

# Massachusetts Highway Association

Since 1893

Volume 52 2022

## FALL NEWSLETTER

### President's Message



Lisa DeMeo

We're baaaack!!

We all made it through the pandemic (so far) and life and work are beginning to be familiar again. Meetings still have a virtual component, but most gatherings are in person again. It feels so good to see colleagues and shake hands, or hug. Physical interaction feels like a reward for the last two years.

The technology that was installed, and we all had to learn how to use, kept us in touch and learning. It was not as satisfying as in person meetings, but it allowed us to keep moving forward. And now that same technology is helping us stay connected when travel time will not fit into your calendar. Hybrid meetings with virtual links are becoming common and sometimes a helpful option.

There are events planned across the state with in person offerings. Please take advantage of these opportunities to catch up with friends and colleagues and learn what is going on! Bay State Roads always has a variety of relevant course offerings available; please check their website for current availability.

Keep an eye on the MHA calendar online for the latest scheduled events from all the county highway associations.

- November 5 NBM Gala in Norwood
- November 15 MHA/Tri-County Meeting in Chicopee
- November 15 Worcester County General Meeting location TBA
- November 16 NBM Snow & Ice Meeting
- November 17 Plymouth County Assoc. Meeting
- December 1 ECHA Fall Technical Meeting in Andover
- December 1 Barnstable County Meeting
- January 20 MMA Annual Meeting Boston
- February 2 MHA Winter Meeting location TBD

I hope you all have a healthy and safe holiday and winter season.

Lisa E. DeMeo, P.E.

Town of Salisbury DPW Director

### 70th Annual Joint Meeting of Tri-County and Massachusetts Highway Association

The following speakers have confirmed they will attend/present at our November 15th annual joint meeting at the Castle of Knights in Chicopee. The tentative schedule is:

**10:00 am - 10:30 am**

Human Resources Hiring Practices, tips and tricks to find and get the best candidate for jobs by Paul Winspeare, HR Director, City of Chicopee and member of Massachusetts Municipal Human Resource Association.

Selectboard process to attract and retain the right DPW People by Town of Windsor MA Selectboard Chairman Doug McNally.

**10:30 am - 11:00 am**

Massachusetts Pre-Apprenticeship and Vocational School Training Program, Jeff Cathcart, Director Massachusetts Pre-Apprenticeship Program, UMASS Transportation Center Workforce Development Program

Cindy Schaedig, Employment Counselor, Massachusetts Pre-Apprenticeship, Vocational School and UMTC Workforce Development Program

**11:00 am - 12:00 noon**

Residential / Municipal Trash and Recycling - residential hauling and disposal, commercial trash and food and overall Industry status update. Representatives from four major Industry service providers: Republic Services, Casella Waste Systems, Waste Management, and USA Hauling & Recycling.

The technical session will be followed by social time and lunch. Please watch for the Tri-Cty or MHA registration form to sign up. Let's hope for good weather and a large turnout.

### MHA Annual Meeting was held on May 5th

The MHA Annual Meeting was held at the Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton on May 5th with the election of officers, awards, and the presentation of the scholarship awards.

Lisa DeMeo, P.E., Salisbury Public Works Director, was elected President, John Haines, East Bridgewater was elected 1st Vice President, and Scott Crisafulli of Milford was elected 2nd. Vice president. Directors include Past President Christopher Bouchard, South Hadley; Roby Whitehouse, Yarmouth representing Barnstable County; Curt Wilton, West Stockbridge representing Berkshire County; Michael Hale, Gloucester representing Essex County; Robert "Brutus" Cantoreggi, Franklin representing NBM; Robert Colson, West Springfield representing Tri-Cty; Christopher Peck, Middleborough representing Plymouth County; and Jay Fink, Worcester representing Worcester County. The Associate Directors include Jason Page, Advantage Truck, NE, and Catherine Schoenenberger, StaySafe Traffic. Christopher Cronin was elected to the Trust Fund Trustees.

The Association Member of the Year award was presented to Tito Sanchez from BETA Group for their support, knowledge and contributions to all in the public works profession and also distinct, dedicated years of service to the Massachusetts Highway Association.

