

TRAK Record



A Publication of the **Towing & Recovery Association of Kentucky**— November 2016 Edition

NOVEMBER MEETING SPONSORED BY TOW411.NET

MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE HELD NOVEMBER 15, AT 6:00PM EST AT:
BJ'S STEAKHOUSE, 201 CAMPTOWN RD., BARDSTOWN, KY
Mark your Calendars!

Another great month of TRAK has come and gone. Winter weather is swiftly approaching, which means busy season for all of us in the industry. We had a fantastic meeting in October, with more discussion on the Move Over law, lane closure procedures, and presentations by our Associate members that were present.

Reminder—WreckMaster 2/3 Training will be in Louisville on Nov 12 & 13th for any of those that would be interested. You may reach WreckMaster to inquire or register at 800-267-2266.

We would also like to recognize our newest members, Lent's Towing & Recovery from Hardin, and Rider's Automotive out of Florence. Please help us in welcoming these folks to the association.

Looking forward to seeing everyone out this month at our meeting in Bardstown, invite someone!

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The TRAK Beacon

Associate Member Spotlight

The Towing Information Network more commonly referred to as Tow411 was formed in March of 2001. Since then our network of members has grown to more than 6500 Towing Industry Professionals Worldwide. When you enter the message board you will find numerous forums. There is an Introduction forum; this serves as an entry point. After a new member has registered they can create and introduction post. Once they have completed the registration and introduction the member can then access more forums. While some forums do require a supporter status to access, many are open to all who participate.



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Currently the topics receiving the most attention are Roadside Safety and Legal Issues. Raising awareness of the Move Over Slow Down Law, which includes Tow Trucks in the majority of states now. This has been accomplished with the help of Industry Members working with their state legislature this did not happen without those individuals taking time away from their business and out of their time with family. We have several active members who participate in our Towing Information Network that have given of themselves not only for themselves but the entire industry. Watching competitors working together rather than against one another. Training together, strengthening the associations which were once thought to be a lost cause by some. Many are now returning to the association membership even though they had vowed never to participate again. Leadership changes and when it changes for the better members take notice.

Tow411 has been an advocate of strong associations. Though, I will admit to being somewhat anti-association back in 2001. I never lost the hope that a rejuvenated strong membership could set goals and accomplish them. I set out to create a reliable source of communications that promotes valuable information to unite the Towing Community. I have to add that I did not create Tow411 to give back to the Towing Industry. I created Tow411 to give the industry something that I never had access to. Within our forums you will find information relating to Industry Events, Office & Impound, Invoicing & Collections, Marketing & Finance, Insurance, Safety & Training, Leisure, Health & Wellness, Repossession & Private Property Impound. Also, Towing Equipment Listings, which many watch on a regular basis regardless if they are currently in the market for a new or pre-owned towing equipment. Our Towing & Recovery forums have over a decade of topics related to this subject and many first time visitors have stated they have spent hours looking back at all the members posts. The same is true with our Vintage and Show It Off forums. That may be the biggest advantage of a message board compared to other forms of social media. The ability to go to a specific forum and search through the archives for topics related to your interest at the time. Don't miss the Towing Equipment forums;

Tow411 has the best Equipment Manufacturer Participation in the industry. Then check out the Motor Club forums, some require and supporter status while others only require a membership combined with a request for access. Watch what other associations are discussing in the Towing Association Forums. Become active in your states forum, and spread the word about meetings, training, other events etc.

We look forward to seeing you as a Towing Information Network Member.

Ron Parrish - Administrator Tow411.net - 502-376-3071

Cops Suspended in FBI Towing Probe

Six Detroit, Mich., police officers were suspended Oct. 18 amid an FBI probe into alleged widespread towing corruption in the police department.

A police source familiar with the investigation said the suspended officers were accused of taking bribes from a tow company owner in exchange for funneling work, including towing stolen cars, to the firm.

Detroit Police Chief James Craig said the officers are expected to be indicted soon and added more officers could be suspended.

"It's still an active investigation," he said. "This investigation has been going on for some time, and we have our own internal investigation which is ongoing."

The six officers have been suspended with pay, pending the outcome of the investigation, Craig said.

Officers are supposed to rotate jobs to the 23 tow companies authorized to remove crime-related, stolen or abandoned vehicles for the police.

But the police source told a local newspaper the six suspended officers allegedly were paid by one tow company owner to bypass the other firms on the list.

Sources confirmed to a local television station that instead of calling the abandoned vehicles into dispatch to be towed, it's alleged the officers involved would get \$50 to \$100 dollars for it.

Sources also confirmed to the station that it's alleged the tow company farmed those cars out to two specific collision shops where the cars were stripped and put back together in an elaborate scheme to defraud insurance companies.

TRAA Donates to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation

The TRAA Education Foundation, Inc. donated a portion of the proceeds from the Pink Tow Truck Raffle to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. TRAA Education Foundation members took the opportunity during a recent meeting for an official check presentation in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The Pink Tow Truck Raffle was held on April 10, 2016, during the Florida Tow Show in Orlando, Florida. The TRAA Education Foundation is grateful to everyone who supported the raffle helping the organization raise money for breast cancer awareness and TRAA's education department. Many thanks to contributing sponsors Jerr-Dan Corporation, B/A Products, FastSigns, Sava and Beacon Funding for making this possible.

The winner of the Pink Tow Truck was Michael Graff of Graff Trucking & Towing in Pennsylvania. He has been using the truck to promote breast cancer awareness in his community. This is a special cause for his family as a close friend is in the midst of her own battle with breast cancer.

For more information about the Breast Cancer Research Foundation visit www.bcrfcure.org.



TRAK Monthly Meetings

~~March 15th — Cave City/Glasgow~~

~~April 19th — Louisville, Tony's Wrecker Svc.~~

~~May 17th — Lexington, Robert's Towing~~

~~June 21st — Elizabethtown, Texas Outlaw~~

~~July 19th — Florence~~

~~August — TBA~~

~~September 20th — Leitchfield~~

~~October 18th — Morehead~~

November 15th — Bardstown

December — Christmas party



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