

# Arkansas Trucking Association Maintenance & Technology Council Meeting 08/14/07

## Welcome

I'd like to call this meeting of the Arkansas Trucking Association's 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.

## Housekeeping

- Point out emergency exits
- Informal meeting format, feel free to use the facilities as needed and 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 step out of the room
- We encourage participation but please wait to be recognized, then stand and state your name
- Robert's Rules of Order, as revised will govern Proceedings

## Safety message

A new school season is just around the corner. It's time for a few school zone reminders. Remember to reduce your speed in school zones and increase your following distance between cars. Watch for sudden stops and for children darting out from between cars. When you drive defensively you decrease the risk of an accident.

## Introductions

Before we begin, we would like to thank Skip Martens, Mike Colaccino, Keith Rhodes and Bryan Boyd from Hendrickson for sponsoring the last meeting.

Today we will be honoring the first place category winners from the Technician Championship. We will have a panel discussion on ways to increase technician registrations for future competitions, ways to improve the competition and other opinions on the event.

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

## Reading of the minutes of the last meeting dated

The minutes were published on the web site after our last meeting in Little Rock. May we have a motion to approve those minutes? A second? Motion made/passed.

## Reports of Standing Committees

In Brent Hilton's absence I will be reading the TMC update.

### **EXPLORING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY**

The pace of technological change is accelerating rapidly in the trucking industry. That's why it's appropriate that the theme of TMC's 2007 Fall Meeting is "Exploring Advanced Technology." By 2010, trucking will be in the midst of implementing significant changes in emissions and diagnostic technologies. But the changes will not stop there. These challenges will impact every segment of the industry—from the biggest fleets to individual owner-operators; from vehicle manufacturers to service-dealers; from fleet maintenance executives to equipment technicians. Attending TMC's 2007

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Fall Meeting will provide insights into the changes that are coming, as well as a means of influencing the direction these changes will take.

## **TMCSUPERTECH 2007:**

Our industry's third annual National Technician Skills Competition, at which technicians will compete for top honors and valuable prizes. See page 6 and our enclosed TMC SuperTech2007 Registration Form for details.

## **TMC'S PTDC TECHNICIAN TRAINING FAIR:**

Our Professional Technician Development Committee is offering a one-day series of training sessions for technicians and supervisors. See pages 7-9 and our enclosed TMC SuperTech2007 Registration Form for details.

## **TMC TASK FORCES:**

These TMC Study Group subcommittees are developing a variety of recommended practices and information reports to benefit the trucking industry. You can influence this development process by participating in any of our more than 100 Task Forces.

Mike Jeffress has forwarded the TAG updates. Carl Desens covered the highlights of the report. If more information is required of the Engineering Progress report please contact Mike Jeffress [mjeffress@mavericksc.com](mailto:mjeffress@mavericksc.com)

## **Reports of Special Committees**

Wrecker Towing Committee: Mr. Whitaker is the Chairman of that committee, Randy give us an update please. Mr. Whitaker reported that Brent Hilton had attended the Towing and Recovery Board Meeting July 24, 2007 Attorney General's Office Conference Room and highlighted Brent's comments which are as follows;

"I was able to attend the Towing and Recovery Board Meeting last week at the Attorney General's office in Little Rock. JR Phillips was kind enough to show me to the meeting. It was an open meeting. They ask at the beginning if anyone was there for any reason other than being involved in a case, I stood up and told them who I was and who I was representing and that I was observing. The board consists of nine individuals that have been appointed by the State to review complaints that come into the Attorney General's office. They have their own investigator who researches the complaints prior to the meeting. From what I can tell the investigator is paid by the state. The investigator tries to handle the cases by phone prior to the meeting and if resolution is not obtained, the board reviews the cases. And if during his investigation the towing company is found not to have insurance at any time, the board has to meet on it. The meeting began and was run like a court room. Each case was reviewed by giving State's evidence and then the complainant was able to state their case. The board then decides on the penalty for the towing company. That's about all the board can do is either fine for no insurance or permits and fine make them come before the board before reinstating their license. Prior to July 1 the board could fine the Towing Company up to \$500. From July 1 on, that fine can be up to \$5,000. The cases that were reviewed this day were Towing companies that were operating without Insurance. A gentleman's car was wrecked during tow on one case and the towing company didn't have insurance. The board was able to fine the towing company for not having insurance but could not do anything about making the

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towing company fix the gentleman's car. One case was against a towing company that held a car for two months that it had picked up on the side of the road and didn't notify the owner. Most of this fee was resolved over the phone by the investigator and the Board also fined the towing company. In each of these cases, the Towing Company can appeal the decision made by the board.

After all the cases were done, they had a business meeting. The board meets monthly at this same location. The State Police was also present during the entire meeting listening to the cases and making notes. The State Police may also remove a towing company from their rotation list stemmed from results of this meeting. The board wants to add another investigator and is lobbying to do so to the State. The board would also like to have more power to discipline the bad guys out there in the towing world. During the business meeting they reviewed activity of insurance notices and cancellations during the month. During the month of July to date there had been 53 call in complaints to the Attorney General's office concerning towing companies. Ten were already resolved over the phone. Nineteen of them were related to overcharges. I think this is really the group we need to get involved with along with the State Police to gain more control over the towing companies. I told JR Phillips after the meeting that we need to team up together so we can help them lobby for more control over these bad guys.”

Membership Committee: Mr. Calhoun is the Chairman of that committee, Kenneth give us an update please. The membership Committee has nothing new to report.

Career Day: Mr. Wilson is the Chairman of that committee, Tim give us an update please. The Career Day committee has nothing new to report.

## **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 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...

## **Thank Presenter**

We want to thank our Technician Championship first place finishers and their companies for allowing them to attend today.

## **Special Presentation**

After lunch we convened a panel of our winners from the Technician Championship which included:

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John Browning (tire tech winner), and Chris Smith (trailer tech runner up & trailer tech suspension category winner) both of CalArk Trucking;  
Eric Rusk (truck tech electrical, tires, and Grand Champion) and  
Tyson Sontag (truck tech A/C refrigeration & truck tech PMI) both of McKee Foods;  
Brian Watkins (truck tech engines & assoc.) from Barloworld.

These gentlemen responded to questions from the audience and from Carl Desens pertaining to their perceptions of the competition and how to improve it in the future. Participation was very good and covered topics ranging from satisfaction with the prizes awarded, how to encourage new technicians to participate, what changes could be made in future competitions, to the difficulty factor of the electrical competition.

Meeting adjourned.