

**NEWS**

# & Views

**N E W S L E T T E R**

## **AUTOMOTIVE RECYCLING INDUSTRY OF NEBRASKA**

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Fall 2009

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I love this time of year. The weather is nice. We have high school, college, and pro football to cheer for and NASCAR is counting down to crown a champion. What a wonderful time of year.

We have some exciting news. The Greater Midwest Automotive Recyclers Expo will be March 12-14, 2010, in South Sioux City, Nebraska. We have some great events planned, including a bus trip to see one of the Midwest's most recognized recyclers, Nordstroms in South Dakota, where we plan on not only touring their facility, but also have training onsite. We also have Jim Counts, national salvage industry consultant,

coming to give us insights into improving our businesses.

Your association has also been working on a website for our membership to use. It will make it easier to get information and give you links to other members and other useful organizations. The website is hosted by Car-part. If you are signed up with their company, you can also have your parts displayed on the ARIN website at no cost to you.

As you can see, we have lots of great things going on at ARIN. If you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to call. Yours in Recycling,  
Kirby Andersen

### **SPEEDWAY AUTO HIT BY MAJOR FIRE (Information from Norfolk Daily News)**

Damage estimates could be as high as \$1 million for Speedway Auto that caught on fire on October 23. Fire officials determined the fire started as a result of workers removing a gasoline tank which slipped and spilled on the floor, which was ignited by a nearby work light.

The Norfolk Fire Division was called to Speedway Auto, 807 East Norfolk Avenue at 10:28 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and a building in the rear of the complex was fully involved with fire.

It took firefighters 45 minutes to gain control of the fire and it was extinguished in about three hours.

The building which had a

flat bed car hauler, several other vehicles and about 200 engines and other vehicle parts were all destroyed in the fire, according to fire officials.

There were four employees in the building at the time of the fire and all escaped uninjured. Terry Zwiebel, Norfolk's fire marshal estimated the damage could be as high as \$1 million.

### **OUR SYMPATHY GOES TO THE GRAVES FAMILY**

Our sympathy goes to Tom and Jeanne Graves, Owl Auto Parts, Grand Island, and their children due to the recent loss of their grandson who was born at rest on October 22 at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital in Hastings.

Marcus Daniel Graves, son of Daniel and Jodi Graves of Hastings, was laid to rest on October 24 at Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery. Marcus is survived by his parents and a brother, Jackson, grand parents Ted and Beci Van Fossen of Axtell and Tom and Jeanne Graves of Grand Island, along with great grand parents and uncles.

### **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM ENCLOSED - RETURN BY FEBRUARY 15**

Enclosed with this Newsletter is the John Ruggerio Annual Scholarship application form. We're

getting this out a little earlier this year to help in your children's planning for college next year. **Please have the forms back to the ARIN Office by February 15 to give the Scholarship Committee adequate time to review the applicants.**

Please note that completing all the information requested certainly helps the Committee make a fair decision. Also note the "Criteria For Recipient of the Scholarship" information provided in the packet as well as the list of institutions that qualify the student for a scholarship.

### **NOMINATIONS DUE FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF ARIN - RETURN FORM BY DECEMBER 15**

Please help us in providing nominations for Board positions as well as Officer positions for the Association. A form is included for you to nominate for three positions on the Board as well as all officer positions.

In making your nominations, note that Steve Fehlhafer, Bob Smith and Tom Graves currently serve on the Board through 2011 and may not be nominated for Board positions.

Once we receive your nominations, all suggested names will be contacted, and a formal ballot will be sent to all voting members. New

Board Members and Officers will be announced at the GMARE Convention in South Sioux City in March, and Officers and Board Members will take office following the Convention.

### **SPECIAL SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE ALL BUT OVER**

Due to a \$335 million revenue shortfall, Governor Dave Heineman called a special session of the Legislature which convened on November 4. The current two-year budget for the state of Nebraska is \$6.9 billion dollars. The cuts required (\$335 million) were about 4.8% of the total two-year budget.

The proposed budget by the Governor was sent to the Appropriations Committee, which was passed on second reading on November 18, and the end of the session is expected on Friday, November 20.