A Recognition of Distinguished and Meritorious Achievement Award was presented to Jose Simo, MassDOT's Geo DOT Transportation Planner.

*Continued on page 9*

# 2022 New England Public Works Expo Saw Record Attendance

The 2022 New England public Works Expo was held on September 21st and 22nd at the Royal Plaza Trade Center in Marlborough. This was a new event location this year, and even though the weather on Thursday was inclement, a record 2169 attendees viewed the booths of over 200 vendors.

Marlborough Mayor Arthur Vigeant welcomed MHA on Wednesday and participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the Expo. Expo highlights included a career fair for technical high school students, and on-site safety sessions that included work zone, chipper, and chainsaw safety.

Thank you to all the vendors, Royal Plaza employees, Expo Chairman Dave Capelle, and MHA staff and volunteers who made this a great success. Thank you to the following vendors who donated door prizes that were drawn from the registration cards over the two-day Expo:

ATG Groups, Adamson Industries, Advantage Truck, Bartlett Consolidated, BETA Group, Chadwick BaRoss, CN Wood, Environmental Partners, Eastern Minerals, Felix Marino Company, Franklin Paint, Highway Rehab, JC Madigan, McGovern Auto / Municipal, Northeast Traffic Control Services, St. Pierre Chains and Weston and Sampson

The 2023 Expo will also be at the Royal Plaza Trade Center in Marlboro on September 20th and 21st.



# Mutual Aid Update

by Christopher Bouchard

Happy fall everyone! The mutual aid committee has been hard at work behind the scenes working with MassDOT and BETA refining the GIS workflow platform for the CMAC's to make this as user friendly as possible.

We recently did a presentation for the NE APWA Chapter's Fall Conference in Boxborough on all the work our committee has accomplished. We discussed all of the partnerships that we have formed crossing state, local agencies, consultants, and the GIS technology platform in which we are utilizing and touched on a few of the events in which we helped coordinate aid in the short time frame in which we have been operational, which was well received by all in attendance.

Our next steps include setting up trainings with the CMAC's as we have been issued new logins from MassDOT. This will allow us to run a tabletop exercise to familiarize everyone with how the latest version works, set up a training with MEMA on our latest version, and include MassDOT's emergency response team as well.

Please remember to keep your city or town's DPW emergency contact information up to date on the yearly membership form and be sure to provide any changes. This up-to-date information will be very important for the CMAC's to have when reaching out to provide or request assistance for mutual aid in order to be successful.

We must thank MassDOT's GeoDOT Division for providing us this platform to work on and Jose and his team for all of the work they have put into this to get us to where we are, BETA for allowing Tito to get us started and continuing to guide us with this technology and helping us understand how we can better utilize the platform, and Dave Desrosiers for his work with the form and continuing to make it easier for all to use.

When I look back, it seems like it was a long time ago when we were fighting to get recognized as First Responders and get Mutual Aid Agreements. It has seemed like it has been a long uphill journey.

Here we are at the end of 2022 in a place I never imagined we would be, with tools and resources to allow us to help each other with a phone call or email in a timely response. *Thank you to all who have contributed and helped in this journey, for your vision, tenacity, strength and good will to carry us forward on this mission for public works for now and the future.*

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# Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Update

By Adrienne Núñez, Legislative Analyst, MMA

Hello Massachusetts Highway Association members!

I am Adrienne Núñez, the new legislative analyst covering public works, transportation, and utilities policy. I joined the MMA team at the end of March and since then, the Mass. Highway board has been helping me to get up to speed on all things public works and transportation. Thank you to board members for your generosity and willingness to share your expertise.

In the past several months, I have attended Mass. Highway Association board meetings, the Annual Meeting, the Equipment Expo, and met with the legislative subcommittee to take a deep dive into current policy topics. I look forward to attending the Tri-county meeting in November and continuing to meet Mass. Highway Association members. If you see me out in the field, please say hello!

The last few months of the legislative session saw the approval of supplemental roadway funding through the Winter Recovery Assistance Program, a Chapter 90 bond bill that includes additional funding for municipal grants, and a massive transportation infrastructure bond bill.

