

Massachusetts Highway Association

Since 1893

FALL NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Volume 48



Dear Massachusetts Highway Association members:

2019

I can't believe that summer is already over and winter is almost upon us. I hope everyone's construction season is winding down.

David P. Desrosiers

It has been a challenge for us all again this year. Our town, like many others, experienced two windstorms with dozens of trees down and power outages. Some of us have dealt with tornados, although practice makes perfect and we are getting very proficient dealing with these severe storms. I don't know about you, but I think that lately I have had enough practice. It would be nice to have a mild winter. Since that's probably not going to be the case, we better prepare for the worst.

The upside to all these storms is that it reinforces the need for a robust and functional mutual aid program. It motivates us to keep this moving forward. Many of us have been working very hard on different aspects of the program. It is really starting to come together and take shape. We have had initial meetings with MEMA and MassDOT. It looks like we will be getting support from MassDOT's GIS section. This is very encouraging progress. We will keep you posted on the status over the next few months.

I recently had the pleasure of attending the 40th Anniversary of the Berkshire County/District One Highway Superintendents annual meeting. The meeting was held at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesboro and was well attended. Our congratulations go out from Massachusetts Highway Association to Berkshire County on this milestone event.

Once again, this year we had record breaking attendance at the Public Works Expo. The parking was a challenge but with the help of all our dedicated volunteers, it all came together. Thanks so much to everyone that helps at the Expo. This year everyone put in so much extra effort. You all are the best.

Let's all get prepared for the upcoming winter season so that we can keep everyone safe.

Thank you,

David P. Desrosiers P. E.

40th New England Public Works Expo breaks all records



The 40th New England Public Works Expo was held at the Boxboro Regency Hotel and Conference Center in Boxborough on September 18th and 19th. A total of 2,100 attendees viewed the exhibits of 190+ vendors during the two-day event. Attendees were also able to attend several seminars.

A big "Thank You" to the vendors who supplied door prizes that were given away hourly during the two days:

Adamson Industries, Atlantic Broom, Bartlett Consolidated, Boston Freightliner, Environmental Partners Group, Franklin Paint, HP Fairfield, JC Madigan, NITCO, Northeast Nurseries, Municipal Safety, Precision Concrete, Safe Road Services, St. Pierre Chains, TEC, BETA Group, Airgas, CN Wood, Eastern Minerals, Weston & Sampson, Reflex Tek, Gasboy, Highway Rehab and RAF.

Thank you also to the Felix Marino Company for its sponsorship of coffee and donuts and to the numerous vendors who helped sponsor the various water stations.

At transportation bond bill hearing, MMA repeats call for Ch. 90 boost

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written by Ariela Lovett, Legislative Analyst, MMA

Testifying at an October 8 hearing of the Joint Committee on Transportation focused on Governor Baker's multiyear \$18 billion transportation bond bill, the MMA repeated its request for a multiyear bond authorization for the Chapter 90 local roads program of at least \$300 million per year, with an annual increase to offset inflation.

The MMA panel, which included Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale, Fitchburg Public Works Commissioner Nicolas Bosonetto, and Ludlow Public Works Director and Sturbridge Selectman Michael Suprenant, advocated for a new method of indexing Chapter 90 increases to align with annual percentage increases in the state's Capital Investment Plan budget.

Base Chapter 90 funding has remained flat at \$200 million per year since fiscal 2012. The program was supplemented in fiscal 2015, when the governor released \$100 million in withheld authorizations and allocated \$30 million to a Winter Recovery Program, and last year, with a one-time addition of \$40 million from the state surplus. [The Legislature is now considering another \$60 million appropriation in a fiscal 2019 supplemental budget bill.]

Continued on page 2

At transportation bond bill hearing, MMA repeats call for Ch. 90 boost Continued from page 1

An MMA analysis found that the purchasing power of Chapter 90 funding has dropped by 25.4% over the past eight years, to an inflation-adjusted \$149 million in fiscal 2020. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Capital Investment Plan budget grew by 16.8% between fiscal 2017 and 2019, from \$816 million to \$953 million, but the Chapter 90 proportion of that budget decreased from 24.5% to 21%.

