

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Volume 49 2021



President's Message



Christopher J. Bouchard

Happy Spring MHA members,

Goodbye 2020 and hello 2021! I hope that everyone has managed to stay healthy over the winter and is looking forward to spring and summer as much as I am now that the nice weather has arrived. I have cabin fever worse than ever this year and look forward to life returning to normal, if such a thing still exists. Fingers crossed.

As spring arrives, so too does the ground hog and Chapter 90 letters which came early this year. The funds are greatly appreciated (even though the letters stated FY2020. I thought we were getting extra funding...sorry no extra.) Now is the time to let our elected officials know that a timely release is much needed so that we can get an early start to the construction season that has been hampered over the past 12 months due to COVID.

We also need to keep focused on promoting a multi-year bill with increased funding for Chapter 90 as this is what will make a difference in improving infrastructure long term. There is a need to promote that Chapter 90 funding is a twofold win-win situation - local infrastructure gets improved which makes mobility better. It supports and grows the LOCAL Commonwealth economy as this money is spent with contractors and suppliers right here in Massachusetts, employing residents who are taxpayers right here.

Public Works employees are now eligible for COVID vaccinations which will hopefully help ease anxiety and the unknowns that we have faced while continuing to do our work over the past year.

We are close to rolling out mutual aid for public works; stay tuned for announcements and check masshwy.org for updates. A few bills that are being tracked include HD 1794 (a retirement credit for COVID), HD 2719 and H 7 (both bills are about 30b procurement for snow removal).

We are starting to plan for in-person events now that the state has moved on to phase 4 of reopening; please keep an eye open for news on what our events might look like moving forward and when we expect them to start happening. We are planning for the annual meeting in May.

Over the past year I have realized how we can get wrapped up in the nonstop world of Public Works...one project to the next emergency or dilemma. We are so busy that we can lose focus of how important the people with whom we work are. I have started to make sure to spend a few minutes on every interaction with someone to find out how they are doing and learn more about them.

I want to thank you and everyone you work with. Thank you for keeping our Public Works world safe, mobile, and supplied. Although sometimes the work we do may seem routine to us, nothing we do is unimportant.

I look forward to meeting with you in person soon. Stay healthy and safe.

PUBLIC WORKS STRONG

Christopher J. Bouchard

President MHA

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting and Awards is scheduled to be in-person at the Wachusett Country Club in West Boylston on Thursday, May 6th. There is also a Zoom option for those who wish to attend the meeting virtually. For more information and to register, email MHA Secretary David Lane at dlane@danversma.gov.

42nd New England Public Works Expo to be held September 15th and 16th



The 2021 New England Public Works Expo is scheduled to be held on September 15th and 16th at the Boxboro Regency Hotel and Conference Center in Boxborough, MA, conveniently located off Route 495.

This year will mark the 42nd anniversary of the Massachusetts Highway Association's equipment and trade expo, long

recognized as one of New England's largest equipment expos. The show features some of the region's latest heavy equipment, construction, municipal and highway products and services from top vendors. The show was first held at the Marshfield Fairground and has been held at Topsfield Fairground, Fort Devens, and the Central Massachusetts Expo Center at the Holiday Inn in Fitchburg, MA.

The show has come a long way since its humble beginnings and has become the premiere heavy equipment and trade show in New England! Our last expo was a sellout with over 200 vendors displaying their products and services. The expo was well attended with over 1,800 visitors passing through the trade center during the two-day show.

For more information about the Expo go to www.nepublicworksexpo.org.

Vendors who would like to participate in the Expo can call Ann or Laura at 781-245-7070.

Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Legislative Update

by Ariela Lovett, MMA Legislative Analyst

In the wee hours of the morning on Wednesday, January 6, with only hours remaining in their extended legislative session, the Massachusetts State Legislature voted to pass a \$16.5 billion transportation bond bill (H.5248). With Governor Baker's signature added on January 15, the major transportation funding and policy bill became law (Chapter 383 of the Acts of 2020).

The final version of the transportation bond bill was the result of several iterations that moved between the House and the Senate and to the Governor's desk. Governor Baker ultimately signed most of the transportation spending provisions but vetoed several high-profile policy initiatives in the bill.

