DEALER POINT 8

Official Publication of the Wisconsin Automobile & Truck Dealers Association | 1928-2014 | Volume 34 Winter 2014







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The Wisconsin Automobile & Truck Dealers Association, an organization of licensed dealers of new and used motor vehicles, is dedicated to advancing the common good of its members, consumers and their communities by promoting professionalism and prosperity through education, advocacy, information and service.

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On the cover: Back row left to right Tyler, Maggie, Kristopher. Front row Left to right Alexa, Leslie, Chelsea and Karl.

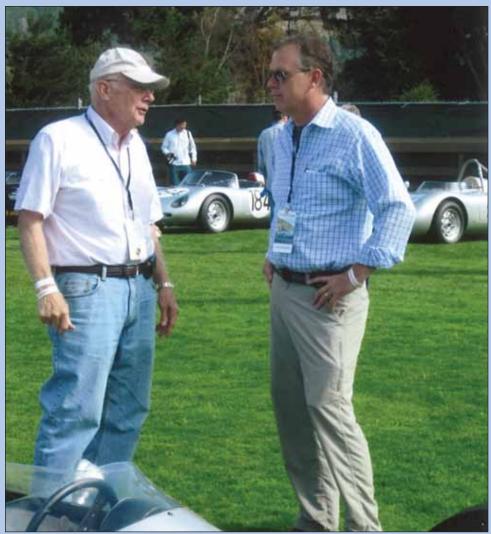
IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY

BY JULIE FARMER

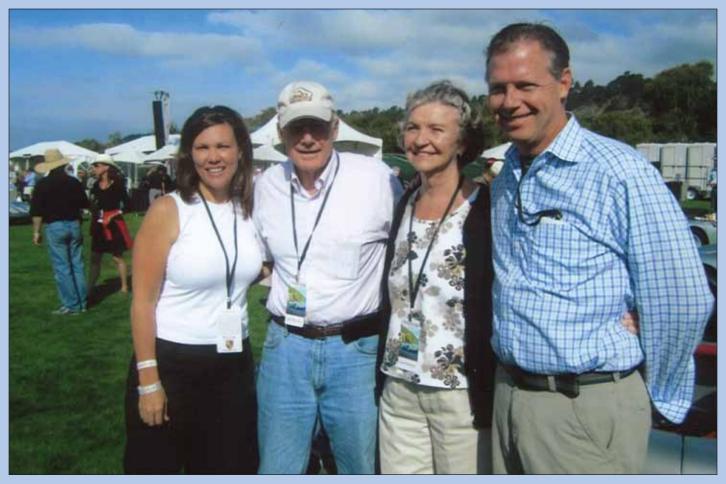
Por only the second time in the 86 year history of Wisconsin Auto and Truck Dealers Association, we have a family that has generously given us two Association Chairman; the first pair was Ervin (1953-Milwaukee) and John (1984-Fond du Lac) Deising. Our second pair of leaders is from the Wuesthoff family; Bill (1977) and Karl will serve the dealers as 2014 Board Chairman.

Concours Motors of Milwaukee has two dealerships plus a stand-alone body shop, and employs a staff of 175. Their stores include the upscale BMW, Mercedes Benz, and Porsche franchises, as well as Volkswagen and Mazda nameplates. Karl, President of Concours since 2000, started out at age fifteen, broom in hand, and progressed through positions of vehicle detailer, parts counter-person, service advisor, sales person, sales manager, leasing company manager and VP-General Manager. In between those varied positions, Karl found the time to attend University of Wisconsin-Platteville to earn a B.S. in Business Administration.









Upper left: Bill and Karl discuss the next race for the day. Lower left: Karl and Leslie begin their 34 mile journey into the Grand Canyon. Above: Leslie, Bill, Carol and Karl Wuesthoff at Road America, Elkhart Lake.

Karl promotes a service culture for the organization; their motto has always been "Where Service Makes the Difference." He communicates this with his entire team by asking them to under-promise and over-deliver with customers as well as fellow employees. The biggest ingredient to their performance is to get the job done ahead of schedule and for less than the promised amount.

This is a family that loves all things automotive! In addition to many years of membership and involvement with your Association, Bill has served on the Board of directors at Road America for 35 years; Karl and his brother Lee (Who is General Manager of the BMW store and Vice President of Concours Motors), have been involved in Pro ice racing and stadium short course off-road racing. Karl recently ran in the Baja 1000 race and a couple of years back he scored a 1st-in-class finish in the first vintage Baja 1000! The enthusiasm for racing has even passed on to the third generation of Wuesthoffs; Karl and his sons Kristopher and Tyler built and raced a spec Miata road race car at regional tracks including Road America.

Karl has found a way to combine his love of the industry with his desire to benefit charity. He is a member of the board for the

Milwaukee Masterpiece; a two day auto show in the Concourse de' Elegance style beginning with a parade day-one featuring the juried event. The Masterpiece is celebrating its tenth event this summer, raising over \$150,000 to benefit underprivileged children and families in need of medical and social services. Karl has also been a ten-year committee member on the "Drive for Babies" March of Dimes event at Road America that typically raises over \$70,000 each year.

Karl and his wife Leslie enjoy an active life. Their love of the outdoors took them on a recent trip for hiking and backpacking 34 miles in the Grand Canyon. They also enjoy Hot Yoga, where the temperature is 105° and the class lasts 90 minutes! Their blended family of five adult children, the two boys plus three girls; Alexa, Maggie and Chelsea, ages 27 to 21, loves to vacation together, especially in Northern California, where Leslie's parents live in San Rafael and Karl's sister Sally is an hour away in Santa Rosa.