DiNatale and Bosonetto discussed the challenge of executing Fitchburg's pavement management plan with an insufficient Chapter 90 allotment. In fiscal 2019, Fitchburg received \$1.12 million in Chapter 90 funds, but the city needed an estimated \$9 million to maintain its roads and bridges in a state of good repair.

A statewide analysis by the MMA in 2018 documented that cities and towns need a total of \$685 million per year to get 30,000 miles of local roads and more than 2,500 local bridges up to a state of good repair, a best practice standard for maintaining capital assets. Many Massachusetts municipalities report that they must use local property tax revenue to supplement their Chapter 90 allotment, which is a hardship for large and small communities alike.

Suprenant, representing two smaller and more rural communities, expressed frustration with the level-funding of the Chapter 90 program in a multibillion dollar transportation bond bill, which the governor filed on July 25. He said state leaders are failing to recognize the importance of Chapter 90 to local public works and highway departments.

DiNatale and Bosonetto reiterated the importance of receiving authorization to spend Chapter 90 funds in a timely manner, so that the construction season can start on time.

The MMA expressed appreciation for the administration's commitment to authorizing more funding for discrete municipal transportation grant programs, including Complete Streets, Small Bridges, and a new Municipal Pavement Program. The governor's bond bill includes a total of \$190 million for these three programs.

The MMA reiterated, however, that grant programs should not supplant basic state aid, as Chapter 90 represents the only source of unrestricted, noncompetitive funds for local road and bridge maintenance and repair. The MMA stressed the need for a predictable, reliable and adequate Chapter 90 base funding level, so communities can do effective capital planning.

The transportation bond bill is still with the Joint Committee on Transportation. Once it is reported out, it will go to the House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets for a hearing.

Town of Washington Highway Department employee seriously injured

A Town of Washington Highway Department employee was operating a blacktop roller when it slid off the edge of the pavement and tumbled over an approximate 20'embankment into a brook, trapping the operator underneath. Fortunately, the operator stayed conscious and was able to keep his head above water. The Becket Fire and Hinsdale fire departments, EMS, Police and Public Works departments worked nearly an hour to lift the roller enough to extricate the operator, who was flown by helicopter to BayState Hospital in Springfield with non-life threating, but serious injuries. At last report the operator will be facing a long recovery. The accident remains under investigation.

10th Annual Mass Highway Charity Golf Tournament

by Ryan Bartlett, Charity Golf Chairman

For the past 10 years, the Mass Highway Charity Golf Tournament has recognized a long-standing member who has made significant contributions to the Mass Highway Association.

All proceeds raised from the event are given to a charity of the honoree's choice.

The 2019 honoree was Michael Valenti. Michael chose the SSG Matthew A. Pucino Memorial Foundation as the charity to benefit from this year's tournament.

We would like to extend a giant thank you to all attendees and sponsors who made this event a success!

A special thank you to Mike Valenti for his many years of service to the Mass Highway Association and to Al and Kathy Pucino, Gold Star parents of Matthew Pucino.

All in attendance were overwhelmed with Mr. Pucino's remarks during the reception.

It was an honor to recognize the sacrifice of the Pucino family and the continuing work performed by the SSG Matthew A. Pucino Memorial Foundation.

For additional information about the SSG Matthew A. Pucino Memorial Foundation, as well as information for future events, and to donate directly, go to matthewpucinofoundation.org.



Kathy Pucino, Michael Valenti and Al Pucino, 2019 Mass Highway Charity Golf Tournament reception, Brookmeadow CC, Canton MA.

Driver Skills and Safety Training event (aka Snowplow Roadeo)



Participants from Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island at the National Conference

MHA Roadeo results

Single Axle Truck:

- 1st place: Burlington, Patrick Duran and Michael DeSimone
- **2nd place:** Milford, Chris Butler and Jimmy Charzenski
- **3rd place:** Westminster, Alan Barrett and James Grenier

Wheel Loader:

1st place: Belmont, Nicholas Babcox

2nd place: Westminster, Steven Arsenault

3rd place: Southbridge, Phil Harding

We traveled to the Western Snow and Ice Conference and Snowplow Roadeo National Finals in Loveland, Colorado on September 25th to September 27th, in which the teams participated in the snowplow roadeo events and participated in workshops that were offered at the three-day event. This year, if organizations competed in all five events, the top three finishes were used for an overall winner for the competition. The teams finished very well and represented Massachusetts.

by Chris Bouchard, Chair

MHA held its Driver Skills and Safety Training (Snowplow Roadeo) on July 17th, 2019 at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area under great weather at a great location. This year the competition included the single axle truck event and a wheel loader event. All county highway associations were invited to participate in the one event to make the event larger, more competitive and build comradery among competitors. MHA and county associations have some of the best vehicle pretrip vehicle inspectors, loader operators and snowplow drivers. Your cities and towns should be proud as they have trained you well.

