AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA (ADAI)

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See our Web Page for past issues and other information! www.adai-inc.org

## $\mathbf{OO}$ **AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA**

*The Showroom* is the official publication of the Automobile Dealers Association of Indiana, Inc.. It is intended to provide accurate and authoritative information on the subject matter covered and is distributed with the understanding that the association is not rendering legal, accounting, or other professional services and assumes no liability whatsoever in connection with its use.

## <u>2020</u>

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# We Are In This Together!

May/June 2020 Volume 39, Edition 2

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PNC BANK PH: (317) 267-3720 FAX: (317) 267-6156 Principal Business: Floor Plan/Indirect Lending Contact: Ron Watson www.PNC.com

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www.bankofamerica.com

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Contact: Scott Jelinek

www.bmoharris.com

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PH· (317) 439-2489

Contact: Tony Clark

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Contact: Lance Marcinek

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## NADA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In 2021, the Auto Industry Event of the Year will be more important than ever, as we face ongoing challenges and navigate a new era of business for dealers. Save the date: NADA returns to New Orleans, January 21-24 for the latest workshops and other educational offerings, as well as all the cutting-edge products, tools and solutions from our worldrenowned Expo.

Dealers won't want to miss this opportunity to reconnect with peers and learn how stores are rebuilding and re-growing their businesses. The automotive community will have the chance to reunite and attending will help you re-energize your dealership and employees, learn the latest industry updates and get insights on the new keys to dealership success.

NADA firmly believes in the importance of providing a safe conference and expo experience while still allowing attendees to have fun and conduct business as needed. As we open for exhibit sales and attendee registration, please know NADA is working with our strategic planning partners at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and other local entities to provide a clean and sanitized environment at our event. Read more about safety and security plans in place for the 2021 Show in New Orleans.

The information, business connections and industry updates that will be provided at the NADA Show are more vital than ever to auto dealers in this new business climate. Let's get back to business and kick off a new year!

Attendee registration and housing will open July 20, 2020. Learn more at NADASHOW.ORG

We can't wait to join you in New Orleans!



## Save the Date: NADA Show 2021 Returns to New Orleans **January 21-24**



NATIONAL AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION



Terrv Lee *Terry Lee Hyundai-Genesis* NADAPAC Chairman



#### 2020 Contributors

(as of May 31, 2020)

\*\* Indiana's NADAPAC Team consists of the NADA Director (Chris Coyle), NADAPAC Chairman (myself), and Association Executive Vice President (Marty Murphy).

## PRESIDENTS CLUB (\$2,500 - \$5,000)

State Summary (as of May 31, 2020)

Analysis of Contributors :

## **GOLD EAGLE DONORS (\$1,000 - \$2,499)**

#### SILVER EAGLE DONORS (\$500 - \$999)

• Dennis Gernhardt - DeFouw Chevrolet Inc.

#### **BRONZE EAGLE DONORS (\$250 - \$499)**

- Morgan Jones John Jones GM City
- Charles Sauers Sauers Buick GMC

#### **CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS (less than \$250)**

Members in report: 296 Members with permission : 50 Percent members with permission : 16.89% Contributors (YTD) : Contributions received as of : Previous year 5/31/2019 \$2,370.00 Current year 5/31/2020 \$1,000.00 Current year quota \$29,160.00

Percent current year quota attained: 3.43%

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## **ADAI POSITION STATEMENT**

A level playing field, with fair and open competition among all dealers, is the best assurance Indiana consumers will continue to obtain the highest level of value and service for their automobiles, trucks and motorcycles. ADAI is committed to taking whatever actions are necessary to accomplish this mission, including enacting legislation to protect dealers in their relationship with the manufacturer. The ADAI will work to protect members from overreaching or unfair manufacturer restrictions on their ability to operate and sell the businesses they have worked hard to build. The ADAI will also work to support legislation to protect members from perceived abuses and oppressive acts by the manufacturer.

The ADAI believes any Indiana state budget surplus is a result of over taxation. The ADAI believes in maintaining a 'rainy day fund'; however, all additional surpluses should be either returned to the taxpavers in the form of tax cuts or invested in economic development. The ADAI will work for and support legislation aimed at increasing Indiana's economic development. The ADAI will work against and oppose legislation harmful to members and their employees.

## **CLASSIFIED SECTION**

\*FOR ADAI DEALER MEMBERS ONLY\*



## ADAI PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the Automobile Dealers Association of Indiana, Inc. is to maintain and enhance the franchise distribution system of motor vehicles in Indiana. The ADAI believes the franchise system of independently owned and operated licensed new vehicle dealers best serves the interest of manufacturers and consumers by insuring the most competitive and efficient means of distributing and servicing high quality new and used motor vehicles.

"Let ADAI open the door to a profitable relationship."