The law includes funding for a number of municipal grant programs to be administered by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation:

- \$100 million for a new Municipal Pavement Partnership Program
- \$100 million to be used in part for work on state-numbered, locally owned roads
- \$70 million for the [Municipal Small Bridge Program](#)
- \$50 million for the [Complete Streets program](#)
- \$25 million for a new Local Bottleneck Reduction Program

Although the Legislature authorized borrowing for the above-mentioned renewed and new programs, they still have to be funded by the Commonwealth. The MMA is working with MassDOT to provide input on the frameworks of the new programs in advance of their being funded and formulated.

On the policy side, Governor Baker vetoed a fee increase for app-based ride-hailing services; a requirement that the MBTA implement a low-income fare option and that the state's 15 regional transit authorities study means-tested fare programs for possible future adoption; and a mandate to direct all proceeds from the in-progress regional Transportation and Climate Initiative to the Commonwealth Transportation fund.

On March 9, the MMA testified at the first virtual hearing for the fiscal year 2022 Chapter 90 bond authorization. Franklin Public Works Director Brutus Cantoreggi and Gloucester Public Works Director Michael Hale, both of whom are MHA board members, also [provided testimony](#) in support of increasing Chapter 90 funding to at least \$300 million per year and passing a multi-year authorization. They also spoke to the particular challenges communities have faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic that have caused backlogs in road repair work and additional wear and tear on local roads.

In recent years, the state has added several targeted, competitive road funding opportunities for municipalities, such as the Complete Streets and Small Bridges grant programs. But the MMA argued in our testimony that "there is no substitute for the core Chapter 90 program," which is "the only non-competitive program that maintains local control over how to spend the dollars on local road projects" and the only one that benefits all 351 cities and towns.

Flat funding the Chapter 90 authorization at \$200 million per year since at least 2012 has eroded the purchasing power of the local road funding dollars. And according to the MMA's biennial survey of all 351 municipalities, the \$200 million figure meets only about one third of reported annual need to maintain local roads in a state of good repair.

The MMA also emphasized the importance of finalizing the fiscal 2022 Chapter 90 authorization (H. 57) as quickly as possible so that cities and towns can access their allotment and begin the spring construction season on time.

The MMA filed a standalone Chapter 90 bill, sponsored by Sen. Adam Hinds of the Berkshires, that would fund the Chapter 90 program at \$300 million per year for two years. The bill (SD. 2456) has not yet been assigned a bill number or hearing date.



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Who's Going to Fill Your Shoes?

by Christopher Bouchard, MHA President

With an aging workforce and a pipeline full of projects, the age-old question of "How are we going to attract the next generation of worker to our industry?" continually comes up.

The Massachusetts Pre-Apprenticeship and Vocational School Training Program was established by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in an effort to address this issue. The one-week long program is offered at no cost to vocational schools across the Commonwealth with instructors provided by the New England Laborers Training Trust Fund with support from industry, the UMass Transportation Center and numerous Departments of Public Works.

Upon completion of the program, the outstanding students are offered the opportunity to apply for a paid co-op with a Department of Public Works. The students' wages are paid by the municipality and are reimbursed at the end of the co-op by the program. Students work during their shop week instead of going to school. When asked about what he did, one student replied "I do what they do. I patch potholes, fix catch basins, pick up brush, and put up signs."

Co-ops have taken place in Becket, Berlin, Wellesley, New Bedford, Fall River, Norton, Canton, Wilbraham, West Springfield, and Westfield to name a few. Students have gone to work at the Berlin, Ashland, and Springfield DPWs, been accepted at trade unions, and gone to work with private companies after completing the co-ops.

Program graduates have also received scholarships for CDL Class B and Hoisting License training through the UMass Transportation Center OJT/SS program.

For more information, please visit the website www.mapavstp.com or send an email to Jeffrey Cathcart jcici@cox.net.



Chris Bouchard, South Hadley DPW Director and Current Massachusetts Highway Association President Addresses the Students via Zoom.



Students at their co-ops in Becket and Berlin.