Recently Karl completed the state of Wisconsin Emergency Medical Technician training program, something he says has always interested him, though I suspect it could be about driving that speeding ambulance through the city streets!

THE BIGGEST INGREDIENT TO THEIR PERFORMANCE IS TO GET THE JOB DONE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE AND FOR LESS THAN THE PROMISED AMOUNT.

National Automobile Dealers **Association Convention**

PHOTOS BY CHRYSTE MADSEN

Your fellow Wisconsin auto dealers were spotted in New Orleans at the recent National Automobile Dealers Association convention — on the expo floor; at opening session or out and about for some fun!



Bob Pietroske, Pietroske Inc



Dave Brantmeier,

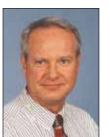
visits with a vendor.



NADA Director's Report

BY BOB HUDSON

would like to thank everyone for their support in electing me as your Wisconsin NADA Director. I am humbled and ▲ I pledge to represent all of Wisconsin, any make, any



location, and any size. I have big shoes to fill following Ken Vance. Ken tirelessly represented the needs and concerns of our state and always made himself available to those wanting to talk. I would like to thank Ken for his service and dedication to our industry. I look forward to serving my fellow Wisconsin dealers in this role.

For those of you who do not know me, I am a third generation automobile dealer. My grandfather was awarded the Ford franchise in 1947. I started doing oddjobs in the dealership in grade school and have acted as a I am not interested in serving a life term, but enough time to service writer, dispatcher, new-and used-car sales representative, F & I manager, Sales manager, G.M. and now a dealer

principal. I was honored to serve as the chair of WATDA in 2003 and have served on the franchise law task force, dealer services committee and the DMV-WATDA advisory committee. I contribute to the Dealer Direct Givers Fund, CARPAC, and DEAC as well as advocate for the dealer body in Madison and Washington DC.

I ran for this directorship because I believe strongly about being involved in the affairs and issues of our industry. There are many issues that face us in the coming years and I would like to be involved in the shaping of these policies and the strategies to deal with them. We are facing a prolonged battle with the CFPB, scrutiny by the FTC, and a threat to our next generation due to estate taxes.

do some good. I appreciate your confidence and look forward to representing this great state of Wisconsin.



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CenterStage



Cifaldi Motors of Cumberland received a plaque recognizing their fifty year anniversary as a Chrysler dealer. Zone Representative Joel Schlader presented the plaque to Anthony and Bernice; Patrick, Michael and Robert Cifaldi.

Ron and Tim Boldt of Pioneer Ford in Platteville presented \$2,000 along with a \$1,000 matching grant from the Foundation of the Wisconsin Auto & Truck Dealers to the Veterans Honor Roll Memorial.

The Sauk County Humane Society teamed up with Baraboo Motors to collect more than \$3,000 in supplies, food and cash during their "Fill the Truck" event. An "Adopt-A-Thon" was also held in conjunction with two days of the event, resulting in homes for seven shelter animals.

Mark and Patti Olinyk of Mark Motors, Plover, donated \$1,500 to secure a matching grant from the Foundation of the Wisconsin Auto & Truck Dealers to the Family Center in Wisconsin Rapids. The funds will be used to improve security features of the Center's safe shelter.

Schmit Brothers of Saukville provided 1,600 pounds of turkeys for the Port Washington and Saukville food pantries based on new cars sales for the period.

The Flambeau High School music program benefitted from Ford Motor Company's Drive 4 UR School program, hosted by Courtesy Auto & Truck Center in Thorp. The funds are raised by area residents test driving Ford vehicles; the dealer and Ford Motor Company donate \$20 per drive. The \$6,000 raised will help with uniforms, travel expense and equipment.

Wheelers Chevrolet GMC of Marshfield has been named the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industries "Firm of the Year." Selection committee representative Terry Franklin cited Wheelers history of growth, environmental consciousness, and support of community activities and organizations as well as noteworthy accomplishments as consideration for the honor.

Bushnell Ford, Lodi, hosted a Ford Drive 4 UR Community event helping to raise \$6,000 for the Lodi Food Pantry and Lodi Valley Personal Essentials programs. Also during the Christmas Holiday season they collected two truckloads of food and personal items to fill the shelves of the two organizations.

•••••

The Green Bay Boys and Girls Club received a \$5,000 check from Russ Darrow Group in honor of the grand opening of the new Russ Darrow Used Car Superstore, their first Green Bay dealership.

Reilly Motors and Dodge donated to the Wautoma High School Boosters. Wautoma High School students and families

participated in a Dodge Booster Club Fundraiser in October of 2013. They raised \$1,700 for the school's booster club. The Dodge brand contributed \$20 for each test drive in a new 2013 Dodge Durango, Journey, Grand Caravan or Dart. Pictured for the



check presentation are (l to r): Trent Caswell, Mike Pica, Adam and Will Heding; Mike Reilly, Reilly Motors, Wautoma; Marc and Kris Bickford.