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## **2020 SCHEDULE:**

JANUARY 2020	Allied & ADAI/ITDA/MDAI Annual Dues Invoices	Mailed				
FEBRUARY 2020	Allied & ADAI/ITDA/MDAI Annual Dues Invoices	2nd Notice Mailed				
	1st Quarter ADAI Board Meeting	February 4, 2020				
MARCH 2020	Allied & ADAI/ITDA/MDAI Annual Dues Invoices	3rd Notice Mailed				
APRIL 2020	2nd Quarter ADAI Board Meeting	April 21, 2020				
MAY 2020	NADAPAC Contribution Request	1st Notice Mailed				
JUNE 2020	Time Dealer of the Year Award (TDOY)	Nominations				
JULY 2020	3rd Quarter ADAI Board Meeting	July 14, 2020				
	NADAPAC Contribution Request	2nd Notice Mailed				
AUGUST 2020	Herman Goodin Award	Nominations				
SEPTEMBER 2020	ADAI/ITDA/MDAI Annual Elections	Nominations				
OCTOBER 2020	4th Quarter /Annual ADAI Board of Directors Meeting	October 20, 2020				
	Herman Goodin Award	Winner Notification				
	TMDA	Submission to NADA				
	ADAI/ITDA/MDAI Annual Elections	Votes Tallied				
NOVEMBER 2020	ADAI/ITDA/MDAI Annual Elections	Results Notification				
DECEMBER 2020	Indianapolis Auto Show Indiana Convention Cen- ter - Indianapolis	December 26, 2020 - January 1, 2021				

## NADA CONVENTIONS

2020	Las Vegas	February 14-17			
2021	New Orleans	January 21-24			
2022	Las Vegas	March 10-13			

## **INFORMATION NUMBERS**

ADAI HEADQUARTERS				
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<b>Connie Dixon</b> Dealer Bond Coordinator, Vernon General Insurance	connie@adai-inc.org			

## **BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

**BMV Call Center** (Drivers License, Title & **Registration Information**)

## FAX: (317) 233-5131

(317) 232-2892

## SECRETARY OF STATE

SOS DEALER SERVICES DIVISION...PH: (317) 234-7190 FAX: (317) 233-1915

FORMS & INFORMATION (WEBSITE): www.in.gov/sos/dealer/

**REVENUE TAX LIEN & LICENSE PROTEST INFORMATION OPTION #2**—VEHICLE TITLE OR PROFESSIONAL LICENSES **OPTION #2—DEALER (LICENSE) PROTEST OPTION #4—VEHICLE TITLE (TAX LIENS)** 

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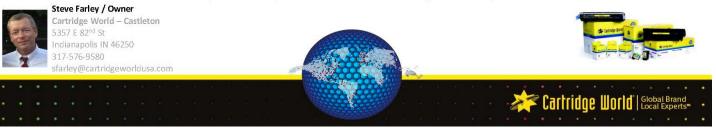
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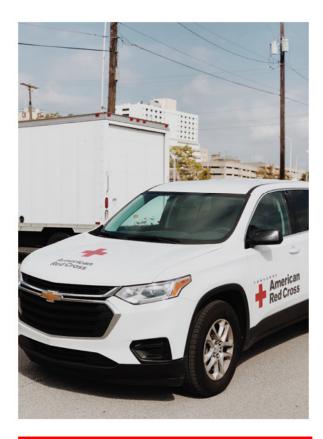
 Instead of taking your unwanted vehicle to auction, donate it to the Red Cross, and receive a tax deduction.

To arrange a free pick up, go to: www.redcross.org/cardonation or call Derence Foster at (317) 684-4380.

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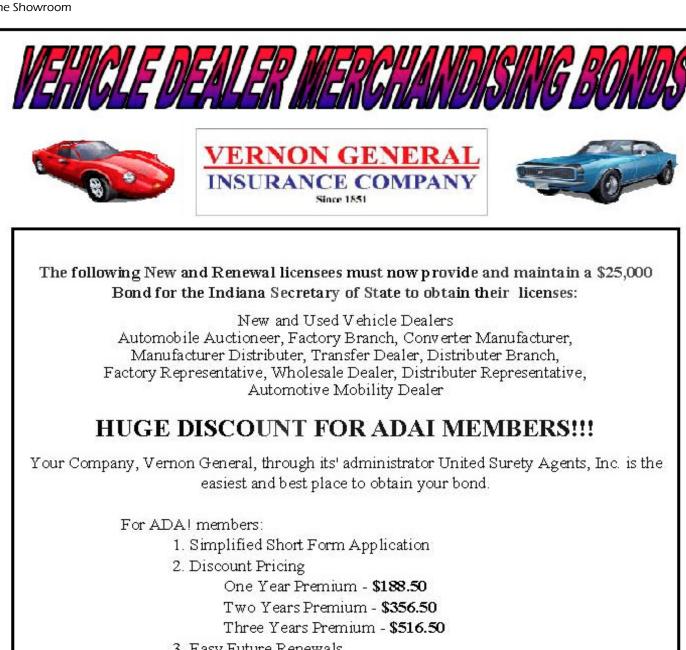


