

Arkansas Trucking Association Maintenance & Technology Council Meeting 11/13/07

Ed Szarmach Presiding

Welcome

I'd like to call this meeting of the Arkansas Trucking Association Maintenance and Technology Council to order at this time. This is your council and I encourage your involvement and hope everyone takes away some benefit for your time invested.

Carl sends his regrets but was called out of town unexpectedly.

Housekeeping

- Point out emergency exits
- Informal Meeting format, feel free to use the facilities as needed. (point out location)
- Out of courtesy to others, please turn off or put on silent cell phones and pagers, if you need to make a call, please step out of the room.
- We encourage participation but please and wait to be recognized then stand and state your name.
- Robert's Rules of Order, as revised will govern these proceedings.

Safety message

As the Holiday season is fast approaching there are a couple of short memory joggers to help keep you safe during the holidays.

Drive defensively and watch out for changes in road and weather conditions. No matter how much experience you have behind the wheel there is still a chance for error. That error could cause you your life.

Another item is fire safety in your home. Have your fireplace cleaned by a chimney professional to reduce the risks of a flue fire. Have cracks in the brick or heat exchanger repaired before using the fireplace.

If you are deep frying a turkey or other meat use caution when using hot oil or grease. A cold turkey into boiling oil or grease can cause it to explode catching the house on fire.

Introductions

First we would like to thank Future Fuels for a tour of the bio diesel plant in Batesville last month.

Today we have representatives from several post secondary schools. They will be telling us about their programs as well as how we can form a partnership with them to help produce the technicians that we are looking for.

We would like to welcome Mike Stewart from Lincoln Educational Services, Kent Chambers from NTI, Mark Jay, Greg England and Scott Willingham from UTI.

Now I would like for us to do self-introductions.

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Reading of the minutes of the last meeting dated

The minutes were published on the web site after our last meeting in Batesville. May we have a motion to approve those minutes? A second? So moved.

Reports of Standing Committees

Mr. Kenneth Calhoun will give a report of the membership committee.

Kenneth reported that the Membership committee had met twice since the last report and had assembled photographs from the Technician Championship as well as previous meetings and several paragraphs on the Council which has been submitted to Jennifer Kidd for inclusion in a brochure to be used in recruiting for the council.

In the absence of Brent Hilton, Claudio Garcia will be presenting our TMC report. Claudio reported:

The 2007 Fall Meeting, Celebrating Excellence in Truck Technology, was held at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel & Convention Center in Nashville, TN on September 24-27, 2007. There were 966 registered attendees at this meeting.

This was our industry's third annual National Technician Skills Competition - TMC SuperTech2007. It has grown by leaps and bounds. We saw a 40 percent increase since last year in the number of technicians that are competing in the first round of this event – the Written Skills Challenge – and we had 84 technician finalists competing in the Hands-on Skills Competition. The Grand Champion this year was David Bryan Lewis of Wal-Mart Transportation out of Sutherland, VA. James Bowman of East Taunton, Mass. with United States Postal Service took second place and John Amdor of Omaha, Neb with FedEx Express took third.

The Skills station winners included:

Wheel End	Christopher Barnett	Ryder System	Alpharetta, Ga.
Electrical	Zelko Marinac	Maverick Transportation	Gary, Ind.
Steering/Suspension	Rick Grivel	Ryder System	Alpharetta, Ga.
Starting/Charging	Carl Cockerham	Ryder System	Alpharetta, Ga.
Drivetrain	Thomas Pianalto	Diamond International Trucks	Lowell, Ark.
Preventive Maintenance Inspection	Dave Flanagan	Wal-Mart Transportation	Marcy, N.Y.
Tires & Wheels	Jerry Bodkins	TravelCenters of America	Salem, Ohio

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HVAC	Jimmy Slusher		Alpharetta, Ga.
Repair Order	Carl Cockerham	Ryder System	Alpharetta, Ga.
Service Information	John Amdor	FedEx Express	Omaha, Neb.
Engines	Doug Bybee	Ryder System	Alpharetta, Ga.
Brakes	Richard Zacholl	Swift Transportation	North Syracuse, N.Y.

There were many sessions held during the meeting.

In naming just a few sessions:

- Exploring Advanced Technology
- An Advance Glimpse at Future Engine and Powertrain Systems
- What's down the road for tire and wheel products
- Who will manage your fleet's future technicians
- Technology Trends for In-Cab Devices and Their Implications for Safety and Maintenance
- How Technology and Regulation Will Impact the Future of Forklifts
- Advance Glimpse at Future Electrical System Concepts
- Future Brake Technology for LMV
- Integrating Vehicle-Based Safety Systems

As you notice most of these sessions was focused on the theme of Exploring Advanced Technology, as they provided a glimpse into what we will face for the model years 2010 and beyond. There was also Future Technology booths set up near the technician competition area for review of product. The ever so popular Shop and Fleet talk was good as there was a lot of talk about charge air coolers leaking and fuel economy. The task force meetings seem to be getting juicier as technology advancements and changes come about in our industry. TMC held over 100 task force meetings at this function.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held in Orlando Florida on February 4 – 7, 2008 at the Orange County Convention Center. We are looking at naming this meeting Diesel Doomsday as we try to point our focus toward the 2010 engine technology in the upcoming technical sessions.

Kenneth Calhoun also noted that Brian Strach of Penray was in attendance and would be joining the Council. Brian was awarded the Silver Spark Plug during the TMC meeting in Nashville.

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Chairman's discussion

If there is anyone that is interested in becoming a presenter at future meetings please see Sarah Sheets or me.

New Business/Old Business

Is there any new business from the audience at this time?

Carl Tapp of P.A.M. noted that Wal-Mart and P.A.M. were 2 of the 16 fleets that won the "2007 SmartWay Excellence Awards". Each year, EPA's SmartWay Transport Partnership recognizes partners' special achievements that significantly reduce the environmental impacts of the freight sector. The SmartWay Excellence Awards honor organizations that integrate innovative strategies and technologies into their business operations, resulting in reduced energy consumption and greenhouse-gas emissions. For more information go to <http://www.epa.gov/smartway/awards07.htm>

Is there any other new business from the audience at this time?

If not, I would like to ask for a motion to adjourn the business meeting at this time, is there a second? All in favor? Motion Passed, lets each lunch...

After lunch presentations were made by Mike Stewart of Lincoln Educational Services, Kent Chambers of Northwest Technical Institute, and Scott Willingham of UTI. Those presentations are available on the web-site.

Our next meeting will be in Little Rock on January 8.

Dismissal