The Winter Recovery Assistance Program or (WRAP) was part of the \$1.6 billion FY22 supplemental budget that allocated \$100 million for a reimbursement program to provide funding to assist cities and towns in addressing roadway damage caused by winter weather. Local allocations were based on road miles, and cities and towns have until June 30, 2023 to spend their distribution. This much-needed, flexible funding is a welcome supplement for cities and towns.

On June 17, the annual Chapter 90 bond bill was signed by the governor at \$200 million. The Chapter 90 program provides annual funding to municipalities for capital improvements on local ways and is allocated based on a municipality's road miles, population, and employment. In addition to the \$200 million, the legislature also included \$150 million for various municipal grants including the Municipal Small Bridge Program, Complete Streets, Municipal Pavement, as well as funding to improve bus stops and stations, and mass transit and commuter rail stations and parking lots.

The MMA is appreciative of the additional funding made available to municipalities through grant programs, however, we know that not all communities are able to access these grants. The MMA and Mass. Highway Association have long advocated for increased funding for the Chapter 90 program. This advocacy will remain a priority moving forward.

Closing out this legislative session, we saw the passing of An act relative to Massachusetts transportation resources and climate (MassTRAC). This law provides nearly \$11.4 billion in authorizations for strategic investments in transportation infrastructure predominantly through state programs focused on highway, transit, and energy and environmental affairs.

A core focus of the law is to provide the necessary authorizations to ensure that the Commonwealth is well-positioned to receive federal aid through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Of the total authorizations, \$2.8 billion is related to formula funding through the BIL and \$3.5 billion is meant to support pursuit of BIL discretionary grants.

Also included is funding to support electric vehicle use and expand electric vehicle infrastructure; funding for east-west rail; regional transit authorities, MBTA safety improvements and modernization; municipal grant programs (Complete Streets, Shared Streets and Spaces, and Municipal Pavement), nearly \$1 billion in local project earmarks, and more.

In addition to bond authorizations, the law contains a handful

of policy items including basic regulation of e-bikes and reduced reporting requirements for communities receiving less than \$25,000 in Transportation Enhancement Trust Fund disbursements.

There were many items left on the table this session. We are still awaiting movement on an economic development bill that was initiated months ago but stalled due to an unexpected triggering of the 62F law that requires a large portion of the state's fiscal 2022 budget surplus to be returned to taxpayers. As well, legislation focused on mattress, paint, and electronics recycling did not pass before the close of formal session. It is likely we will see action on these items in the next session.

The MMA is now looking towards the new session. MMA policy committees and board of directors with input from the Mass. Highway Association, are preparing priorities for the next session. Among these priorities will be a focus on increasing Chapter 90 funding, indexed to inflation; review of procurement law to address inflation; and a focus on workforce development.

To support our advocacy efforts, the MMA will soon disperse our biennial Chapter 90 survey that asks cities and towns how much funding they would need to maintain their roads and bridges in a state of good repair. The survey will be emailed to chief municipal officials and DPW directors. Please share this survey within your professional networks. We are hoping for 100% participation this year and count on your help to ensure every community receives and completes the survey. For more information about the survey please contact me or Project and Research Assistant, Dan Yi at [DYi@mma.org](mailto:DYi@mma.org).

Planning for the MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show is underway! The event will be held in-person on January 20 and 21, 2023 at the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Boston Hotel. The Annual Meeting provides an opportunity to network with municipal officials from across the state; learning opportunities through workshops and trade show spotlights; policy discussions; and guest speakers. The Mass. Highway Association will sponsor a workshop on private road repair. Do not miss this event! For more information and registration visit the [MMA website here](https://mma.org).

Last but not least, the MMA continues to expand its webinar offerings. The Mass. Highway Association's very own David Lane was a featured speaker [on a recent panel about mattress recycling](#). As well, the MMA has partnered with the Division of Local Services to provide cities and towns information on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. [The first of the series](#) provides an overview of the BIL and funding through the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any input or questions. I am available at [ANunez@mma.org](mailto:ANunez@mma.org). I am glad to be working with each of you!



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# Safety Corner

Compliments of Jennifer Tetreault of HazCompliance, LLC

The days are getting shorter, and we know what is around the corner-snow season. Much of our highway department safety talk turns to slippery ice, safe winter driving, and trying to stay awake while plowing (or this year, trying to find even a sleeping person to plow!.... sorry, not funny).