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## BONDS WRITTEN THROUGH







## **BHPH CORNER**

## **Managing Cash Flow in Times of Uncertainty**

## By: Brett Breedlove and Dan Sailer

The unprecedented events in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are impacting every business in complex ways. Maintaining adequate cash flow to sustain successful operations is likely to elevate as a significant risk for many companies. However, there are tried-and-true processes that can help identify a potential cash crunch and maximize critical reaction time to avoid or minimize business interruption. Focus on Cash Flow as Opposed to Net Income Just as it is possible for unprofitable companies to generate positive cash flow, it is possible for profitable companies to face cash shortfalls. Notwithstanding events like a sudden loss of revenue, companies that have experienced high levels of growth typically have funded their increasing working capital needs through external financing whose obligations must be met. If you are used to managing based on an income statement, now is the time to focus on liquidity by examining your short-term cash flows. Profitability becomes irrelevant if you run out of cash.

## Assemble a 13-Week Cash Flow Projection

A 13-week cash flow projection (or one calendar quarter) allows management and other users to pinpoint the major short-term sources and uses of company cash and to gauge the relative size and timing of potential cash shortfalls. Unlike GAAP-based financial statements, a 13-week cash flow is simply "cash in, cash out," similar to your personal checkbook register. To gain a better understanding of your company's cash flow picture:

Assemble a series of actual weekly cash flows to identify patterns and trends.

• Identify and forecast the total *cash sources* throughout the 13-week period, like collections of existing receivables and cash receipts from subsequent sales.

• Establish your relevant *cash disbursement* line items such as payroll, payroll taxes, employee benefits, vendor payments, insurance, rent, professional fees, other tax payments, capital expenditures, debt service payments, and any other contractual obligations. Assign each payment to the appropriate week. To compute weekly net cash flow, subtract each week's disbursements from the cash sources. Roll the cash balance cumulatively from one week to the next, identifying any periods where the cash balance reflects a deficit. A comprehensive model will also incorporate a revolving line of credit as well as projected collateral balances like receivables and inventory to ensure that the short-term collateral can support the required line of credit balance. Building from metrics like days sales outstanding, days payable, and inventory turns aids the



## BHPH CORNER (CONTINUED)

PRESENTED BY:



8

preparer in assembling a defensible cash flow projection.

Remember, it is more important to develop "reasonable assumptions" than to try to make the forecast perfect. Draft all assumptions, which should be clearly summarized, concise, and based on expected operating conditions.

week	y Ca	sh Flow P	roje	ction				
	v	Veek 1	V	Veek 2	V	Veek 3	v	Veek 4
Collections from A/R	\$	10,000	\$	10,000	\$	9,000	\$	9,000
Proceeds from Sale of Equipment	_	-	_	-	_	1,500	_	-
Total Cash Sources	\$	10,000	\$	10,000	\$	10,500	\$	9,000
Payroll, Taxes, & Benefits		-		7,500				7,500
Vendor Payments		3,000		3,500		4,000		4,500
Rent		4,500		-		-		
Insurance		-		-		3,500		-
Debt Service		-		2,500		-		-
Other Disbursements	_	1,000	_	1,000	_	1,000	_	1,000
Total Cash Disbursements	\$	8,500	\$	14,500	\$	8,500	\$	13,000
Weekly Net Cash Flow	\$	1,500	\$	(4,500)	\$	2,000	\$	(4,000)
Beginning Cash Balance		4,000		5,500	_	1,000	_	3,000
Ending Cash Balance (Deficit)	\$	5,500	\$	1,000	\$	3,000	\$	(1,000)

Example of a 13-week cash flow projection

### Benefits of the 13-Week Cash Flow Projection

The following are several tangible benefits of a 13-week cash flow projection:

• It opens dialogue among the management team and allows the opportunity for agreement or disagreement on the key assumptions driving the projected cash flows. How big is the cushion of solvency? Does pricing need to be adjusted in the short term to salvage customers? How have your competitors reacted to the current environment?

• The process distinguishes the most critical relationships to the company among employees, customers, and vendors. Management will frequently establish a hierarchy of the essential versus non-essential payees.

• It helps identify potential periods of illiquidity, allowing management crucial time to react or explore financing alternatives. The exercise also identifies fixed versus variable expenses. You can also build scenarios from the model and "stress test" it against various conditions.

• It can expedite crucial communications within your company or with your lender, creditors, investors, and external advisors. It can also aid in negotiations – lessors and vendors have a vested interest in your survival.

• Tracking actual weekly cash flow activity compared to a projection helps identify cash flow variances, improves decision-making, and allows for better ongoing assumptions.

If you miss a payment to your bank or break a covenant, your lender may request a period of forbearance subject to certain conditions. Oftentimes, one of the forbearance terms entails providing a 13-week cash flow

# Manage Costs by Maximizing Your Tax Savings.



## We offer Expense Management Services for you and your employees.

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## **Protecting Dealership Employees from Heat Illnesses**

From ADAI's endorsed provider of Environmental Health & Safety compliance services:

With temperatures rising, and summer around the corner, precautions should be taken to protect your dealership employees from heat stress, which can cause illnesses, and sometimes even death.

