

# TRAK Record



A Publication of the *Towing & Recovery Association of Kentucky*– MAY- 2016 Edition

**MAY MEETING SPONSORED BY OLD KENTUCKY INSURANCE**

**MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE HELD MAY 17, AT 6:00PM AT:**  
**ROBERTS HEAVY DUTY TOWING 2285 MAGGARD DR., LEXINGTON, KY**  
**Mark your Calendars!**

The annual TRAK meeting was a huge success. I would like to thank Tony's Wrecker Service for hosting the meeting. The members of the association voted as follows: Jr. Ellis – President, Kevin Estes – Vice President, Shauna Decker – Secretary, and Nick Schade – Treasurer. We would like to congratulate Mike Penn and Lee Roberts on their appointment to the Board of Directors. Also, we would like to recognize Nalls Wrecker Service, Bluegrass Towing, Ellis Towing, Tony's Wrecker Service, and Conley's Wrecker Service on their 30 year award for constant membership to TRAK.

We are looking forward to another great meeting in Lexington this month. Please come out and let your association work for you!

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# The TRAK Beacon

## *Associate Member Spotlight*



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The Association appreciates your membership and dedication, congratulations on being our Associate Member Spotlight!

## Towing Industry Leader Earns Kentucky Highway Safety Award

*\*This excerpt was taken from local news source WAFF 48. The association is very honored to have Roberts as a member and congratulate him on this exceptional achievement. —Editor*

The Kentucky Office of Highway Safety awarded towing company owner Lee Roberts of Roberts Heavy Duty Towing & Recovery, Lexington, Ky., recognition for his leadership and accomplishments in the field, the first time a safety award goes to a towing company.

"Lee Roberts has been a positive force for honesty, dedication, and professionalism in the towing and recovery business for more than 30 years," wrote Tony Young, highway safety specialist at the Federal Highway and Safety Administration who nominated Lee for the coveted prize. "During his career he has worked and continues to work to be a leader who has made a significant contribution to highway safety and traffic incident management across Kentucky."

Young and Roberts have worked together throughout the years. He singled out Roberts, born in England, for being an American success story, as well as for donating time and equipment to the State Fire School to help train firefighters; being on-call 24/7 to assist the Lexington Fire and Police departments; and for implementing company procedures to enhance the safety of his customers and crew while on assignment.

"I was floored that I even got nominated," commented Roberts, who accepted the award at the Kentucky Lifesavers Conference in Louisville, which focuses on highway safety. "And to actually get it, it's quite a shock. If it weren't for the good people who work under me I wouldn't have got it. It's not just me."

Roberts also was proud to shine a positive spotlight on the towing industry. "I want our industry to get some recognition," said Roberts, who has been a towing company owner for over 17 years and serves on the board of the International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame and Museum, based in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Always watching out for the towing industry, Roberts earlier this year helped towing competitor Dewayne "Slim" Hogan get back on his feet after Hogan lost his business in the Blue Grass Stockyards fire in Lexington. Roberts loaned Hogan a tow truck and provided him workshop space so he could continue operating.

Congratulations to Lee and his team on this accomplishment!

## Texas County Considers Rotation

Montgomery County, Texas, officials are working with law enforcement, the tow truck industry and the public to update its policy regarding non-consent towing. House Bill 2213, passed during the 2015 state legislative session, has made it possible for the county to make changes to existing towing policies to address safety issues on area roadways.

The proposed towing rotation process creates five zones in Montgomery County in an effort to cut down on the number of tow trucks that respond to a scene.

The proposed regulations only address non-consent towing. Dispatch personnel will follow a rotation of towing companies included in a list for each zone. A towing company may have a number of positions on the rotation list corresponding to the number of permitted tow trucks in each zone.

Towers would have 20 minutes to respond to a scene within each zone under the initial policy, but the timing is still being tweaked for further review. County officials also seek to ensure that vehicles are towed to a location in the county, Stallberg said. The proposed regulations require towed vehicles to be stored within the specific zone in which the vehicle was loaded.

More than a dozen representatives from towing companies across the county spoke on the record at a March 8 meeting when the regulations were brought before the court. Several drivers were in favor of a rotation process but urged county officials to tweak the regulations before approving a final version.

Milstead Automotive owner Amy Milstead said she is in favor of a rotation process to help reduce secondary accidents in the county.

"Our county has experienced rapid growth over the past few years, and traffic is a top concern for each of our citizens," she said. "The rotation [process] would help with congestion when it comes to accident scenes. We need to move Montgomery County into the 21st century—we are chasing accidents like they did years and years ago."

Tow truck operator Clinton Bass said he believed the proposed rotation was a little too drastic.

"The rotation is going to kill us small-business owners," he said. "There are different things that were done in other areas of the county—Shenandoah, Oak Ridge North—to limit the number of trucks per wrecker scene that would drastically reduce the number of trucks."

Tow truck driver Dennis Blake said during the meeting he is in favor of a rotation process as long as it is done fairly.

Source: [communityimpact.com](http://communityimpact.com)

## TRAK Monthly Meetings

~~March 15th—Cave City/Glasgow~~

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

May 17th—Lexington, Robert's Towing

June 21st—Elizabethtown

July 19th—Florence

August—picnic (date to be announced)

September 20th—Leitchfield

October 18th—Morehead

November 15th—Bardstown

December—Christmas party

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