Bergstrom Corporation announced that effective January 2, 2014, its longtime President and Treasurer and company co-founder Richard A. "Dick" Bergstrom will move to the new position of Vice Chairman. Dick Bergstrom will continue to be a director of Bergstrom Corporation and President of Bergstrom

Bergstrom also announced that Timothy M. Bergstrom will assume the title of President in addition to his current title of Chief Operating Officer of Bergstrom Corporation. He will be responsible for Bergstrom's day-to-day management decisions. Tim is a Cum Laude graduate of Marquette University's School of Business. He joined Bergstrom Automotive in 1999. He is a member of the Boards of Directors of the First National Bank-Fox Valley, Theda Clark Foundation, and is Chairman of the United Way-Fox Cities campaign. Tim also is a member of the National Dealer Councils for Lexus and Audi.

Long-time General Counsel John J. Hogerty, II will assume the role of Treasurer in addition to his position as Executive Vice President and Corporate Secretary of the company. He joined Bergstrom Automotive in 1995. John is Chairman of the Board of the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, and is a director of the Community Foundation. He is the past Chairman of the United Way-Fox Cities Board of Directors.

Peter Beane, President of Jorns Chevrolet, announced that Jorns Chevrolet of Kewaunee Inc celebrated 25 years as a GM dealership in October 2013. Jorns Chevrolet of Kewaunee Inc specializes in Corvettes and Classic Cars in addition to their core business of selling and servicing Chevrolet cars and trucks.

> Please submit your AWARDS, HONORS AND MILESTONES to: jfarmer@watda.org

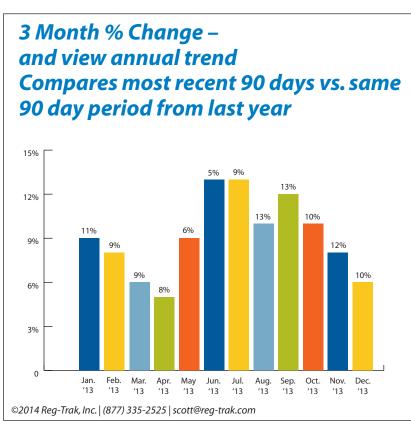
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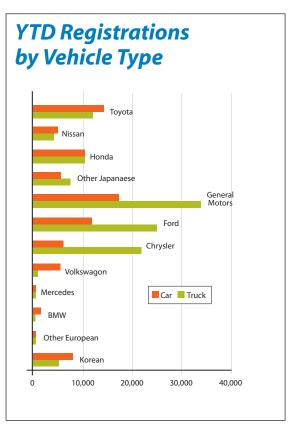


New Vehicle Sales Trends

Wisconsin New Vehicle Trends: December 2013

	Previous Two Months		Year to Date	Year to Date Market Share					
	11/12	11/13							
	-12/12	-12/13	% change	12 YTD	'13 YTD	% change	12 YTD	'13 YTD	change
Industry Total	29,662	30,950	4.3%	194,907	213,548	9.6%	99.9%	100.0%	0.1%
Car	11,981	12,067	0.7%	84,688	88,703	4.7%	43.4%	41.5%	-1.9%
Truck	17,681	18,883	6.8%	110,219	124,845	13.3%	56.5%	58.5%	2.0%
Japanese	9,312	10,628	14.1%	62,477	71,062	13.7%	32.0%	33.3%	1.3%
Toyota	3,688	3,932	6.6%	24,795	26,643	7.5%	12.7%	12.5%	-0.2%
Honda	2,760	3,061	10.9%	18,322	21,316	16.3%	9.4%	10.0%	0.6%
Nissan	1,170	1,557	33.1%	8,401	9,653	14.9%	4.3%	4.5%	0.2%
Other	1,694	2,078	22.7%	10,959	13,450	22.7%	5.6%	6.3%	0.7%
Domestic	16,325	16,598	1.7%	104,896	116,851	11.4%	53.8%	54.7%	0.9%
General Motors	7,116	7,191	1.1%	46,885	51,432	9.7%	24.1%	24.1%	0.0%
Ford	5,470	5,483	0.2%	32,188	37,168	15.5%	16.5%	17.4%	0.9%
Chrysler	3,739	3,924	4.9%	25,823	28,251	9.4%	13.2%	13.2%	0.0%
European	2,096	1,889	-9.9%	11,953	12,037	0.7%	6.1%	5.6%	-0.5%
Volkswagen	1,152	941	-18.3%	7,107	6,804	-4.3%	3.6%	3.2%	-0.4%
BMW	436	409	-6.2%	2,124	2,237	5.3%	1.1%	1.0%	-0.1%
Mercedes	280	302	7.9%	1,323	1,463	10.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%
Other	228	237	3.9%	1,399	1,533	9.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%
Korean	1,929	1,835	-4.9%	15,581	13,598	-12.7%	8.0%	6.4%	-1.6%
Other	1,929	1,835	-4.9%	15,581	13,598	-12.7%	8.0%	6.4%	-1.6%





From Around the State

Please send your news From Around the State to jfarmer@watda.org.

Nels Gunderson Chevrolet, Osseo, recently completed a major expansion and improvement project, doubling the size of the operation. The project included the addition of two drive-over oil change pits, additional space in the shop area, improvement to drive in service, customer waiting and an enclosed delivery

Broadway Automotive, Green Bay will renovate the three buildings on each side of its Military Avenue Ford, Hyundai and Used Car stores. The \$9.6 million project should be completed in early 2015.

Rhinelander Toyota has moved to their new facility located next to their Rhinelander GM store. The new store was built with energy efficiency in mind, as well as employee and customer comfort features like a more spacious lobby area and indoor delivery bays for new cars. The new location plans to add at least 12 new hires.

Dorsch Ford Lincoln Kia has expanded with a second location in Suamico. The full service repair facility as well as a pre-owned car and truck sales operation added 25 jobs in the community.