What can cause or contribute to heat illness? High temperatures and humidity, direct exposure to the sun, the lack of a breeze or wind, heavy physical labor, low liquid intake, waterproof clothing, and not being accustomed to a hot workplace.

There are different types of heat illnesses, such as heat exhaustion, heat cramps, heat rash, and heat stroke. The symptoms of heat exhaustion are headaches, dizziness, fainting, weakness and wet skin, irritability or confusion, thirst, nausea, and vomiting. The symptoms of heat stroke are confusion, fainting, seizures, and no sweating.

If a worker at risk for heat illness is not alert or is confused, this could be a sign of heat stroke and 911 should be called immediately and ice towels or ice bags should be applied to the employee immediately. If an employee appears to be suffering from any other heat illness, call a supervisor, or 911 if a supervisor is not available, move the employee to a cooler area, provide cool drinking water, remove outer clothing, fan and mist the employee, apply ice bags or ice towels, and stay with the employee until help arrives.

To protect workers at times when there are risks of heat illness, it is important that the dealership implement a heat illness prevention program. This program should be overseen by someone and provide training to employees to recognize the signs of heat illnesses and how to prevent them. Rest periods should become frequent when risk factors are present and cool water should be provided to these workers. Each at-risk worker should be reminded to pay attention to his/her needs, and use a buddy system to monitor one another. If possible, materials should be provided to block out direct sun, and at-risk employees should drink fluids every 15 minutes, even if they are not thirsty. These employees should also avoid drinking beverages that contain caffeine, and wear clothing that is lightweight, light colored, and loose fitting.

ABOUT COMPLYNET: Founded in 1994, ComplyNet has emerged as an automotive industry leader in compliance and risk mitigation solutions in the area of Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S), Sales, Finance, Information Security, and Human Resources. ComplyNet combines its on-site services and its intuitive softwareas-a-solution services to help dealerships, service centers, and body shops reduce risk, achieve compliance, and retain talent. ComplyNet serves over 1,000 dealers across the United States, including multiple dealership groups in the top 150. To reach ComplyNet, please visit <u>www.complynet.com</u> or contact EJ Shelby, National Director of Sales, at 219.308.2649 or ej.shelby@complynet.com.

## BHPH CORNER (CONTINUED)

projection and actual weekly cash flow reporting thereafter. **Considerations for a Possible Cash Shortfall** 

If the model shows a lack of cash or borrowing capacity in a given week, you have a problem to solve. If the gap is moderate, consider these ways to increase short-term liquidity:

- Offer a discount to customers for accelerated payments.
- Exhaust opportunities to raise debt or equity capital from existing shareholders.
- Sell excess or non-essential assets.
- If you own real estate, evaluate a sale-leaseback.
- Request temporary rent abatement from your landlord and lessors.
- Evaluate SBA lending programs or alternative financing through asset-based lenders.

 Defer capital expenditures, especially if they do not serve your core mission. Monetize slow-moving or obsolete inventory by offering it to customers for a discount or sell it for scrap value if necessary.

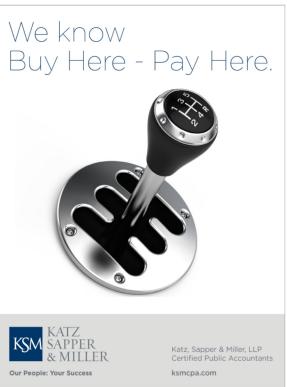
If the cash flow gap appears overwhelming, you may need to explore dramatic changes to your business model or plan for significant changes to your capital structure. If it becomes clear that your debts cannot be serviced and must be restructured, it may be wise to conserve cash for retainers to legal and consulting advisors to explore a Chapter 11 reorganization. Have copies of your loan agreements on hand so the contractual rights of the lender can be evaluated by your advisors. Navigate Beyond the 13-Week Period

Once you have established comfort in your short-term liquidity, take a longer-term view by building monthly projections and ultimately a multi-year business plan. We know Remember, disruptions must be navigated thoughtfully but they are usually temporary. This, too, shall pass! Brett Breedlove is a director with Katz, Sapper & Miller's Buy Here - Pay Here Services Group. He can be reached at 317.805.2390 or bbreedlove@ksmcpa.com. Dan Sailer is a manager with Katz, Sapper & Miller's Valuation Services Group. He can be reached at 317.452.1208 or dsailer@ksmcpa.com.

PRESENTED BY:



Prioritize payments to critical vendors or commit to terms of Cash on Delivery for new purchases.



## LAW NOTES

**PRESENTED BY:** 



10

Manufacturers Attempting to Sidestep Franchise Law -

The Need for Strengthening Indiana's Franchise Statutes

Those of you who have attended our programs over the last several years have heard us speak about different provisions of Indiana's franchise statutes. Since 2006 as a result of the ADAI and lobby efforts, Indiana has moved from the bottom third of states in franchise protections to the top third. Unfortunately, the manufacturers continually play the game of "whack-a-mole" and come up with new and more devious attempts to sidestep, weaken, or in some instances get rid of franchise protection statutes.