Thanks to all the teams and the cities and towns they represent, as well as the judges and the cities and towns they work for, and the vendors that send judges. I would like to thank our vendor sponsors as they help us in getting the loaders and trucks to the event, and Baystate Roads for helping us with registration and judging.

National Roadeo results

Single Axle truck:

Patrick Duran and Michael DeSimone, Burlington finished 28th out of 42 teams.

Wheel Loader:

Nicholas Babcox, Belmont finished 44th and Curt Wilton, West Stockbridge finished 10th out of 70 teams. Only 55 points separated 10th to 2nd.

Motor Grader:

Christopher Bouchard, Becket, finished 6th out of 36 teams

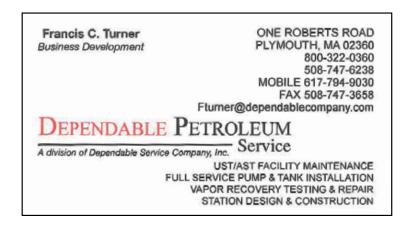
These teams competed against the nation's best snow and ice operators. Great job and congratulations on your accomplishments.

Congratulations to the other New England teams that travel to compete as well. Both Rhode Island and Connecticut were represented.

This event would not be possible without the help and support of the MHA Board of Directors, members and vendors. Over the winter, we will be working to take this event to an even higher level and will need your help to accomplish that task. If you would like to help, send Chris an email or give us a call and we will put you to work.

Driver Skills and Training (Snowplow Roadeo) Committee





Compliments of Jennifer Tetreault of HazCommpliance, LLC

Stress. Burnout. Frustration. Sound familiar? Feel familiar?

Stress in the workplace can have many origins. It can impact both employees and employers alike...and when stress occurs in amounts that you cannot handle, both mental and physical changes may occur. There is no one cause of stress in the workplace. Every worker is an individual with their professional and personal lives bringing different factors that may influence their reactions to conditions in the workplace. However, there are factors within workplaces that have been shown to influence feelings of stress in the workplace. Some of these factors include the workload, hours of work, abilities not matching job, lack of training and/or preparation, lack of appreciation, isolation in the workplace, and the list can go on.

Job burnout is a special type of work-related stress — a state of physical or emotional exhaustion that also involves a sense of reduced accomplishment and loss of personal identity. It can affect your physical and your mental health. This type of exhaustion can be from being overworked, or not sleeping enough. But it can also result from dysfunctional workplace dynamics, lack of social support, and other causes.

Frustration is also an all-too common feeling, whether frustrated with co-workers, with process, with policy, etc. According to an article their data indicated that frustrated employees make up 20% of the workforce of a typical workplace. Such workplace frustration can lead to either a breakdown of effort put forth, or the loss of an employee who would have otherwise been a great asset.

In an industry that involves physical labor, we are vigilant about the immediate tangible safety concerns that a cut off saw can cause, or the potential for being backed over by a loader, or any other acute injury that can happen. But are we overlooking some of the systemic hazards which can ultimately lead to those tangible injuries? Do you listen to your employees? Do you come down with a proverbial heavy hammer for the new safety policies, but not provide

them the resources to follow them? Are you not consistent in implementation? Are you providing them with appropriate training?

If stress, burnout and frustration are prevalent in our workforce, and are known to lead to health concerns and overall poor work environment, then perhaps we should invest time addressing this safety concern.

HAVE A SAFE SEASON!!