Gentile Automotive Group of Racine has been sold to Jim Bozich and Mark Geiger. The dealerships will be known as Racine Toyota, Racine Hyundai, Racine Scion and Racine **Subaru**. New construction is expected at each of the four sites to provide more showroom space and updated facilities.



Owners Ron, Gary and Ryon Kautz along with Ryon's sons Bryson and Peyton break ground for the new dealership.

Three generations of the Kautz family recently broke ground for a new 20,000 square foot facility for Clintonville Motors. The Ford dealership will have 12 service bays, a body shop, service drive, complete parts department, large indoor showroom with offices and a comfortable customer lounge. The new location marks the first move of the dealership in its 73 years of existence.



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Stroll Down Memory Lane at the Dahl Auto Museum

Take that stroll and you will find yourself in the midst of the history of our industry and plenty more on and off wheels. Recapture the fun of an old fashioned drive-in movie; see some of the last returnable soda bottles issued in the U.S.; and just enjoy our history on wheels including one of only three 1930 Buick models known to still be in existence. All of the 33 to 35 vehicles are accessible and in running order. The pictures tell the real story.

Museum Curator Sam Siebenaler is ready to guide your stroll with his expertise in the vehicles and the history any Thursday, Friday or Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Located at 711 Third Street South in LaCrosse, the Dahl Family opened the museum in 2010 to prepare to celebrate their 100th year in business in 2011.













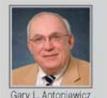






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WISCO Show

BY JOHN HACKMAN



is educating them on all the products and enter the requested information. and programs we have available. The annual show is an excellent way to

do just that. The 43rd annual WISCO Show will be held on Saturday March 15, 2014 at the Chula Vista Resort and Waterpark in Wisconsin Dells. Attendees will see our vendors' product offerings, new products, and will be able to take advantage of money saving specials. Many of our suppliers, including our major equipment manufacturers, have developed "WISCO Show Specials" on their products. Often these specials yield the year's best pricing available anywhere on these products. This should be of particular interest for items seen at the NADA Show in New Orleans. Look to your Co-op to save money on these items.

There will be up to 80 vendor booths to browse at the WISCO Show which runs 9:00-5:00 on Saturday. Door

WISCO exists with the sole purpose of sav-ing our members money on their with a cocktail reception followed by a dinner and dance. We are very purchases. Dealerships are looking for ways to buy better excited to have back Boogie and The Yo-Yo'z as our entertainment. and to improve their bottom line. What The combination of their hi-energy entertainment and superior musibetter place to look than WISCO and cianship will certainly be remembered by this year's show attendees. what better way to see what WISCO The WISCO Show is, and always has been, free for our members. offers than the WISCO Show? One of The only expense for attendees is the cost of their room if they stay our biggest challenges in saving our overnight. A new feature this year is that you can register online for membership money on their purchases the WISCO show. Go to wisco.com and click on the WISCO Show tab

> The show weekend is a good blend of business and fun for our members and their spouses, especially at such an excellent venue as Chula Vista. We hope to see you along with your managers at this year's show. WISCO has reserved a block of rooms at the Chula Vista with a special group rate of \$144 for a junior suite. The room includes waterpark passes for each occupant up to 6 maximum. Phone number for reservations is 877-713-4760. Refer to the WISCO Show block of rooms with a room code of A43518 to receive the special group price. Plan now to attend. You can save your dealership money and have an enjoyable weekend with your fellow WISCO members.

> Also, our annual meeting and golf outing will be held on Tuesday June 24th at the Lake Arrowhead Country Club. Information will be sent out as it gets closer but keep the date open and plan to attend.



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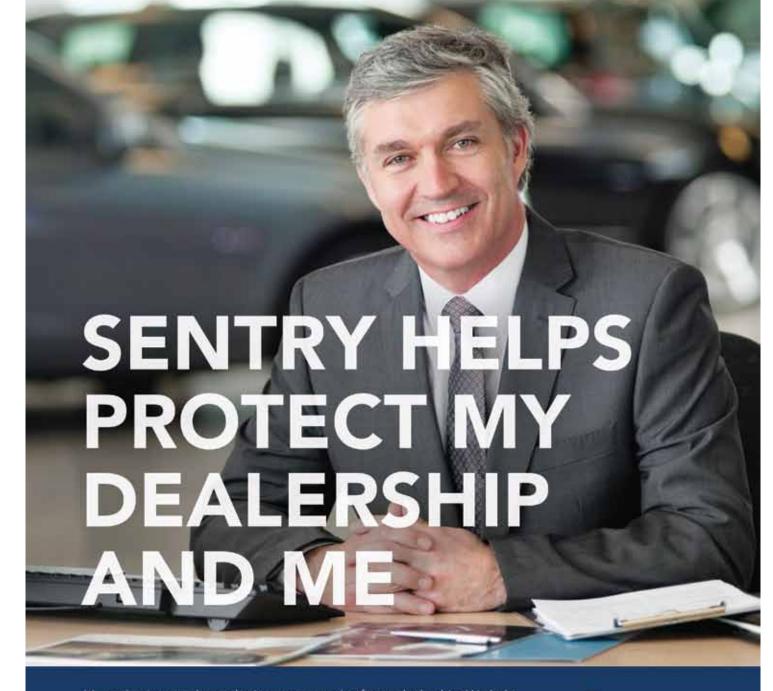
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Legal & Legislative Update

BY CHRIS SNYDER

Dealers engaging in prize promotion advertising need to be aware of that there are rules and regulations.

ealer advertising practices are in the cross-hairs. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recently announced sweeping enforcement actions against numerous dealerships throughout the country. They have reached settlement agreements with various dealers on a number of violations including alleged violations for claiming "We'll pay off your trade, no matter what you owe;" advertising prices that include every rebate available (even when it is clear that no individual could qualify for every rebate available); claiming that a lease offer was "no money down" when in fact the customer was responsible for tax, title and licensing fees; and advertising a prize offering. The FTC further claims that they have many other investigations underway.