Although snow and ice management will annually remain a huge safety concern, there are other departments and hazards housed within our divisions that should not be forgotten in our quest for keeping crews safe. I was reminded of this recently when the CDC released the Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) report about a fatal incident involving a mechanic. A young auto mechanic was fatally burned while welding on a flammable windshield washer drum, using it as a support. (You can read the full report here: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/stateface/ma/19ma058.html>)

In most of our consulting work with municipalities, there is a lot of focus on workzone safety, trench safety, fall protection, and the list can go on, rightfully so. Crews are exposed to high hazards and dangerous situations, and there is most often a much higher ratio of field crew to mechanic staff in the divisions.

Our fleet divisions maintaining our vehicles and equipment face their own set of hazards- hazardous chemical use and exposure, hazardous exhaust fumes, welding hazards, crushing hazards from equipment and lifts, bloodborne pathogen hazards when working on vacuums or collections, and these are to name just a few. For every field hazard that our field crews are exposed to, our fleet mechanics are exposed to their own set of mechanic garage exposures. Whether you have a fleet crew of six maintaining your equipment, or one lonely mechanic waiting for the trucks to come in- there needs to be safety consideration for assessments and controls in the mechanic's bay.

The following are often-overlooked safety hazards. These hazards are a compilation of a few of the most frequent injuries in auto garages, but also some common deficiencies we see as we work with fleet departments and auto garages.

- Sprains and Strains. One of the most common injuries and often costly, our mechanics are in awkward positions and handling unevenly weighted equipment pieces. Lifts and support devices can aid in the assistance of handling heavy parts as well as support the worker in positioning.
- Eye Injuries. Failure to wear PPE in the shop can result in eye injuries. Gloves and hi-vis wear are enforced with our field crews, we should enforce proper PPE with our mechanics as well.
- Hazardous Chemical Exposure. Battery acids can cause burns, fuel vapors can be deadly and carcinogenic, used motor oil may cause skin cancer, and solvents used to clean parts have hazardous volatile organic compounds (VOC's) in them. Carcinogens and solvents do not present immediate exposure symptoms and mechanics may be unknowingly exposed to these chemicals for years before understanding the need to protect oneself. Ensuring proper ventilation and PPE is imperative for safety around chemicals.
- Flammable Materials and Compressed Gases. Windshield washer fluid, spray paints, fuels and starter fluids are all flammable. These chemicals should be stored closed and kept away from sparks (such as grinding or welding) and properly protected. Compressed gases may also be flammable (acetylene), and some are oxidizers (oxygen). Storing gases away from potential damage and keeping separate from

one another will reduce hazards.

This list noted a few common hazards in many auto shops, but a full hazard assessment is needed to identify the specific hazards in each town. An auto shop checklist that aids our field staff is found at <https://www.newmoa.org/publications/auto/checklist.pdf> and is a self-checklist put out by the New England Waste Management Officials Association. Everyone is encouraged to take a look at a different angle for safety and help support your fleet divisions in maintaining a safe and healthful workplace.

## Upcoming Training

### Spreader Calibration

November 8, 2022 - Tolland

November 10, 2022 - Franklin

### Snow and Ice Operations

November 9, 2022 - Newton

November 17, 2022 - Yarmouth

### About Liquid Deicers

November 18, 2022 - Chatham

Register at [BaystateRoads.org](http://BaystateRoads.org)

### Host A Workshop

Does your Highway Department or Municipality have a training space?

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# Driver Skills and Safety Training Event (aka Snowplow Rodeo)

by Chris Bouchard, Chair

The MHA held its Driver Skills and Safety Training on July 19th at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area with great weather at a great location. This year, we had the single axle truck event and a wheel loader event in the competition.

This was our largest event to date with 31 loader operators and 27 truck teams competing. It was very competitive and helped build comradery among all of the competitors. MHA and the county associations have some of the best vehicle pre-trip vehicle inspectors, written test, and loader operators and snowplow drivers. Your cities and towns should be proud as they have trained you well.