Franchise legislation was enacted decades ago because of the disparity of bargaining power between manufacturers and dealers. Automotive manufacturers, like farm equipment manufacturers were riding roughshod over their dealers. Many times, we are asked why should there be franchise protection? Franchise agreements are what the law terms "contracts of adhesion" meaning that the disparity of bargaining power is so great that the dealer simply is forced to accept whatever the manufacturer advances. One of our favorite questions when we litigate with manufacturers is to ask the question when or if they have ever negotiated with the dealer to change the terms and provisions of a franchise agreement.

That said the next two battles in the never-ending war is beginning to focus on two fronts:

Electric vehicles. Data protection.

It has become clear over the last year or two that the manufacturers have now decided to try to subvert state law and engage in direct sales over the Internet, essentially making the dealer nothing more than a delivery agent. This premises based on the false assertion that electric vehicles are so unique, and the technology is so different that dealers are incapable of selling and servicing electric vehicles. According to the manufacturers this supports a separate side agreement, differing from the general franchise agreement. Without the separate agreement, dealers will not be allowed to sell electric vehicles. The basis of the argument is patently false. Dealers have for decades sold electric vehicles as they have from time to time existed. What we are now witnessing is the headlong dash into a chasm by manufacturers wanting to be considered to be good citizens and wonderful environmental stewards, knowing full well that obtaining additional energy from coal-fired plants will probably offset any of positive environmental gains. In any event, the manufacturers see the electric vehicle as a predominant vehicle, certainly in the long term. Our view of that can be shortly explained as "fool's gold".

However, the manufacturers have apparently decided that the electric vehicle is the fault line they have been looking forward to weakening and perhaps destroy, at least in part, franchise statues and the dealer franchise network. Chevrolet and Buick GMC have come out with very recent electric vehicle "participation" agreements. The Buick GMC agreement has side agreements binding dealers to third-party providers and requiring indemnification of those third-party providers where the dealer has no control over the contractual relationship. Likewise, Audi, Volvo, Ford, Volkswagen and other manufacturers are attempting to differentiate franchise rights with respect to electric vehicles versus fossil fuel vehicles.

Your Association is going to mount a major legislative agenda in 2021. The Association needs dealer support and will be soliciting not only ideas or input from dealers, but also financial backing. As the saying goes, please contribute generously and often. Next edition we will discuss data agreements and how the manufacturers are destroying part of the goodwill value of your dealerships.

For further information or questions, please contact:

Marty Murphy (marty@adai-inc.org; (317) 635-1441); Ron Smith (ron.smith@skofirm.com; (317) 822-6787); Joel Nagle (joel.nagle@skofirm.com; (317) 822-6784).

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\* Projections based on consistent, eligible product sales over a 10-year period compared against traditional reinsurance programs. Earnings vary based on company performance.
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## Lance Marcinek

## **BMV offers innovative technology for Hoosier registrants**

Auto dealers are an integral part of Indiana's community and economy. The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) shares a common goal with auto dealers to provide efficient, exceptional customer service. The BMV strives to be one of the most innovative and efficient motor vehicle agencies in the country while offering progressive service options to our customers. During the recent public health emergency, our agency enhanced promotion of out -of-branch transaction options available to Hoosiers. Because of the efficiency and ease of these options, we encourage auto dealers to promote BMV online services and BMV Connect kiosks to new vehicle owners.

When notifying customers their title has been processed and they have received the Application for Certificate of Title, it is important to inform customers of the options for completing their new registration with the BMV. Many customers never need to visit a branch, they can register their new vehicle online through myBMV or at a BMV Connect kiosk. Customers can access these options through our website, found here:

- myBMV account: https://mybmv.bmv.in.gov/bmv/mybmv/default.aspx
- BMV Connect kiosk locations: https://www.in.gov/bmv/2793.htm

Although many customers are eligible to complete new registration transactions online or at a BMV Connect kiosk, there are a few important restrictions.

## **Eligibility Requirements:**

- Vehicles only. *RVs, boats, ORVs, and snowmobiles are not eligible.*
- Title must already be processed
- Purchase date must be within 60 days
- Registrant may select special organization plate types during the transaction
- Only certain plate types may be transferred online
  - □ Standard Passenger, Standard Truck 11,000, In God We Trust, and Standard Motorcycle
  - Registrant names on the transferred plate must be identical to all names on new registered vehicle
  - Once plate is transferred, the registrant will have the option to mark their previous vehicle as sold or destroyed
- Registrant will have the ability to enter insurance and passed emissions test numbers at the time of registration transaction
- Vehicles requiring additional documentation (e.g., fuel tax permits, 2290's, plate authorization forms, etc.) are not eligible for online or kiosk registrations

For more information about registering a vehicle, please visit https://www.in.gov/bmv/2448.htm.