The Appropriations Committee made some changes to the Governor's proposal, specifically dealing with some cash funds which were being moved to general funds.

All in all, most agencies were cut about 2.5 percent for this year and about 5 percent for next year.

Transfers from the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board cash fund which were cut included \$17,477 for this year and \$35,988 for 2011.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

**COMMITTEE HEARS  
TESTIMONY ON TOWING  
LAWS (FROM LEGISLATIVE  
REPORTING)**

The Legislature's Transportation and Telecommunications Committee met in September and heard testimony on LR187, introduced by Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop.

The resolution establishes an interim study to examine issues regarding the towing of motor vehicles. Lathrop introduced a bill last session that would have set the maximum fee for towing vehicles at \$100 and limited the fee to \$15 per day for storing a vehicle. The bill was indefinitely postponed in committee.

Lathrop said towing companies should not assess penalties for parking violations, as the Nebraska Constitution requires all penalty funds be directed to public schools. There is nothing in the existing law that stops somebody from towing your car, taking it three blocks down the street and then charging you \$185, he said. The committee will continue to study the issues over the interim.

Those of you in the towing business may want to be ready for legislation which may be introduced next year which may limit charges for towing and storage charges.

**MAJOR ISSUES STAY ON  
FRONT BURNER WITH**

**CONGRESS**

Health Care Reform, Climate Change/Cap & Trade Legislation, Card Check and possibly another economic stimulus package seem to top the news reports on the national level.

Businesses have concerns about health care reform and possible tax implications or requirements. The cost of energy and possible major increases in energy costs are concerns with the Cap & Trade Bill.

We're already seeing some major policy changes coming from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with the new Administration.

The industry has just completed wading through the Cash for Clunkers program. It will be interesting to see what new stimulus programs are on the horizon.

**GMARE CONVENTION WILL  
"KNOCK YOUR SOCKS  
OFF" - MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS FOR MARCH  
11-13, 2010 - MARINA INN -  
SOUTH SIOUX CITY**

The Planning Committee of the Greater Midwest Automotive Recyclers Expo have put together one of the best programs this year to educate you, entertain you and provide some interesting new twists.

First off, there are discounts for those bringing multiple individuals from your firm, as well as a

discount for first-time attenders. Secondly, we're inviting recyclers from a much broader base, including North and South Dakota, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Iowa and Southwest Minnesota.

The Welcome Reception includes a dinner on the River Boat in Sioux City, and the Convention will be held at the beautiful Marina Inn, along the Missouri River, in South Sioux City.

The Program starts out with an entertaining bus trip to Nordstrom's Automotive in Garretson, South Dakota. The trip will include a tasty breakfast to pass your time on the road, as well as great refreshments for the return home in the afternoon.

The folks at Nordstrom's are planning for some educational workshops at their facility as well as sponsoring lunch.

Friday evening and Saturday morning will be spent with the Exhibitors followed by three workshops by Jim Counts.

You're going to love this Convention. If you know of any firms that should be exhibiting at the Convention, please contact Dana Adamy at the ARIN Office and she'll follow up with information for them.

**MODEL LEGISLATION  
SUPPORTS USE OF**

**RECYCLED, NON-DEPLOYED EQUIPMENT AIRBAGS**

The National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) is an organization of state legislators whose main area of public policy concern is product liability insurance legislation and regulation. Many members of NCOIL are the chairs or members of the committees responsible for insurance legislation in their respective state houses across the country.

The NCOIL Property-Casualty Insurance Committee has finalized development of a proposed model air bag fraud bill and will vote for its approval at their November Annual Meeting in New Orleans. The Committee has held conference calls over the past several months, of which the ARA was one of a few stakeholders invited to offer input.

Language submitted by ARA was successfully incorporated into the model act. The act establishes criminal penalties for fraudulent installation or reinstallation an air bag. Once passed by the NCOIL conference, the bill will serve as a model for any state to implement into law.

ARA is urging its members to make direct contact with their state legislators who are scheduled to attend the NCOIL annual meeting and has identified specific

actions that are designed to advocate the use of recycled air bags.



**Keep safe and keep recycling.**

**Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!**