I would like to thank all the teams and the cities and towns they represent for their participation in this training event as we would not have the event without you, the judges and the cities, towns and state agencies they work for, and vendors that send judges. You are a key component in making this event happen and run smoothly and efficiently. I would also like to thank our vendor sponsors and towns as they help us get the loaders and trucks we use for the running event. Thank you to Baystate Roads Program for handling the registrations, advertising, and judging as this helps us greatly with our event.

## MHA Driver Skills Results

### Single Axle Truck:

- 1st place - Town of Westminster, Phil Meany and James Grenier
- 2nd place - Town of Southbridge, Mike Pollone and Mike Zuziak
- 3rd place - Town of Monterey, Kyle Pettibone and Tyler Collins

### Wheel Loader:

- 1st place - Town of West Stockbridge, Frank Alfonso
- 2nd place - Town of Franklin, Jim Henchy
- 3rd place - Town of Easthampton, Adam Robbins

We traveled to the Western Snow and Ice Conference and Snowplow Rodeo National Finals in Loveland Colorado on September 27th to October 1st. The teams participated in the snowplow rodeo events and took part in the workshops offered at the three-day event. One of the competitions is if your organization competes in all five events they will take the top three finishes from your five events for an overall winner for the competition. The teams finished very well and represented Massachusetts proudly.

## National Rodeo results:

### Single Axle truck:

Town of Westminster, Phil Meany and Steve Arsenault finished 28th out of 47 teams.

### Tandem Axle Truck:

Town of Westminster, Phil Meany and Steve Arsenault finished 29th out of 53 teams.

### Wheel Loader:

Town of West Stockbridge, Frank Alfonso finished 9th out of 64 operators. Less than 100 points separated 9th to 2nd place teams.

### Skid Steer:

Town of West Stockbridge, Jamie Boyer finished 28th out of 47 operators.

### Motor Grader:

Chris Bouchard finished 3rd out of 39 operators.

We are still waiting to hear how we finished as a team for the day. We think there were only 24 teams in the running overall.

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

The results for the other New England and East Coast teams that attended and competed: Single Axle Truck: NEAPWA: Stoughton, 34th, RI Single Axle 30th, Maine DOT 8th, Delaware DOT 2nd and 11th, City of Manhattan 4th. Tandem Axle Truck: Delaware DOT 1st and 4th, Maine DOT 6th. Great job to all!

This event would not be possible without the help and support of the MHA Board of Directors, members, and vendors. We will be working over the winter months 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.

On a personal note, I would like to thank a few people who have stepped up to help grow this event every year and continue to make it better, and who I feel have embraced the passion I have for the event and share the vision to make it better. They also look forward to seeing old friends, peers, and meeting and making new ones. Thank you Jamie Boyer, Jason Page and my daughter Jennifer. This year I don't know if they felt plain old sorry or guilty for watching me continue to set the course in the pouring rain, and I mean pouring rain, but they were troopers and embraced the soaking right alongside me helping to get it done (at least it wasn't thunder and lightning out like it has been in some past years), Kevin Collins for stopping by to help, as he didn't want to miss out on any fun we were having in the rain either. Dave Desrosiers, thank you for on short notice bringing along an extra employee to help shuttle trucks back after the event. Chris and Jimmy, thank you for all you have done, you have changed me forever.

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# County Association News

## Barnstable County – Roby Whitehouse

Barnstable County Public Works Association held its Annual Golf Tournament on June 6th at New Seabury Golf Club in Mashpee. This event funds the annual scholarships.

The Annual Clam Bake took place on August 4th with record attendance. Eight scholarships were awarded, totaling \$16,500, including the two tech schools.

Barnstable County Public Works Association joined Plymouth County Highway Association at a breakfast meeting held at Bay Point, on September 15th. The guest speaker was Korrin Peterson, VP of the Clean Water Advocacy from The Buzzards Bay Coalition.

On October 6th, the membership met at the Yarmouth House for a lunch meeting and heard from Eric Ohanian, from Tighe & Bond who spoke about Cape Cod Culvert Projects

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

Dec 1 - Christmas Luncheon, stay tuned for location.