Two Legislative Items Impacting Public Works

by Robert "Brutus" Cantoreggi

1. The IG has recommended pending legislation that would end the 30B exemption for snow plowing. It would require a competitive low bid process for snow plowing, that I personally believe will be disastrous for snow removal operations. Towns rely on many small contractors in order to meet their needs and a low bid process would be highly problematic to procure and administer. Additionally, we find that the type of winter influences the number of contractors interested in snow operations. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H7>
2. Prior to 2017, hauling had been interpreted by prior IGs as being included in the snow plowing exemption. This exemption expanded to snow removal, allowing us to hire snow shoveling contractors in the same fashion we hire snow plowing contractors. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2719>

I strongly suggest that you reach out to your local Representatives to let them know how these bills would further hurt snow removal operations.

2021 Scholarship Winners

David Capelle, Chairman of the Trust Fund Committee has announced the winners of the 2021 Scholarships. Because of COVID restrictions the winners will not attend the Annual Meeting and will receive their scholarship checks by mail. Twenty-nine applications were received, and the committee will award twenty-four scholarships to the following individuals:

Applicant	Sponsor
Elsie Buckley	Ed Buckley, Raynham
James Collins	Mike Collins, Beverly
Adrianna Crisafulli	Scott Crisafulli, Milford
Jack Duran	Jay Duran, Woburn
Ava Hale	Mike Hale, Gloucester
Micah Kashi	Sid Kashi, Retired
Caroline Kelley	Annie Kelley, Acquaphalt
Olivia Kelley	Annie Kelley, Acquaphalt
Andrew Langley	Robert Langley, Peabody
Bryn Maynard	Wally Tonuszuck, Retired
Maia McGonagle	Jim McGonagle, Newton
Meghan McGonagle	Jim McGonagle, Newton
Samuel McGown	Chris McGown, Clinton
Ian Noyes	Bob Noyes, Retired
Brooklyn Pratt	Justin Russell, Peru
Julia Russell	Steve Russell, CN Wood
Mia Russell	Steve Russell, CN Wood
Angelique Scully	Bill Scully, Green Int.
Alex Stencell	Matt Stencell, Sutton
Samuel Stencell	Matt Stencell, Sutton
Zeb Tilton	Paul Tilton, Sandwich
Kathleen Tonuszuck	Wally Tonuszuck, Retired
Mary Tonuszuck (Aldo Bartlett Award)	Wally Tonuszuck, Retired
Connor Woodsmall	John Woodsmall, Holden

Safety Corner

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Lowest Bidder, Safest Value?

As the country continues to stretch its legs and get back to work, projects all over are starting up again. With springtime comes new road work, revitalization and looking ahead to a new budget year which brings funds for more projects. To complete these projects, highway departments may use their own crews, or subcontractors, or a combination of both. With budgets in mind and with spending most often on a close watch, subcontractors who can get the job done for the least amount of money may have more of a chance to win the bid. But what other factors should the process of hiring subcontractors include?

Safety considerations should be heavily weighted, if not equally weighted, as cost when choosing a subcontractor. Additionally, being aware of any subs of the subcontractor is also necessary. Hiring a subcontractor who has an unsafe track record can leave a town open for potential risk of injury to citizens, employees, or property. There are some questions that can be asked of subcontractors before awarding projects to them which can assist with the safest decision: federal safety inspection records, workers compensation ratings, and equipment/ employee safety documentation to highlight a few of these points.

One of the easiest ways to follow up if a subcontractor has been inspected or found in violation of safety regulations is through the Occupational Safety and Health Administrations (OSHA) website (<https://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/establishment.html>). Because subcontractors are considered in the private sector regardless of working for a municipality, they fall under OSHA's jurisdiction. Therefore, any inspections and subsequent citations will be listed in this search function. A few minutes of due diligence on this website can reveal one aspect of safety compliance of a subcontractor, although certain safety violations may not be determined to render a subcontractor ineligible for the project. It is a starting point to open the conversation of past audits or citations, and the subcontractor can be asked to produce safety remediation and follow up for past safety infractions. In other words—was the violation something that they learned from and improved on in that area.

Another way to follow up on subcontractor safety is to request workers compensation modification ("mod") rating. This number may lend to indicating if a subcontractor is higher risk. If the workers compensation

company rates them higher, this may be due to multiple recent injuries, or possibly some larger compensation cases. Some companies hiring subcontractors require mod ratings to be less than 1, or less than the industry standard. One potential concern with setting an exact range for this type of parameters, however, is that one large surgery comp case or serious injury comp case can increase that mod rating for a few years. This number is not always representative of how safe a company is, rather the number of types of injuries their employees have sustained. Yet, using the mod rating as a way to continue the conversation and discuss the injuries would be beneficial for understanding the subcontractor's employee injury record.