## Steve Bassett Perspective: Federal Excise Tax Relief Can Aid Recovery

Our nation's economic recovery depends in large part on maintaining a flow of goods provided by trucks. To help ensure this important work gets done, Congress must provide a catalyst to boost production at domestic truck factories and bring customers back to our stores. The fastest and most direct way for Congress to aid this part of the economic recovery — and the trucking industry — would be to suspend the 12% federal excise tax on heavy-duty trucks and trailers. As Congress considers the next phases of virus-related economic recovery legislation, it should include suspension of the FET on new trucks and trailers until the end of 2021.

I urge my fellow dealers and others in the industry to contact their member of Congress this week to convey support for FET suspension and a strong economic recovery. Unlike other stimulus programs, FET suspension does not require more paperwork, learning new compliance rules or a new bureaucracy. In short, it is a win for the economy, the environment, truck manufacturers, dealers and purchasers. Source: Transport Topics

## **Dealers Sales Volumes Approach Highest Levels in Three Months**

Both parts and service volumes grew to their highest levels since the beginning of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, KEA Advisors announced this week in its most recent weekly dealer survey. Beginning in the service space, KEA Advisors says its 81 dealer responders recorded 5,620 repair orders last week. This was a rise of more than 1,100 orders compared to the shorter previous week and the highest number for the dealer community since Week 11 of the year — the first week impacted by coronavirus. Source: Truck Parts and Service

## **Carriers, Truck Dealers Take Safety Precautions Amid COVID-19**

As COVID-19 spread across the country and the number of cases began to spike, some trucking companies and truck dealers made significant operational changes in their maintenance shops to prevent exposure to the virus. Refrigerated carrier Prime Inc. and truck dealer Freightliner Northwest, for example, implemented several key measures to protect the health and safety of their employees as they work to keep the nation's supply chains up and running. And they didn't have to sacrifice productivity to do so. AMERICAN

Source: Transport Topics

Jake Nichols **ITDA Chairman** Palmer Trucks Indianapolis

## **ATD News June 2020**



TRUCK DEALERS



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**RETAIL FINANCING** Northern Indiana: Mike Tokoly: 219-242-5977



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BB PDF 1217-083

#### **INSURANCE CORNER**

A driver died in a rollover when a tire failed on a pre-owned vehicle he recently purchased. During the dealership's intake inspection, the inspecting employee simply checked all the boxes on the checklist without actually inspecting the vehicle. The employee listed the tire tread as sufficient, even though it was well below the acceptable limit.

CLAIM AMOUNT: \$3 Million

When a customer purchases a pre-owned vehicle, they trust your assessment of the vehicle. The customer might not ask for an independent inspection. So for safety's sake, it's important that your technicians do a thorough check for any hazards.

- Ensure your processes are thorough and up to date.
- Stress the importance of the processes outlined on your checklists at safety meetings.
- Implement a policy that requires a manager to confirm inspection findings every so often.
- Assign inspections to a trained, experienced employee.
- Consider a second inspection upon sale that reaffirms the safety of vehicles you sell.

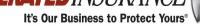
Checklists are intended to guide employees through complex, but necessary, processes. But when an employee sees a checklist, especially one they have completed many times before, they might be tempted to fill it out without performing the listed actions. This can become a dangerous habit. The claim above is not the only instance in which failing to complete the checklist could be harmful. Skipped shop and showroom safety procedures, glossed-over hiring processes, and other situations could lead to harmful and expensive consequences.

Federated Mutual Insurance Company is recommended by 19 state and national auto dealer associations for customized insurance programs and value-added risk management services, such as Federated's Shield Network<sup>®</sup>, the Risk Management Resource Center, and the Federated Employment Practices Network<sup>®</sup>. Visit federated insurance.com or contact your local marketing representative for resources you can use to create or enhance your own risk management program.

This article is for general information and recommendations for risk prevention only and should not be considered legal or other expert advice. The recommendations herein may help reduce, but are not guaranteed to eliminate, any or all risk of loss. All products and services not available in all states. Qualified counsel should be sought with questions specific to your circumstances and applicable laws.

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## Claim of the Month — Could it happen to you?

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letter; the vendor should do the rest. Dealers should be wary of vendors asking them to perform services, such as pulling potentially thousands of repair orders, in order to assist in preparing the submission. There are some true nightmare stories, where dealers have been forced to perform the work multiple times, based on lost shipments between the dealer and vendor, or even the vendor and manufacturer; in some cases approvals were delayed for months.. There should be limited distractions or side projects handed to your skeleton crew: With the proper vendor, all you've done is added a few no-upfront-cost team members to your arsenal.

A quality vendor saves you time, sure. But another great reason to have a competent third-party prepare and submit your retail warranty reimbursement is because of how well versed they are on every state's law and the manufacturers' requirements. Factory auditors jump at the chance to rebut or deny submissions, and drag out the reimbursement process because manufacturers don't want to pay you more than their standard rate—a common fact of the trade. A top-flight firm knows how to follow submission guidelines to a T and make sure your reimbursement comes as quickly as possible and gives factory auditors no leg to stand on. Although no one can foreclose on all manufacturer tactics to reduce or deny a dealer's submission, it makes sense to leverage industry insider knowledge to assure the best possible result.