January – No Meeting

## Berkshire County/District #1 Hwy. Supt. Assoc. – Curt Wilton

Elections for our 2023 officers will take place after this writing. We will recognize the new officers in our 2023 Spring Newsletter. Kudos to our outgoing President Justin Russell from the Town of Peru. Justin was a two-year President who led through diversity during the Covid-19 pandemic. The association has remained stronger than ever with his team of officers consisting of Vice-President Chip Dazelle from Huntington Highway, Secretary Gerald Coppola retired from Richmond Highway, and Treasurer William Elovirta retired from Becket Highway. All the efforts and commitment from these individuals and the entire Board of Directors have kept the Berkshire County Highway Superintendents Association one of the strongest in the State.

### **2023 Schedule of Events**

- April 27th** 1st Meeting/Workshop, Tavern at the A, Pittsfield  
**June 9th** 14th Annual Golf Tournament, (Venue TBA).  
**June 22nd** 2nd Meeting/Workshop, Tavern at the A, Pittsfield  
**August 24th** 3rd Meeting/Workshop, Tavern at the A, Pittsfield  
**September 15th** 39th Annual Equipment Show & Picnic, Hinsdale Volunteer Fire Grounds, Hinsdale.  
**October 26th** 43rd Annual Conclusion Meeting & Scholarship Awards, Tavern at the A, Pittsfield

### **New Positions and Congratulatory Kudos;**

**Monterey** - James Hunt, Director of Operations for Highway and Facilities

**Tolland** - Kate Donovan, Highway Superintendent

**Pittsfield** - Vinny Barbarotta, DPW Superintendent

In closing, I wish to thank our officers and board of directors for the relentless commitment they have given to our association. The success of The Berkshire County Highway Superintendents Association comes from all who are involved and who continue to be “Public Works, First to Respond, Last to Leave.”

## Essex County – Michael Hale

Michael Collins, P.E., Commissioner of Public Services for Beverly MA and Essex County Highway Association (ECHA) Board Director, recently participated in and completed critical relief efforts in Florida in response to Hurricane Ian. Michael Collin’s deployment to Florida, MA-TF1 Urban Search and Rescue Team included three other public works representatives: Jason Pimental, Superintendent of Barre; Peter King, Water Plant Operator, Newburyport; and Jake Pike, Communication and Instrumentation Specialist, Beverly DPW.

Of the 28 FEMA USAR teams, MA-TF1 had the deepest bench of Public Works employees, and within the team they filled the roles of Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialists, Logistics Specialist, Communication Specialist, and Structure Specialist. During the deployment the team was assigned to rescue squads performing structure and vehicle searches in the Fort Myers Beach area, the hardest hit part of Florida with storm surges over 15 feet. The team’s public works background was helpful in many ways as the team deploys to areas that have no facilities and basically build a small town to operate out of for a couple weeks.

We are looking forward to having Mike present his efforts in an upcoming ECHA scheduled event. Thank you to Mike for representing our association, region, and industry in such a productive way.

The ECHA recently welcomed two new members to the Board of Directors: Chuck Dam, Director of Public Work from Manchester by-the-Sea, and John Borgesi, Town Engineer from North Andover. Tracy Reardon, City of Beverly, was appointed as the new Treasurer. Tracy has hit the ground running and has already proven to be a tremendous asset and welcomed member of the Board.

The ECHA is currently developing a strategic plan to continue to improve on the vision of the association while staying current with challenges we are facing. Some items that we intend to address are increasing participation and attendance with as many county communities we can as well as succession planning. ECHA has collaborated with Bay State Roads for this effort and looks forward to unveiling the strategic plan in 2023.

ECHA recently developed the 2023 schedule of events and is looking forward to a productive 2023.

## Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex – Robert Cantoreggi

**No report submitted**

## Plymouth County – John Haines

The Plymouth County Highway Association (PCHA) met in June, September, and October during 2022.

The June meeting was held at the East Bay Grille in Plymouth with guest speaker Stephen Daigle of the Massachusetts DLS. Topics included DLS responsibilities, expectations and the requirements of OSHA and how they affect the public works departments of the Commonwealth.

In September, we hosted our joint meeting with the Barnstable County Public Works Association (BCPWA) at the Bay Pointe Club in Wareham. The speaker at the joint meeting was Korrin Peterson, VP of the Clean Water Advocacy from the Buzzards Bay Coalition. The topics discussed included septic system MassDEP Title V

changes and the effect on the local communities.