Requesting subcontractor's safety verification documentation is another avenue for assessing safety protocols and intentions. Do they inspect their equipment on a regular basis? Can they provide certifications? Are their employees trained in safety (not just an "OSHA 10", but additional training)? As a hiring entity, towns have the right to request supportive documentation before awarding someone a project. Scrutiny of how a subcontractor plans for a job with equipment and employees regarding safety should be paramount.

Alas, there are subcontractors who can appear to be squeaky clean in the safety division. For example, if the subcontractor is owner-operated and s/he is the only "employee", thereby being self-employed, they may not fall under OSHA jurisdiction and would not subsequently appear in an inspection search. Or likewise, have workers compensation insurance. However, they may intend to hire subsequent subcontractors at which point it is prudent to request the same information of the subs of the sub.

The bottom line, in the Safety Corner's opinion, is that safety records and intention should be part of awarding projects when looking at a subcontractor to hire. We do not purchase the cheapest fall protection that may not have the ANSI rating and then go walk steel beams; we should not be focusing on low bidding alone to provide services in our towns, especially considering many will be coming with hazardous equipment and scenarios (earth moving equipment, electrical, excavation, work zone, etc....) and risk of injury to the town.

Be safe, not cheap.

MHA Mutual Aid - April 2021

by Mutual Aid Committee

Public Works Mutual Aid Program roll out has been a little slow due to COVID. Much work has been taking place in the background to make sure we are successful when fully rolled out. We have been working on SOG's, a user guide for CMAC's to follow, tablet use, form changes, etc. The MassDOT GEODOT team has been great in helping us streamline our forms and the GIS platform so when the roll out happens, we will be ready to hit the ground running.

We will continue with some training for the CMAC's on changes that we are implementing. Please look for future notices on sessions that explain how to use the program for either requesting assistance or sending assistance. We also need your help in keeping communities'

24-hour contact information up to date by completing the section on the membership dues form. We need this up-to-date direct 24-hour contact information in the event a request for help goes out or if others want to send assistance to those who request it.

It has been very exciting to see how we have grown from a conversation to an actual program that is almost ready to deploy. It has taken a lot of time and has not moved as quickly as the team had envisioned, but it will be an invaluable resource once it is rolled out. This program will always be evolving as we find new tools and ways to utilize them as we move forward.



Upcoming Training

"Stump the Instructor" A Weekly Series

One-hour online training session at 8 a.m. every Wednesday. Topics have ranged from chainsaws, gravel roads, leadership and more. Please send mdsmith@umass.edu your Hot Topic ideas or if you are interested in speaking for a session.

Sessions are recorded weekly, so visit: <https://www.umasstransportationcenter.org/umtc/Stump-the-Instructor1.asp> to watch and show your crews any that you have missed.

Subscribe to the Baystate Roads Listserv

Baystate-roads-l Mailing List is an email message system to reach the municipal public works departments throughout the Commonwealth. It provides a way that municipalities can pose questions and discuss topics among public works peers.

The Baystate Roads Program Listserv is open to members of municipal highway departments throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as well as individuals from State and private agencies.

Subscribers can post a message to the listserv members by sending an email to baystate-roads-l@engin.umass.edu.

To see the collection of prior postings to the list, visit the Baystate-roads-l Archives. (The current archive is only available to subscribers.) To subscribe, please follow this link: <https://list.umass.edu/mailman/listinfo/baystate-roads-lor> email donnelly@umass.edu

Online Trainings:

Grader Operator Training

5/5/2021 - Virtual Classroom

6/9/2021 – Virtual Classroom

Register: <https://www.umasstransportationcenter.org/assnfe/CourseView.asp?MODE=VIEW&clCourseID=1611&csCategory=&csFrom=&csTo=&csKeyWord=&csSortBy=2&clPageNumber=1&clParentCategory=0>

Flagger/First Aid Training

6/1/2021- Virtual Classroom

6/2/2021 – Virtual Classroom

6/2/2021 – Virtual Classroom

Register: <https://www.umasstransportationcenter.org/assnfe/CourseView.asp?MODE=VIEW&clCourseID=1631&csCategory=&csFrom=&csTo=&csKeyWord=&csSortBy=2&clPageNumber=1&clParentCategory=0>