Meanwhile, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), regulates retail advertising practices in Wisconsin. Lately, they have discovered problems



with some Wisconsin motor vehicle dealers' direct mail promotions that offer a prize. Prize offerings and direct marketing are regulated in Wisconsin under section 100.171 of the statutes and ATCP 124 & ATCP 127 of the administrative code. Violations can lead to substantial fines and penalties from the State of Wisconsin or in a private right of action.

To date, WATDA has received information that at least five dealers from around the state have been contacted by DATCP requesting information and copies of all of their sales promotions dating back to January 1, 2012. In the investigations that WATDA have been made aware of, there have been reoccurring problems. Below are the reoccurring violations and corresponding statute sections.

- Failure to provide the verifiable retail value of each prize the individual has been selected to receive. Sec. 100.171(3) (a) 2.
- 2. The odds of winning were not in the same size font and boldness as the prize. Sec. 100.171(3) (b) 1.

The statutes regulating the first two alleged violations read together in the vernacular as follows: Written prize notices shall contain the verifiable retail value and statement of odds of each prize offered. The retail value and odds of winning shall be stated in immediate proximity to each listing of the prize in each place the prize appears and shall be in the same size and boldness of type as the prize.

3. Statement of odds of winning each prize was wrong. 100.171(3) (a) 3.

If the prize notice lists more than one prize that the individual may be eligible to win, there must be a statement of the odds of winning each prize.

Failure to state the total number of prizes to be given away and the total number of written prize notices delivered. 100.171(3) (b) 2.

The number of prizes and number of written prize notices delivered shall be stated in Arabic numerals and in the following form: "5 prizes out of 50,000 prize notices."

5. A solicitor may not... "represent directly or by implication" that the number of individuals eligible for the prize is limited or that the individual has been selected to receive a particular prize unless that representation is true. 100.171 (3) (f) 3.

This one is pretty clear on its own.

WATDA became aware this issue in November of 2013 and met with DATCP officials to discuss the problems in late November. We agreed at that point that it would be productive and beneficial to both consumers and the dealers if we embarked on a joint education effort, starting with DATCP representatives briefly addressing the WATDA Board of Directors. WATDA is

also coordinating with DATCP and the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Center for Consumer Affairs, a series of advertising seminars at various locations throughout the state. We are in the process of updating materials and once everything is ready to go we will get word out as to where and when the seminars will be held.

Flat Rate vs. Finance Reserve

As you should all be aware by now the finance reserve model of compensating dealers for helping arrange financing for their customers is under attack by the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau (CFPB). Those within the bureau firmly believe that the existence of discretion creates opportunity to discriminate, therefore everything must be done to eliminate discretion. Before its existence, proponents of the creation of the CFPB lobbied to include motor vehicle dealers within the regulatory purview of the bureau because they were convinced that dealers consciously and systematically discriminate against protected classes of buyers by charging them a higher finance reserve markup than non-protected buyers.

Notwithstanding those firmly held beliefs, the dealers were able to convince a more thoughtful congress to exempt them from the purview of the CFBP. This exemption has not stopped the CFPB from actively pursuing their original agenda of regulating dealer practices by strong-arming the lenders that dealers utilize to assist customers in financing their purchase. Time and time again, dating back to the aforementioned lobbying battles, dealers have asked for real life examples, data, and statistical analysis that discrimination exists and the effect that imposing a flat rate system would have on consumers. These simple pleas of transparency and evidence made by dealers, lenders and members of congress have continually gone unanswered. They are an agency with no funding source that congress can utilize as leverage and therefore they are emboldened to pursue their own agenda, regardless of the effect on the market place.

Last November the CFPB hosted an auto finance forum. Participants included the CFPB, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ – the CFPB's enforcement arm), the American Financial Services Association (AFSA – most lenders), and NADA to name a few. A few tidbits to take away from the meeting are that the CFPB stated that while flat fees are their preference to eliminate their perception of discrimination, it may not be the only method. The DOJ seemed to acknowledge that the finance reserve business models have a positive effect on financing terms for consumers and most importantly, AFSA has agreed to pay for a study of the effects that a flat fees system would have on consumers in the market place.

In the meantime, NADA had to come up with a plan based on a historically acceptable procedure that will allow for the continued use of the finance reserve business model that eliminates the first hurdle of rebuttable presumption of discrimination in the event that a credible data analysis would result in disparate impact of protected classes of buyers. NADA's guidance is based on a procedure that was developed and accepted by DOJ in 2007 in the settlement of the U.S.A. v. Pacifico Ford lawsuit, wherein Pacifico Ford was accused of discriminatory lending practices pinning from their finance reserve practices. While the DOJ never proved discrimination and Pacifico never acknowledged engaging in discriminatory practices, a settlement was agreed to and a system of recording and reporting was put in

place that NADA believes is now a practical solution to preserve the dealer finance reserve business model.

