, we have prepared written testimony that will be submitted to those committee members in advance of the hearing. Furthermore, SCRS will be in attendance for the hearing and provide oral testimony.

Chief Automotive and Carfax Announcement

Several members contacted SCRS recently regarding Chief Automotive and Carfax's announcement. This announcement included verbiage stating that through this new system designed by Chief, the set up and measure of a vehicle for Carfax customers was approximately 10 minutes. SCRS members were upset because they were being challenged by insurers as to why it only takes ten minutes to perform the set up and measure on a vehicle (as per the press release) and the shop was charging substantially more.

SCRS contacted Chief Automotive and submitted a formal request for a written response as to the difference between set up and measure when performing it on a damaged vehicle that has been in a collision as opposed to one for a Carfax customer. During the call, the Chief representative assured me that the differences were vast. Although the terminology used in the press release (set up and measure) was the same, the labor, equipment and training necessary was not. He believes the letter explaining the differences should resolve the issue. Upon receiving Chief's response, it will be available to our membership upon request. If you are experiencing problems, please contact Linda Atkins at (877) 841-0660 and have her add your name to the distribution list.

Environmental Protection Agency

In a recent article published May 10th in *CollisionWeek*, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) stated that they are reviewing the collision repair industry and will be making a proposal for new regulations. These regulations will impact all repairers. More importantly, the EPA stated that they wanted the industry to contact them and provide input. SCRS contacted the EPA and offered our assistance. The SCRS Board of Directors would rather play a role in the development of the new regulations rather than accept and deal with

the consequences of the EPA devising regulations without substantial collision repairer input. Kim Teal from the EPA Coatings and Consumer Products Group informed me that they will not be assembling a committee or advisory group. Instead, they will reach out to the industry and gather information by speaking with individuals, associations and companies. Based upon that information, we contacted representatives from Collision Industry Conference (CIC) and worked with them to schedule Mrs. Teal to speak at the July CIC meeting in San Francisco. If you would to offer your input or have questions, you can contact her at (919) 541-5580 or teal.kim@epamail.epa.gov.

Air Bags

An issue was recently brought to our attention regarding air bags. A company in California is advertising that they sell new OEM air bags that were OEM overstock. We investigated the matter further and confirmed their claim of selling new OEM overstock air bags at substantially reduced prices. Fortunately, the industry was informed by several of the OEM representatives at a prior CIC meeting that ALL OEM air bags that are overstock are destroyed. Upon contacting GM, Ford, Chrysler, Toyota and Honda, it was sent to their legal departments for follow up. Please be aware of these fraudulent companies.

Affiliate Association Meetings

I spoke at the Arizona Collision Craftsman Association (ACCA). Although the meeting conflicted with the Phoenix Suns playoff game, it was well attended. Thanks to everyone that made the extra effort to attend. If your state association is interested in having me or another SCRS representative speak at one of your upcoming meetings, please contact Dan at (708) 598-3384 or e-mail at drisley7@comcast.net.

New Affiliate Association

We are proud to welcome the Montana Collision Repair Specialists as our newest affiliate association. On behalf of the SCRS Board of Directors, we welcome you and look forward to working more closely with you and your membership.

July 2005 SCRS Board of Directors Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 29th at the Fairmont Scottsdale Prince in Phoenix, Arizona from 10am -12pm. All members are strongly encouraged to attend and participate. You can obtain hotel information at www.i-car.com. Our meeting is immediately after the 2005 I-CAR Annual Meeting.

PACE+ST3 Brochure Enclosure

Enclosed is a flyer describing the I-CAR Education Foundation's PACE+ST³ program. The PACE+ST³ program is the latest offering from the Foundation and is dedicated to providing students with state-of-the art collision repair training combined with a mentored internship at a collision repair facility.

Repair facilities that participate in the PACE+ST³ program receive specialized training to build a successful relationship between student and the experienced technician who will mentor the young technician during their time at the facility. The program will enable collision repair facility owners to hire young people that can perform entry-level tasks in a competent manner with little or no supervision.

We urge you to get involved with your local career and technical school or college's advisory committee and make them aware of this valuable program. Additionally, schools will be looking for repair facilities to place their trained students for internships.

To request more information, or to receive additional brochures for use during school advisory or repair association meetings, call the I-CAR Education Foundation at (888)722-3787. Or, visit the PACE+ST³ website at www.pacest3.org.