Drainage – Roadway Maintenance and Reconstruction

5/4/2021 Virtual Classroom

Register: <https://www.umasstransportationcenter.org/assnfe/CourseView.asp?MODE=VIEW&clCourseID=1652&csCategory=&csFrom=&csTo=&csKeyWord=&csSortBy=2&clPageNumber=1&clParentCategory=0>

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County Association News

Barnstable County – Roby Whitehouse

Barnstable County Public Works Association held a virtual meeting in December with a presentation from State Representative Tim Whalen who provided an update to the Association. At February's virtual meeting, Anthony Will of Read Custom Soils provided a presentation on storm water runoff problems and green infrastructure concepts to improve municipal storm water programs. The April 1st virtual meeting included a conversation about "Recycling Market Rumors" from Mass DEP Branch Chief Brooke Nash, and Regional Waste Reduction Coordinator Kari Parcell.

Barnstable County Public Works Association has scheduled its Annual Scholarship Charity Golf event for June 7th, 2021 at the Club at New Seabury. For information about the tournament including how to sign up: <http://www.bcpwa.info/golf-event/>.

Barnstable County Public Works Association members have met remotely and plan to continue having remote meetings to keep Public Works conversations moving.

Berkshire County – Curt Wilton

2021 Association President Justin Russell from Peru

2021 Association Vice-President Chip Dazelle from Huntington

As the Berkshire County Highway Superintendent's Association enters its 41st year, we are eager to try to get back to some form of normalcy. It has been a full year since the COVID19 pandemic has changed all our lives forever. As essential workers, we have learned and developed different skills along the way that in the past seemed so matter of fact. We are a resilient bunch who fully understand our duties and responsibilities as public servants. I want to take this opportunity to personally thank all who have served during these critical times. Our 2021 events and dates have been set, but due to the virus, we are anticipating that some of these events may change.

April 22nd - 1st Meeting/Workshop, venue and agenda TBA

June 18th - Annual Charity Golf Tournament, (Venue TBA).

June 24th - 2nd Meeting/workshop, venue and agenda TBA

August 26th - 3rd Meeting/Workshop, venue and agenda TBA.

September 17th - 37th Annual Equipment Show & Picnic, Hinsdale Volunteer Fire Grounds, Maple St., Hinsdale.

October 28th - 41st Annual Election of Officers and Scholarship Awards, venue TBA.

New Appointments and Congratulatory Kudos

Becket: Ed Pickert - Highway Superintendent

Sheffield: Jim Collingwood - Highway Superintendent

Chester: Karl Baldasaro - Highway Superintendent

Williamsburg: Dan Banister - Highway Superintendent

Pittsfield: Alison McMordie - Highway Director

In closing, the Berkshire County Highway Association would like to thank Secretary Jerry Coppola and Treasurer Bill Elovirta for their hard work and commitment to keep our organization strong and sound. Thank you both.

Essex County – Michael Hale

The association held its annual election on December 20th with the following results:

President – Lisa DeMeo; 1st Vice President – Chris Cronin; 2nd Vice President – Carlos Jaquez; Director at Large – Mike Collins.

Robert J. "Bob" Walsh, 57, of Peabody, died suddenly Friday morning February 26, 2021 after being stricken at work. Bob was a water treatment operator for the City of Peabody for the last 26 years. Additionally, he worked part-time as an operator for the Town of Rowley Water Treatment Plant. Bob was a dedicated worker and someone who took great pride in his job. He often said, "If you are not going to do it right, don't do it at all," - a motto he followed closely and tried to instill in all that he worked with. Bob would do whatever it took to get the job done. "Safety first" is something he would always say, although, he had his own ideas of what that meant. He treasured the friendships he made at work and often treated his co-workers as a second family. He will be sorely missed in both Peabody and Rowley as will his stories and crazy work adventures that he shared with his co-workers and his children.

Trade Show

22nd Annual Essex County Public Works Expo and Snowplow Safety Competition will be held on Tuesday, May 11th at DiBurro's in Haverhill, Massachusetts. After a lot of discussion, we decided to hold this much anticipated event. In preparation, we have made some changes to increase the probability of a successful day. The date has been moved back a month and the booths have been moved from indoors to the outside deck. Hopefully these changes and the increased access to vaccines will allow us to move forward with these plans. We hope to have the great attendance we usually have.