We preface this by stating that neither the CFPB nor DOJ have publically or officially indicated that this process will address or satisfy their concerns regarding disparate impact that may occur when dealers are afforded discretion in setting finance reserve interest rates. However, in the past the DOJ has accepted the premise that the finance reserve model can have a beneficial impact for consumers in the market place. The DOJ is the CFPB's enforcement arm; in other words, if the CFPB wants to take action against a lender, they have to get the DOJ to do it for them. The policy and procedure being promoted by NADA mirrors the policy and procedure that was devised by the DOJ in the Pacifico settlement, which allowed Pacifico to continue to utilize the finance reserve system.

NADA Fair Credit Compliance Policy and Program

By now, franchised dealers who are NADA members should have received a copy of the NADA Fair Credit Compliance Policy & Program guide. If you haven't, you should contact NADA or go to their web site: www.nada.org and download one. The guide is a very helpful tool to assist you in creating your own Fair Credit Compliance Policy and Program that is unique to your dealership. The guide provides background information framing the issue at hand, general and specific instructions for producing and maintaining your program and templates to assist you in setting-up your program.



DEALER POINT | WINTER 2014 | www.watda.org



Valentine "Jack" Lungwitz

Tack Lungwitz, a well-known and respected businessman and lifetime resident of the Redgranite area, age 85, passed away December 10, 2013.

Jack grew up working on his parents' farm with work horses, no electricity or telephone, developing a strong work ethic. After graduation from Redgranite High School in 1946, Jack sailed the Great Lakes with the Merchant Marines and was also a member of the Naval Reserves, training on the U.S.S. Wisconsin. In 1949 he and his brother Pete decided to go into the automotive business together. They cleared corn stalks from a field about a mile "up the road" from their parents' farm, built a building and started Lungwitz Garage. Jack became the sole owner in the 1950's when Pete had another business opportunity.

He married Deloris Schendel of Berlin on August 26, 1950, and they spent 63 happy years together.

Throughout his 64 years in business, Jack was active in many automotive related organizations; he served on the Board of Directors for the National Independent Auto Dealers Association; President of the Northland Auto Dealers Association; and as a member of the Wisconsin Auto & Truck Dealers Association, Used Car Council Chairman for eight years and represented used car dealer/members on the WATDA Board of Directors for 22 years. In 1985 Jack was voted the "Used Car Dealer of the Year" and in 2010 Jack received the "Hero Award" from WATDA for "his many years of joyful commitment to the Wisconsin auto industry, leading by example, giving unselfishly of his time and ideas, and helping to make Wisconsin a better place."

Jack had a special love and pride for his community; he served the Redgranite Advancement Association as President and as a Board Member for many years; served the Redgranite Development Committee for 15 years; and was President of the Redgranite Labor Day Celebration committee for 12 years. Jack was awarded the Redgranite Outstanding Citizen Award in 1989.

A life-long member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, he served in many roles for the congregation including Council President, Secretary and Treasurer for many years; chaired a number of committees and even represented the church at the Synod Conference.

Jack enjoyed travel and had been to China, Thailand, Hong Kong, and enjoyed many fishing trips with his brother-in-law John. He and Delores also travelled extensively in the United States, Spain, Germany, and the Caribbean. Jack enjoyed hunting, family camping trips and 30 years of father-daughter fishing trips on the Chippewa Flowage.

Jack is survived by his wife Delores, two daughters; Gail (Mike) Romenesko of Little Chute and Jill (Steve) Elza of Eureka; six grandchildren; four great grandchildren; a brother Dorn (Beth) Lungwitz; a brother-in-law, two sister-in-laws; two uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents Valentine and Iva; his brother Wesley "Pete" and his sister Nancy Erickson. ●

Roger Cross

BY GARY WILLIAMS

The WATDA family was saddened to learn of the death of Roger Cross, Waupaca, former DMV Administrator from 1991 to 2003, appointed by Gov. Tommy Thompson. He died from pancreatitis on January 6, at age 66.



Dealers aways had the highest respect for Roger, and loved what he brought to the office in the way of innovations, good spirits, and morale building. He carried a true mentality of "serve the customer."

Roger was a Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Examiner, and he brought many Baldrige concepts for adoption in the DOT. He was very good at bringing private sector ideas to the government sector.

Without his help, and without the leadership of Chuck Supple of the Dealer Licensing Section under Roger, dealers today would still be enmeshed in disappointing title and registration procedures, inflexible attitudes, and unduly harsh rules. The "services fee" is a case-in-point where a prohibition was turned into a sensible solution and approved with Roger's quidance.

Roger definitely holds the all-time record for DMV Administrator attendance at dealer meetings. He loved to get out, learn and share. Sometimes he would call his own dealer meetings. He would call and say,"Gary, I would like to meet with some dealers"... in some corner of the state where he was travelling.

Roger served as an officer in the US Navy stationed in Italy and Newport. This was after graduating from Marquette University, where he met and married Linda. After serving, he got his MBA at UW-Oshkosh, partnered in a Waupaca marina, collected antique cars, played and taught music, studied the Bible, and enjoyed many and varied experiences. He was always a good visit.

At his funeral, Gov. Thompson gave Roger a beautiful and heartfelt salute.

Roger Cross has earned a very prominent place in WATDA's history.

WATDA and Our Used Car Council Has Lost a Great Friend

BY CHRYSTE MADSEN

institution in the Used Car Council and the Association. His He made us do the Toilet Bowl one more time. We thought we passing leaves a bit of a hole in many of our hearts.