We also held our annual Scholarship/Charity golf event in September at the Southerns Marsh Golf Club in Plymouth. As in the past, this was a successful event raising funds for the Association's scholarship fund. We would like to thank Paul Maher and his team for organizing and running the event.

In October, we held our annual equipment show at the Marshfield Fairgrounds. This was our second year holding the event at this location. We also held our annual Snowplow Driver Safety Training Seminar (Snowplow Rodeo) in conjunction with the equipment show. We had eleven teams from Plymouth and Barnstable Counties compete in the event with the Town of Carver again coming out on top.

We would like to thank all our members and corporate sponsors for supporting the Plymouth County Highway Association as we look forward to a mild winter season.

### Tri-County Highway Association – Rob Colson

Our Tri-County group had a great combination meeting/golf outing on August 18, at the Southampton Country Club.

Our Scholarship Committee received five applications but were only able to make an award to Maxwell Warner, son of Marlo Warner. The other applications were either not complete or were ineligible.

#### **Our 2023 meeting dates are;**

March 16 - Winter Meeting

June 1 - Annual Meeting

August 17 - Golf Outing

November 16 - Joint Meeting with Mass Highway.

This year's annual joint meeting with the Mass Highway Association is fast approaching. The meeting will be held on November 15th from 9 am to 1 pm at the Castle of Knights in Chicopee. This is our 70th annual joint meeting. Invitations from Dave Loring will be coming soon. Hope to see you there!!

### Worcester County – Scott Crisafulli

The November Business Meeting of the Worcester County Highway Association will be held on Tuesday, November 15th and will include a morning of presentations and updates followed by a meal and raffle to benefit the scholarship fund. This year's meeting will be held at a new location: The Barn at Blackstone National (<https://www.thebarnatblackstonenational.com/>) and promises to be a great event.

WCHA had a great year with meetings in March and April that touched on topics such as CDL Training, Equipment Procurement and a Snow and Ice Roundtable. The Vendor Appreciation Day was held at Wachusett Mountain in June and raised \$900 for the scholarship fund. Eight scholarship awards were announced. In September, the annual golf outing was held with 94 golfers playing at the Heritage Country Club. Approximately \$900 was raised for the scholarship fund.



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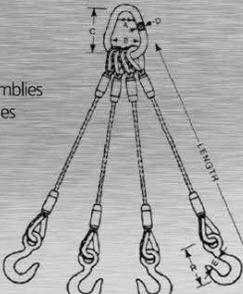


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# Snowplow Operators Test Their Skills During Loveland Conference

Excerpts from an article by Austin Fleskes published in the Loveland Reporter-Herald

Public works specialists from around the country tested their snowplowing skills, despite a lack of snow, during an annual conference in Loveland on Wednesday, September 28th at the Ranch.

The American Public Works Association, APWA, held its 2022 Western Snow and Ice Conference and National Snow Rodeo in Loveland, for the 42nd year.

About 1,300 participants registered for this year's conference, coming from across the state, region and country, said Pete Adler, delegate for the Colorado Chapter of the APWA.

Participants were able to take part in a number of different lectures and talks at the Embassy Suites and, for more than 200 of them, test their skills in the "Snow Rodeo" on the east side of The Ranch Complex.

Participants battled for the fastest time and best performances in a test of skills in a sea of dirt and cones for the "Snow Rodeo," a major part of the conference.

Drivers took control of several different types of heavy machinery, from smaller skid steer vehicles to large tandem axle snowplows, which took up a large portion of the competition with 100 people testing their skills.

Participants in the tandem axle section of the event paired up and were tasked with weaving in between a cone course, making a tight fit into a coned off section at the end of the course and backing into another coned off section before the driver and passenger switched places. The new driver then raced back down the track before completing a roundabout and ultimately stopping near where they started.

Phil Meany and Steven Arsenault traveled to Colorado for their first time to represent the Massachusetts's Highway Association at the event. After completing a tandem axle run together, they both said that they had a

great time.

"It's fun, gets everyone ready for the season," he said.

Tim Brady, lead equipment operator for the Loveland Public Works Department, was out in the sun with the groups of competitors as a member of the "roadeo" committee overseeing the event.