Golf tournament

ECHA Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday August 2nd at Thompson Country Club in North Reading. Our tournament Chair has been working closely with the club on all details. The meal will be outdoors under a tent and all current COVID guidelines will be in place. This is the largest contributor to our scholarship fund so come have fun and help a great cause.

Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex – Robert Cantoreggi

Richard "Chip" Barrett, PWLF, retired on March 31st as Westford Highway Superintendent. Chip had 44 years with Westford starting his career on his 18th birthday in 1977. Throughout his career he has had the honor to serve as a firefighter/EMT, police patrolman, elected official to the Board of Water Commissioners and for the past 30 years as Highway Superintendent.

Chip belonged to, and was involved in, several professional organizations including Massachusetts Highway Association, New England Chapter APWA (Immediate Past President and NBM Highway Association (Past President). A Public Works Appreciation Parade to honor Chip was held in Westford on Wednesday, March 31st.

Craig Hughes, a 34-year employee, retired recently as Superintendent of the Dover Highway Department. Craig also retired from the Fire Department after 45 years and most recently served as Dover Fire Chief.

Plymouth County – John Haines

After a coming out of a long hiatus, the result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Executive Board of the Plymouth County Highway Association has a renewed excitement for the future of the Association. COVID-19 has forced all of us to re-assess the way we all "normally" do business. The Executive Board is looking at this as an opportunity rather than a challenge - an opportunity for our Association to revitalize and engage its membership, providing new and improved benefits that will encourage growth for both our members and Association. Over the next

few months members will see a renewed outreach effort from the Association on many different platforms; virtually utilizing multiple social media platforms and in person for those who are ready.

In other news, after a very short retirement, Tom Reynolds has returned to the position of Director of Public Works for the Town of Marshfield. The town of Hanson has promoted Jamison Shave to the position of Highway Superintendent.

Tri-County – Rob Colson

DPW Director **Chris Golba** retired with over 15 years of service with the Town of Agawam and 31 years of service with the City of Chicopee. **Mario Mazza** was selected as Agawam's new DPW Director. Mario has been Longmeadow's Director for the last six years and was with Springfield DPW for 15 years prior to that. We wish Chris a happy retirement and best wishes to Mario in Agawam.

DPW Director **David Billips** retired with 17 years of service with the City of Westfield. Dave, who also has a degree in Chemical Engineering, has also worked with IBM.

We are looking forward to a successful Summer Golf Outing on August 19th at the Southampton Country Club. Your participation is what makes it a success so please get a foursome together and come out for a great day.

Worcester County – Scott Crisafulli

WCHA sadly cancelled the March and April meetings this year. Our Vendor Appreciation Day meeting is scheduled to be held on June 8th at Wachusett Mountain. In the event that this event will be changed, information will be posted on the website. We have received some great scholarship applications and hope to award them at the June meeting. We look forward to getting back to normal, stay positive and be safe.

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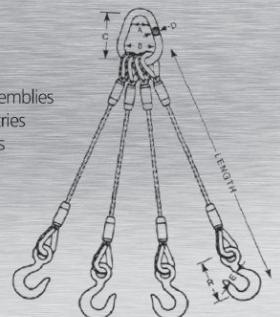
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Massachusetts Highway Association 2020 Appreciation Awards

The Massachusetts Highway Association awards committee recently presented the 2020 annual Appreciation Awards to the following individuals who have helped the organization. Due to the cancelation of the 2020 Annual Meeting these awards have been presented individually to:

Francis Granger Award to Scott Crisafulli

John Kiley Vendor of the Year Award to Mike Myers, TEC

Past President Award to Dave Desrosiers

MHA Appreciation awards to Neil Andres, JC Marketing Associates, Todd Korchin, Jim McGonigle, and Ed Urbansky.



(left to right) MHA Award Chair Tom Reynolds; Todd Korchin; Scott Crisafulli; James McGonigle; MHA 2nd VP John Haines.



Ed Urbansky



(left to right) MHA 1st VP Lisa DeMeo; Ann Hadley, JC Marketing; MHA Award Chair Tom Reynolds.