## **Getting Started**

Sometimes dealers' reaction to retail warranty reimbursements is that it seems too good to be true—that's certainly understandable. But the reality is that retaining the right vendor who can guide you through the experience, including what behavior to expect from your manufacturer, can make the process as painless as possible. If you take the time to consider all of the nuances involved, you'll realize this is not the time to take this on yourself— it's not always a walk in the park.

Now, in times of crisis, it has never been more important for dealerships to see the light at the end of the tunnel. The veil of uncertainty will lift sometime in the future—is your dealership ready with the revenue it needs to get a running head start?



Joe Jankowski is Managing Partner of Armatus Dealer Uplift, a Hunt Valley, Maryland-based firm specializing in retail warranty reimbursement submissions. Joe has been personally involved in consulting on 10 retail warranty statutes and is widely recognized as an expert in this highly technical arena. Previously, Joe spent more than 20 years as CFO, COO, and CEO of a large automotive group in Maryland.

## Finding Revenue During a Crisis Through Retail Warranty Reimbursement

By Joe Jankowski

The world is in crisis, and no one has escaped the financial and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Everyone in the retail automotive industry understands the true impact that this virus is having on dealerships and just how crucial it is for stores to find additional revenue now more than ever.

Even as many are forced to furlough or lay off employees and juggle payments to keep a skeleton crew running, there is a solution that requires no upfront investment and barely any work on your part: a retail warranty reimbursement submission.

Some dealerships might be reluctant to undertake this, citing concerns such as the fact that they're focused on finding revenue immediately and can't wait 60 to 90 days, they have a hold on spending, or they simply don't have the time. The truth is that none of these issues are show-stoppers in submitting your retail warranty reimbursement. Let's address each one.

## **Revenue Now: A Profit Plan for the Near Future**

We understand that money is needed now—there's no way around that. But unfortunately, there may not be a direct answer to that besides government-funded loans and stimulus grants. However, once the economy reopens and society begins to slowly meld itself back into a shape of what it once was, dealerships are likely to be the beneficiaries of pent-up demand. Cars are going to be rolling in for repairs, and business will rebound. By submitting a retail warranty reimbursement submission today, you're preparing your dealership for the inevitable economic uptick by starting the process now, which will put money on your bottom line that you'll have access to a few months down the road.

Setting yourself up for the future should be an important focus today. Not only does a retail warranty submission help you in a few months, but it is tantamount to an annuity, the benefits of which will be perpetual.

## **Expense Reduction Mode: Never Pay Up-Front Fees**

Submitting a retail warranty reimbursement with vendors that operate with a win-win philosophy, means you don't pay any of the cost of services until the manufacturer approves your submission. When you do pay, it is out of found money. Additionally, one way to determine whether a submission is worth your while is to request that your vendor provide you a no-cost projection of just how much more you could be adding to your bottom line if you were to move forward. There should be no strings attached—you should only have to provide a few labor and parts figures on your end, and you'll immediately have a good sense of how much you could stand to gain.

This makes it easy to see how profitable a submission could be because you'll have a good estimate of just how much you may be getting and how quickly your pay-back period is on all fees. Even before the reimbursement is in your pocket, you'll have a projection of the profit number you've been looking for to start strategizing around your sustainability plans. Especially in these critical times, a vendor should ensure that their clients feel comfortable and satisfied by walking in the dealer's shoes, and not expecting fees when the dealer can least afford it.

## No Time: Let Others Do the Work for You

One of the most common objections to performing a retail warranty submission during a crisis, is not having enough time, and this is especially true now. Dealerships are scrambling to keep paychecks coming and maintaining any semblance of normalcy during the crisis, so where would they have time to prepare and submit a complex retail warranty submission? That's exactly where a true professional services firm comes in.

A dealer's participation should be limited to providing minimal access to the DMS and signing a pre-written

## **MONEY MATTERS**

## How your workplace might be impacted by Families **First Coronavirus Response Act**

### By MCM HR Solutions Group

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201) was signed by the President on March 18, 2020. This Act includes requirements for employers relating to paid sick time and family leave and is effective beginning April 2, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Employers must provide two weeks of paid sick leave to full-time employees who need leave in response to COVID-19 as well as twelve weeks of leave and job protection for employees under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) who meet certain criteria relating to COVID-19.

## Who is eligible?

Employers with fewer than 500 employees. There may be certain exemptions for employers with fewer than 50 employees should the Act jeopardize the business's viability. Eligible employees include those defined by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

## What is the effective date?

Both the proposed FMLA changes and the proposed paid sick leave take effect not later than 15 days after enactment, April 2, 2020 and would remain in place until the end of 2020.