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Snow and Ice Operations

11/12/2019 - Hamilton/Wenham 11/21/2019 - Marlborough 11/26/2019 - Westfield

Spreader Calibration

11/14/2019 - Templeton 11/20/2019 - Dalton 12/10/2019 - Bellingham 12/17/2019 - Rehoboth

Rivers and Roads Tier 2A Workshop

11/13/2019 - Middleborough 11/14/2019 - Westford 11/19/2019 - Westborough 11/20/2019 - Westfield 11/21/2019 - Lanesborough

All About Liquid Deicers

12/5/2019 - Dalton 12/19/2019 - Bellingham More TBD

Complete Streets 201: Designing Your Streets for People

12/11/2019 - Hamilton /Wenham 12/17/2019 - Hopkinton More TBD

Class 2 and Class 4G Hoisting

ONLY Class offered until 2021 1/9/2020 - Lanesboro

Course Listing:

https://www.umasstransportationcenter.org/assnfe/ searchcourses.asp?MODE=FINDRESULTS&csSortBy=2



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Barnstable County - Roby Whitehouse

Barnstable County Public Works Association would like to express its deepest gratitude for the invaluable assistance towns provided during the storm cleanup following the July 23rd tornado that swept across Cape Cod. The communities of Yarmouth, Dennis, Harwich, and Chatham were left with an abundance of debris that needed to be cleared as soon as possible to make roads passable and keep town residents safe. Due to crucial contributions from several outside agencies and communities, the affected areas were quickly restored to pre-tornado conditions.

We would like to express our sincerest thanks to all the employees from the towns involved in storm debris cleanup efforts on Cape Cod. Without their indispensable assistance, our communities would not have been able to recover as quickly as they did.

Berkshire County - Curt Wilton

The Berkshire County/District #1 Highway Superintendents' Association celebrates 40 years this year!

We had a great year of workshops and meetings as well as a successful Charity Golf Tournament and equipment expo.

On April 25th, the First Meeting / Workshop was held at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesborough. Matt Dovell from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission gave a presentation on the group purchasing program. David Stokes, District #1 State Aid Engineer gave Chapter 90 updates. Mike Callahan from Beaver Solutions gave us a presentation on dealing with beavers at road crossings and culverts. Chris Bouchard discussed how MHA is working on the Mutual Aid Program.

On June 14th, the 11th Annual Charity Golf Tournament, was held at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesborough. We raised \$5,800 for the One Call Away Foundation, the charity that we played for.

On June 27th, the Second Meeting / Workshop was held at the Skyline Country Club, in Lanesborough. Master Chief David Hanlon, Ret., spoke about the Massachusetts retirement system, updates and trying to make them work for you. Mike Smith from Baystate Roads gave us updates and answered questions about the LTAP center.

On August 22nd, the Third Meeting / Workshop was held at the Skyline Country Club, in Lanesborough. David Sargent from OSD talked about the goods and services that are available through the Comm-Buys program and answered questions about how to utilize it. Steven Bernstein from ALLONE Health, working with MIIA, gave a presentation about dealing with driver fatigue and helpful tips to be aware of.

On September 13th, the 35th Annual Equipment Show and Picnic was held in Hinsdale at the Hinsdale Fire Association pavilion. The weather and venue were both great with an excellent turnout from our membership and vendors. We had a presentation recognizing Ray Ennis and Bill Elovirta, our founding members who were in attendance,.

On October 24th, the 40th Annual Meeting and Election of Officers was held at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesborough. Scholarships were also awarded.

Retirements / New superintendents:

Cheshire – Highway Superintendent **Blair Crane** has taken a position with the Town of Lincoln and he was replaced by **Robert Navin** who had many years of previous experience with the Town of Richmond and Stockbridge.

Hinsdale - Bud Hall is the new Highway Superintendent who previously worked for the Town of Dalton.

Heath, - Jeffrey Johnston is the new Highway Superintendent.

Essex County - Lisa DeMeo

No submission

Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex - Robert Cantoreggi

No submission

Plymouth County – John Haines

Over the summer, the Plymouth County Highway Association held its annual Ralph Hayward Equipment Show in July at the Upland Club in Plympton.

Our August meeting featured a presentation on the history of the Cape Cod Canal given from the unique perspective of touring the canal by boat.

September's meeting was an opportunity for our neighboring communities on the Cape to meet for our joint Plymouth and Barnstable County association annual meeting.

The association held a very successful scholarship golf tournament on October 7th at the Bay Pointe Country Club with over 80 golfers supporting the association.