(left to right) MHA Director Scott Crisafulli, Neil Andres, MHA Award Chair Tom Reynolds.

Driver Skills and Safety Training Event (aka Snowplow Roadeo)

by Chris Bouchard, Chair

MHA is preparing another great Snowplow Roadeo after having to cancel last year's event. The 2021 event is scheduled for July 14th at Wachusett Mountain. Two events - the single axle truck and wheel loader - will be featured again this year.

The MHA Board of Directors is continuing its support of this training event and hopes to continue sending teams to represent Massachusetts

in the national finals which will be held in Loveland, Colorado from September 29th to October 1st, 2021.

This event would not be possible without the help and support of the cities, towns, Baystate Roads Program, and vendors that participate in the event and help with judging and running the rodeo.

Newsletter update

This Spring 2021 Newsletter is being distributed digitally only, plus it will be on the MHA website at 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 direct to the editor. The next issue will be distributed in the Fall of 2021.

Annual MHA Charity Golf Tournament

by Ryan Bartlett, *Charity Golf Chairman*

The MHA Larry Bombara Memorial Charity Golf Tournament is scheduled for Tuesday, August 17th at the Brookmeadow Country Club, Canton, MA. The 2021 Tournament Honoree will be Tom Reynolds. Registration details will be emailed to membership in the coming weeks.

Corporate members interested in sponsorship opportunities are strongly encouraged to contact the MHA Charity Golf Committee at mha.golf2021@gmail.com.

Member News



Margot Schoenfelder, PE, ACIP has joined Environmental Partners (EP) as a Project Manager continuing the expansion of the firm's Transportation group. Margot brings diverse skills in transportation design and planning to the position. Her experience includes pedestrian/bicycle facilities, urban roadways, highways, and drainage infrastructure.

Annual Election of Officers

At the December 10, 2020 Virtual Board of Government Meeting a discussion took place on the 2021 Election of Officers. Discussion ensued that the COVID-19 pandemic had cancelled most meetings and the Expo and that no one knew what the future year would bring. Ultimately the Board voted to cancel the election of officers for 2021 and keep all elected and appointed officers in place for another year.



Bartlett
Roadway Safety Is Our Priority



John Tyler "J.T." Gaucher, P. E., 66, passed away on January 3rd.

J.T. was a lifelong resident of Millbury. He graduated from Millbury High School Class of 1972. He went on to graduate from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and participated in the Environmental Engineering Graduate Program at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He became a water pollution control engineer at multiple engineering firms from 1976 to 1985 before designing improvements to the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Facilities in 1986. From 1986 to 1990, he worked for many private engineering firms, designing multiple public works, wastewater treatment, and highway department facilities for Charlton and Leicester, MA, and Nashua and Hocksett, NH.

In 1990, J.T. became the Deputy Director of Public Works for the City of Woonsocket, RI and held this position for 12 years, spearheading multiple public works projects. In 2002, he became the Director of Public Works for the Town of Hopkinton, MA and held this position for eight years. From 2010 to 2017 he served as Director of Public Works/Town Engineer for Webster, Lynn, and Ludlow, MA. He was Senior Engineer at Criterium-Dudka Engineers of Hopkinton, MA until his passing. He was a member of the American Public Works Association, New England Water Environment Association, Massachusetts Highway Association and Worcester County Highway Association.

Thomas R. Cummings of Holbrook passed away on October 25, 2020 at the age of 83. Tom worked as the DPW Superintendent for the Town of Holbrook for 58 years before retiring in 2012. Tom was a very active member of the Massachusetts Highway Association, serving on the Board of Directors for several years and as President in 1993 during the MHA 100th Anniversary gala.

Edward C. "Jake" Jacobson passed away on March 9, 2020. He served in the United States Navy from 1960 until 1965 where he was a member of the Navy Band.

Jake worked in the construction industry and was a member of Local 4, Operating Engineers Union, retiring in 2010. He was also Highway Superintendent in Easton from 1984 until 2002. He served on many committees in Easton as well as being a call firefighter for 25 years and a Special Police Officer. He was a past Commander of the American Legion Post 7 in Easton and Commodore of the Taunton Yacht Club from 2001 to 2003.

Jake was a Massachusetts Highway Association Director from 1999-2002 and assisted Ray Payson with the annual Equipment show.