Brady, who placed first in 2010 in the tandem axle competition, said the event is a great way to share a sense of camaraderie and reconnect with people that he may only see once a year.

"You build these friendships up with guys from across the country," he said.

Adler said the competition is an important part of the conference and helps public works employees prepare for the coming winter months. This is especially true, he said, for crews from more mountainous towns or places that are often hit hard by snow much earlier than Loveland.

"They really get a feel for the equipment, and that's a big deal," he said. "You don't want someone to go out there cold."

The conference continued through Friday, with a number of different panels and discussions inside the Embassy Suites in north Loveland.



Phil Meany and Steven Arsenault, both with the Massachusetts Highway Association, navigate their way through a snowplow obstacle course Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022, while competing during the "Snow Rodeo" at the Ranch in Loveland. (Jenny Sparks/Loveland Reporter-Herald)



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**Raymond A. Payson** of Barnstable Village and formerly of North Attleborough, the first Director of Public Works for the Town of North Attleborough and later the President of the Massachusetts Highway Association, died at 91 years of age at Falmouth Hospital on Thursday, June 23, 2022.

Descended from the earliest English settlers of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in Roxbury, Ray exemplified Yankee thrift and the Protestant work ethic, tempered by his generosity with his family and devotion to his adopted Town of North Attleborough. He annually cut fourteen cords of firewood and plowed snow until the age of 86, ignoring state restrictions to end at age 82.

Ray served on the North Attleborough Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board and Board of Selectman and served on the Finance Committee and as a board member of the North Attleborough Industrial Development Commission. Regionally, he represented the town on the Southeastern Planning & Economic Development Commission. In retirement, he remained active with the Massachusetts Highway Association, raising funds for charity through the sale of calendars featuring historic construction equipment and chairman of the yearly equipment Expo. He contributed more to his community through membership in the Bristol Lodge A.F. & A.M. and the North Attleborough/Plainville Rotary Club.

## MHA Annual Meeting was held on May 5th

*Continued from page 1*

The Robert Benard Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to William Elovirta in recognition and appreciation of his commitment in excellence and outstanding contributions to the Massachusetts Highway Association and public works community.

Appreciation Awards were presented to David Capelle, retiring Trust Fund Trustee and Paul Gabriel, out going associate director representing Environmental Partners Group.

Scholarship awards totaling nearly \$30,000.00 were presented to:

Mathew Bagley, Anthony Breen, Elsie Buckley, Tyler Chiasson, Elizabeth Collins, Adrianna Crisafulli, Lois Divoll, Sarah Fitzgerald, Ava Hale, Haden Hale, Micah Kashi, Olivia Kelly, Andrew Langley, Alexandra Lavenia, Bryn Maynard, Michael McCarthy, Meghan McGonagle, Maia McGonagle, Brooklyn Pratt, Julia Russell, Mia Russell, Samantha Stewart, Connor Woodsmall, and Carlson Cantoreggi.

## Newsletter update

This Fall 2022 Newsletter is being distributed digitally only and is on the MHA website at [masshwy.org](http://masshwy.org). If you are a member of MHA and not receiving the newsletter please contact the editor, Bill Elovirta, at [bille@msn.com](mailto: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 the Spring of 2023.

## 2022 MHA Larry Bombara Memorial Charity Golf Tournament

By Ryan Bartlett, Charity Golf Chairman



The Mass Highway Association sponsored its 12th annual charity golf tournament at Brookmeadow Country Club in Canton on August 16th.

Each year, we recognize a long-standing member who has made significant contributions to the Mass Highway Association. Proceeds raised from the event are given to the charity of the honoree's choice. The 2022 honoree was Kevin Barrett, founder and President of Safe Road Services LLC. Kevin chose the Michael J. Fox Foundation and the Davis Phinney Foundation as this year's charities.

We were honored to host the Barrett family, who attended the event. We would like to extend a giant thank you to all attendees, sponsors and volunteers who made this event a success!

A special thank you to Kevin Barrett for his many years of service to the Mass Highway Association!

We also wish to extend a special thanks to our Tournament sponsors: BMC Corp, Environmental Partners Group LLC, Eastern Salt, and Felix A. Marino Co.



# Bartlett

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