On October the 18th, nine Plymouth county communities participated in the Snow and Ice Operator training at the Plymouth Municipal Airport.

Tri-County - Rob Colson

3/19/2020 - Tri-County Winter Meeting on the third Thursday of March

6/4/2020 - Tri-County Annual Meeting on the first Thursday of June 8/20/2020 - Tri-County Summer Meeting and Golf Tournament on the third Thursday of August

11/10/2020 - MHA and Tri-County Joint Meeting on the second Tuesday of November

Worcester County – Scott Crisafulli

WCHA had a busy and successful year. We would like to thank all our members for their generous donations towards our scholarship fund and participation in all our events. Our Annual Vendor Appreciation Day was held at Wachusett Mountain in June. It was a perfect sunny day followed by clams, lobster and a very funny Robin Williams impersonator. Our Annual Golf Tournament was held at Heritage Country Club in Charlton with 80 golfers. It was a good time for all attendees.

We would like to thank Steve Tyler and Tim Killhart for their participation and hard work on the Board of Directors. It was a pleasure working with them and we wish them the best. We would also like to welcome Vernon "Butch" Jackson from the Town of Sturbridge and Dave Smith from the Town of Berlin to the Board of Directors. We look forward to working with them.

Newsletter update

This Fall 2019 Newsletter is being distributed digitally only and is also on the MHA website at www.masshwy. org. If you are a member of MHA and not receiving the newsletter please contact the editor, Bill Elovirta, at bille@ msn.com and give him your email address. All advertisers have a link to their websites. Please support our advertisers. All news items should be sent to your MHA County Director or directly to the editor. The next issue will be distributed in Spring 2020.



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Winter Meeting in the planning stage

The MHA Winter meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2020 at Lantana's in Randolph. The program committee is hard at work planning the seminar schedule. Watch for a notice with registration information.

2019 Scholarship winners announced at Annual Meeting held on May 2nd.

At the Annual Meeting held on May 2nd Scholarship Awards were made by the Trustees to the following individuals:

Andrew Langley, James Collins, Shelby Scarborough, Brandon Hooper, Mary Tonaszuck, Elise M. Maynard, Elsie Buckley, Brooklyn Pratt, Abigail Touchet, Ruth Tracy, Julia Fitzgerald, Sarah Fitzgerald, Christian Nadeau, Patrick O'Regan, Benjamin C. Cronin, Alexis Fairbanks, Ashley Fairbanks, Spencer Cullen, Monica Kashi, Julia Russell, Mia Russell, Samuel McGown, Kristen Carreiro and Mathew C. Bagley (recipient of the Aldo Bartlett Scholarship.)

Joint meeting to be held in Chicopee on November 12th

The 68th Annual Joint Meeting of the Tri-County Highway Association and Massachusetts Highway Association will again be held at the Castle of Knights in Chicopee on Tuesday, November 12th.

Registration opens at 9 a.m. The schedule includes Public Sector Retirement Updates at 10:00 a.m., MassDOT Updates with Chapter 90 and Hot Mix Asphalt at 11:00 a.m.

More information will be provided in an upcomng mailing with registration information.

Operations Manager, Department of Public Works

Melrose Public Works is a fast paced, service driven Department with everchanging, multiple priorities and demands. We seek a seasoned manager to join us in organizing daily operations including scheduling, supervision and oversight of six divisions: Highway, Solid Waste, Fleet, Parks & Forestry, Cemetery, Water and Sewer. A detailed job description is on the Employment page www.cityofmelrose. org. The qualified candidate is an experienced manager, has maintained parks and open spaces; has demonstrated knowledge of public works and construction management and five years of increasingly responsible experience, preferably in a public works, union environment. The minimum annual salary is \$107,132 with comprehensive benefits. Please send a letter and resume by 12/4/19 to Marianne Long, Director of Human Resources via mlong@cityofmelrose.org AA/EOE.



Robert F. Brown, 58, Town of Hanson Highway Surveyor died on June 20. Robert was a former Hanover Special Police Officer, Call Fireman and long-time member of the Masonic Lodge in Hanson. He loved serving the Town of Hanson, especially in the wintertime.

Glen Burdick, Town of Florida Highway Superintendent passed away in August.