In his obituary you can read the list of awards, accomplishments and contributions attributed to this unique gentleman but they do not measure the amount of time and caring Jack invested with both the staff and his peers in his Association. That may be immeasurable.

There are many people responsible for the creation of the Used Car Council, but it's heart came from Jack. There were many coupon books in existence before Wisconsin's but the one you hold in your hands today is entirely because of Jack's quiet persistence. Used Car Conferences you attended, speakers you've heard, suggestions to the DMV... all of these things were, at one time or another, influenced by Jack.

When an independent dealer would join our ranks and ask for advice about running his business that was beyond the scope of the Association or DMV it was often Jack that we called. He never turned anyone down and was always willing to help someone new to the business, even a close competitor.

Whenever a dealer's voice was needed to talk to a member Jack was always available. Many times we were with him at auctions or in dealerships. He was respected by his peers who would listen as he talked about his association. He was quiet but firm and knowledgeable about the many ways that he felt WATDA and the Council helped dealers. His sincerity was so real... seldom did a dealer say "No," to Jack. He instilled an even deeper desire in us to never, ever give up on a prospect.

And it was always done with a smile and a twinkle in his eye. There will long be remembered and retold the story of the Board meeting held at the Kalahari Resort and Waterpark and the dreaded "Toilet Bowl" waterslide. Jack was challenged to the waterslide thinking a turndown imminent. He got up from his lounge chair next to his wife, Deloris, and said, with

ack Lungwitz passed away on December 10, 2013. For a smirk, "Let's go!" Five trips up the stairs to the top of the those of you who did not know him, Jack was a long-time slide later, the challenger's legs collapsed like a pile of rubber. used car dealer in Redgranite. For those of us who did Jack was still going strong, still in great shape after ski season. know him, Jack was not only an independent dealer but an (He continued to ski until somewhere around his 80th year.) were going to suffer heart failure, much to the amuse-

ment of several of our members, staff, and yes, perfect strangers. No, no one challenged

Jack to anything again.

There was the day we called on twelve independent prospects... and we signed up ten and came home with dues checks to prove it! We were flying high. But the real test would be to sign them up again the next year. We kept in touch with all of them throughout the year... worked on proving our value, etc. When it came time for renewal only one chose to renew. We called Jack. He couldn't believe it. He called on all of the dealers himself to find out what happened. He came back to us and admitted that we were right, we can only be as good

as the member allows us to be, and no matter what he said, did, argued, etc. he could not convince them to renew. From that time on Jack would back us up when we would attempt to explain used membership. It is an enigma but, as Jack taught us, we cannot quit trying.

WATDA is a volunteer organization and we certainly hope all of our members know that every dealer's time and efforts are greatly appreciated. Jack Lungwitz's long-term love of his Association, Used Car Council and his industry, however, was a very rare occurrence indeed.

It seems somehow fitting that Jack left us on the very day that the WATDA Board was meeting.

We hope that Jack (Valentine) Lungwitz's heart and spirit will remain here at WATDA and within the Used Car Council. We hope that a new generation of independent dealers will get involved in their Used Car Council the way Jack did and care the way he did. But we don't believe there will ever be another Jack... because there will never be another person who can speak so little or so quietly and say so much.

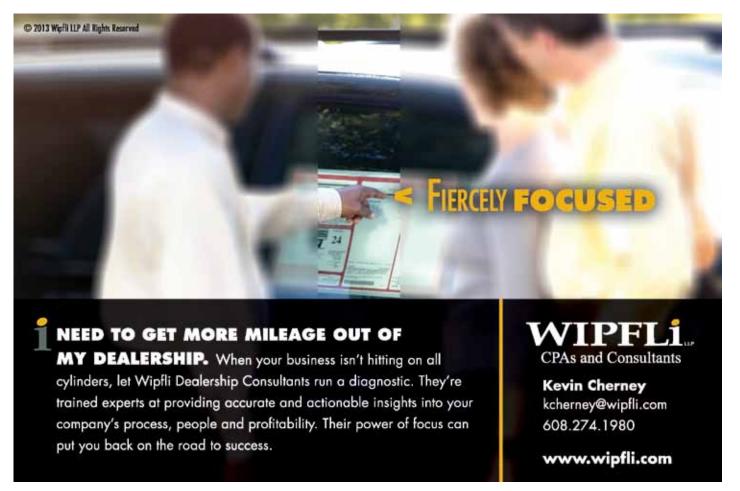
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FOUNDATION

A Green Light for Green Skills in Wisconsin

BY GARY BEIER. VICE PRESIDENT. FOUNDATION OF WATDA

our years ago, the Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding —Alliance approached Jobs for the Future (JFF), a leading national workforce development nonprofit organization, with a proposal to enhance JFF's expertise in green sector training programs. The concept was to create a career pathway providing green technology training programs for lower-skilled adults in seven major cities across the country. The national fund directors approached the U.S. Department of Labor with this proposal and created the Green Jobs Innovation Fund to support programs based in Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Seattle, and Washington, DC.

Only two of these programs, Milwaukee and Boston, have an automotive technology component. Milwaukee's program included the Foundation of WATDA based on our success at attracting and educating aspiring technicians to our industry. Our partnership includes ADAMM and its Tech Train education program, the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee as the project's finance manager, Milwaukee Area Technical College as education service provider and Milwaukee Community

Service Corps as recruiting and placement managers.