## *What are qualified reasons for taking paid sick leave under the Act?*

An employee may be eligible for the paid sick leave if work is unable to be performed remotely and

- amount paid exceed \$511 per day and \$5,110 in total);
- that in no event shall the amount paid exceed \$511 per day and \$5,110 in total);
- amount paid exceed \$511 per day and \$5,110 in total);
- \$2,000 total); or
- no event shall the amount paid exceed \$200 per day and \$2,000 total).



## **Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act - FAQs**

The employee is subject to a federal, state or local quarantine due to COVID-19 (eligible employees will receive paid sick leave at their regular rate, except that in no event shall the

The employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19 (eligible employees will receive paid sick leave at their regular rate, except

The employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis (eligible employees will receive paid sick leave at their regular rate, except that in no event shall the

The employee is caring for an individual who is either subject to a federal, state or local quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19 or has been advised to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19 (eligible employees will receive paid sick leave at two-thirds of their regular rate, except that in no event shall the amount paid exceed \$200 per day and \$2,000 total);

The employee is caring for their child whose school has been closed or place of care is unavailable due to COVID-19 precautions (eligible employees will receive paid sick leave at two-thirds of their regular rate, except that in no event shall the amount paid exceed \$200 per day and

The employee is experiencing any other substantially similar condition specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Secretaries of Treasury and Labor (eligible employees will receive paid sick leave at two-thirds of their regular rate, except that in

#### MONEY MATTERS (CONTINUED)

presented by:



## What is the amount of paid sick leave to be provided to eligible employees?

Full-time employees are entitled to 80 hours of paid sick leave. Part-time employees are entitled the average number of hours that employee works over a two-week period.

## Who pays for the sick time or leave?

Employers must pay the benefits, but they will receive a tax credit for doing so.

## Additional information for employers:

- Paid sick leave under the Act is in addition to any paid time off currently provided.
- Employers may not require employees to use their current paid leave prior to using the paid sick leave under the Act.
- Employees are not required to provide notice to the employer prior to using the paid sick leave, however, the employee is required to follow reasonable notice procedures after the first day the employee is sick in order to continue receiving the paid sick time.
- The Secretary of Labor may exclude from these requirements employers with fewer than 50 employees based on hardship or for employers of health care providers and emergency responders. The process to request an exclusion was not defined.

## **Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act - FAQs**

### Who is eligible?

Employers with fewer than 500 employees. There may be certain exemptions for employers with fewer than 50 employees should the Act jeopardize the business's viability. Eligible employees include those who have been employed with a private employer at least 30 calendar days before the leave is requested as well as all government employees.

### What is the effective date?

Both the proposed FMLA changes and the proposed paid sick leave take effect not later than 15 days after enactment, April 2, 2020 and would remain in place until the end of 2020.

## What are qualified reasons for taking paid sick leave under the Act?

An eligible employee may take up to twelve weeks of leave if work is unable to be performed remotely and the employee must care for their child who is under the age of 18 and whose school or place of care has closed because of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

## What is the amount of leave to be provided to eligible employees?

Qualifying employees may take up to twelve weeks of leave. The first 10 days of leave are unpaid, following the 10 days, the employee is entitled to receive two-thirds of their normal wages for the number of hours they would be regularly scheduled to work (up to a maximum of \$200 per day and \$10,000 total). Employees may use any paid time off accrued during the initial two-week period.

Additional Information for Employers:

- For employers employing 25 or more employees, the employer must make reasonable efforts to restore the employee to an equivalent position following the employee's leave. A narrow exception exists for positions that no longer exist due to economic conditions or changes in operations caused by a public health emergency.
- The COVID-19 FMLA leave, which counts towards an employee's total FMLA leave allotment,

applies to any employee who has been working for his/her employer for at least 30 days and provides leave for a "qualifying need relating to a public health emergency."

provider is unavailable, due to a public health emergency. Like the first version of the House Bill, the final version still provides a payroll tax credits to ployer.

## What factors must employers consider when conducting layoffs?

Any employer covered by the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act has an obligation to provide notice of a plant closing or mass layoff in certain situations. "Covered" employers include those with 100 or more full-time employees.

### How much notice must be provided to employees under the WARN Act? Employers must provide at least 60 calendar days of notice prior to plant closing or mass layoff.

## Additional information for employers:

attorney.

We want to partner with you for the good of your people and our community. If you would like to discuss any of these new regulations and the new business model we are all in. please reach out to our team and one of our consultants will be in touch with you. Contact our team at AskHRSG@mcmhrsg.com

presented by:



• A "qualifying need" means the employee is unable to work (or telework) due to a need to care for the employee's son or daughter whose school or place of care is closed, or whose childcare

employers for paid leave and emergency unemployment assistance. These tax credits are refundable and therefore ultimately 100% of the financial burden of providing this assistance will be funded by the federal government. To the extent the mandate causes a liquidity hardship for the employer Treasury is creating a process to advance the benefit of the credits to the em-

## **Employers Facing Layoffs - FAQs**

• It is unclear whether COVID-19 would provide an exception to the WARN Act and, in such cases where a layoff is under consideration, employers should seek guidance from an employment