When we hit the ground with this concept back in early 2011, our industry was still in recovery mode and many whom we thought could be key partners in Compressed Natural Gas and Hybrid technology were a bit skeptical about the future of this green technology. That changed as MATC's automotive instruction team led by Associate Dean Becky Alsup-Kingery, formerly of Chrysler, Detroit; along with instructors Craig Kuehl, Bob Schultz, Dave Schwid, Scott Fisler and Dan Kolasinski in conjunction with our dealer-based advisory team led by Dan Wooster of the Foundation's Team Wisconsin and Brian Davis, Service Director at Andrew Chevrolet collaborated to design a fast-track lesson plan aimed at providing entry level students with a comprehensive overview of all the basic elements of vehicle maintenance with emphasis on alternative fuel and hybrid systems. Two new members, Linda Reinke and Jay Grosser joined the instructional team this year.

MATC's instructional team designed three specialty courses: one for compressed natural gas (CNG) systems, one focusing on hybrid electric vehicle servicing and an introductory course that included automotive basics plus a sample of both the alterna-

It was as if fate had a positive hand in the whole process. The Green Skills training program opened its doors in January of 2013, the very same morning that national news headlined the

launch of a new line of consumer-oriented CNG vehicles. Soon after, there was more news of advanced hybrid products, all electric vehicles and new statewide networks of charging and fill stations for the green technology drivers.

The Green Jobs grant partnership grew as our advisory committee made up of Jeff Tews from the City of Milwaukee, Brian Davis, Dan Kolasinski from Concours Motors, Steve Herro of ADAMM, Becky Alsup-Kingery, Craig Punak of Badger Truck, Shirron Jude-Boyd from the Service Corps, Jon Lebese of Amato Automotive, Bob Fitzpatrick of Snap-on Tools and Lamont Smith from Urban Strategies began to tackle the business of

scholarships for grads entering automotive degree and diploma programs as well as making job connections for

One of these grads is Marcie Thomas who completed the summer 2013 at MATC. She was awarded first-year tuition and the complete technician's tool set from Snap-on. Marcie is currently employed at Amato Hyundai

as a general maintenance technician. She says, "Thanks to everyone in this program that made it possible for me to start my career in the automotive industry. I will always be grateful

Sue Kenealy from the City of Milwaukee Housing Authority said, "The end result of WATDA's leadership and commitment to the Green Jobs partnership means that young people, who are "drifting" and at-risk to be a burden on society, are offered the opportunity to access training, connect with mentors, feel valued and most importantly, cultivate the necessary vision to develop and maintain a successful career and life."

This project has now reached far beyond the Milwaukee city limits. Statewide teach-the-teacher workshops have been instituted by MATC through another grant secured through Wisconsin DOA and Sandra Schmit one of our newest board members who coordinates all transportation technology programs for the Wisconsin Technical College system. Schmit says, "It was the specialized diesel/CNG training equipment that was procured for the Green Jobs grant, a big investment by MATC that made this training possible." Becky Alsup-Kingery of MATC commented, "We are proud and pleased to be able to share our Green Skills experience with the rest of the Wisconsin Technical College System." It appears that the green light is on for alternative fuels careers and technology here in



Brenengen Family Matches a Grant in More Than One Way

Coulee Region Humane Society (CRHS) uncovered a really nice story about a grandmother's example that inspired her granddaughter to launch a campaign for the greater La Crosse area's warm and fuzzy friends.

Cheryl herself won't take on any regular hours at the humane society because she is afraid that she will want to take all of the residents home. She has been a foster parent for four baby African elephants, so you can understand where she is coming from on this issue. However, her 20-plus-years of commitment to the CRHS and her

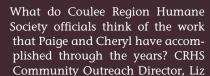
work on the capital campaign for their current animal shelter have created a shining example.

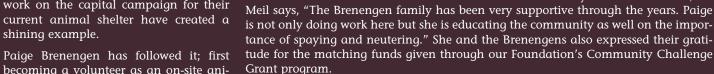
becoming a volunteer as an on-site animal ambassador who spends her time at the shelter entertaining and socializing with the furry residents. Now she has added her own fund raising campaign to support the CRHS spaying/neutering

This year Paige and Cheryl approached the Foundation's Community Challenge

The Foundation of WATDA's work - Grant program, which is how we discovered this great story. This mini-campaign with the Brenengen family's has become the centerpiece of Paige's learning experience unique to her high school, Community Challenge grant to the the Senior Exit Project. Her senior exit project campaign culminates in March with a

> Chicken Queue fund raising event, which Paige hopes will put her over her \$2,000 goal. She notes on receiving the WATDA Foundation's challenge grant, "Even though I haven't finished, it feels like I have accomplished a lot." Cheryl commented, "It's good to have young people involved in a project like this. I'm very proud of what Paige is doing." After college, Paige hopes that someday she might be able to work in animal biology or a related field. But then she doesn't totally rule out being involved the car business, where she currently works in the Detail Department.





On behalf of the Foundation of the Wisconsin Automobile and Truck Dealers Association, we are pleased to participate in grants like this, which demonstrate how well-connected our members are with the communities that support them throughout

There will be two rounds of community challenge grants offered in 2014. The application due date for spring is April 15; the fall deadline is October 1. For more information call Gary at (414) 520-7870; Julie at (608) 251-4631 or visit the Foundation's page at WATDA.org.



Left to right: Paige Brenengan; Liz Meil, CRHS, Cheryl Brenengan and Gary Beier pictured in front of the Coulee Region Humane Society in Onalaska.

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From Around the State



Center Stage: Awards, Honors, Milestones



NADA Director's Report





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