

The Connection

NEWS & UPDATES FROM ASCCA PENINSULA

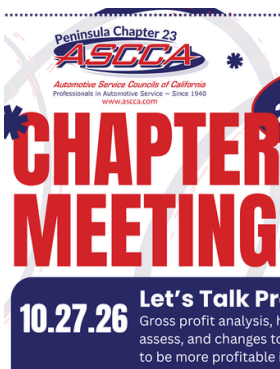
September 2026

WHAT'S INSIDE

This issue of The Connection keeps coming back to one theme: training. From Jennifer Barizon's recap of WORLDPAAC's STX 2026 Expo, to ASCCA's own Annual Training Conference just a couple of weeks away, to the corporate partners who show up for Chapter 23 members all year long — **investing in your team's education isn't optional** anymore. It's what **separates the shops that keep up from the ones that get left behind.**

STX 2026: A POWERFUL REMINDER OF WHAT MAKES OUR INDUSTRY STRONG

Jennifer recaps WORLDPAAC's STX 2026 Expo — nearly 3,000 attendees, 300+ training courses, and a reminder of what real networking does for a shop. She also looks ahead to ASCCA's own Annual Training Conference, September 11–13 in Irvine, and reflects on why **continuing education has become part of what it takes to stay a professional in this business.** Read her full recap starting on page 2.



UPCOMING ASSOCIATION EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Don't miss our ASCCA State & Peninsula Chapter Meetings listed on page 6–7. There's a particular kind of relief in being in a room with people who understand exactly what it means to run a shop—the pressure, the pride, pros & cons, all of it. **Connecting. Engaging. Supporting.** Save these dates on your calendar now.

Highlights

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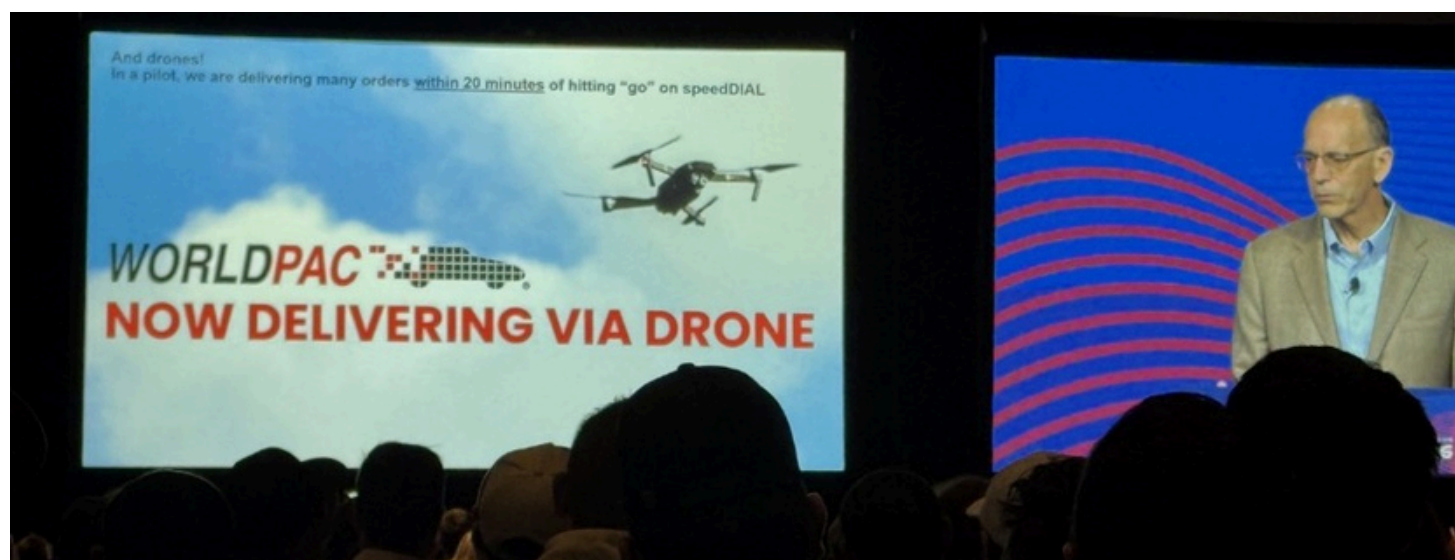


STX 2026:

A Powerful Reminder of What Makes Our Industry Strong

There are industry events you attend because you know you should, and then there are events that remind you why you love being part of this industry. **WORLDPAC's STX 2026 Supplier & Training Expo** was definitely the latter.

Held August 19–23 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, STX brought together thousands of automotive professionals from across the country and beyond. Nearly 3,000 attendees were reported at the event, and you could feel that energy everywhere you went.



Congratulations to WORLDPAC, its trainers, suppliers and everyone involved in putting together an incredible event. I came home energized, better informed and once again reminded how fortunate we are to be part of such a talented and passionate automotive community.

For me, one of the most impressive parts of STX was the quality and sheer amount of training available. More than **300 technical and business-management courses** were offered, taught by experts from OE brands, the WORLDPAC Training Institute, and some of the best-known trainers in our industry.

Whether you were a technician looking for advanced diagnostic and technical training or a shop owner or manager wanting to strengthen the business side of your operation, there was something worthwhile to bring home.

Our industry is changing incredibly quickly. The vehicles coming into our shops are more sophisticated every year. Diagnostics, programming, ADAS, electronics and increasingly interconnected vehicle systems mean that what worked five or ten years ago isn't enough today. Continuing education isn't simply something that's nice to offer our employees anymore. **It's part of what it takes to remain a professional in this industry.**

But STX also reminded me that education doesn't happen only in a classroom. Some of the best learning happens in the hallway after a class, over dinner, at a supplier booth or in a conversation with another shop owner who has already dealt with the exact problem you're trying to solve. That's the power of networking.

It's easy to become consumed by the day-to-day demands of running a repair shop. Events like STX give us an opportunity to get outside our own four walls and talk with other people who understand our challenges. We share ideas, compare experiences, make new connections and sometimes come home looking at our businesses a little differently than we did when we arrived.

*"Training makes us better at what we do.
Networking reminds us that we don't have to figure it all out alone."*



Jennifer Barizon, Four Car Garage; Sal Garcia, Fremont Auto Center; and John Hamilton, President and CEO of WORLDPAAC, at STX 2026 in National Harbor, Maryland.

The STX Expo was another highlight. More than **100 international parts manufacturers and suppliers participated**, giving attendees an opportunity to talk directly with the companies developing the parts, tools, equipment, technology and services we use every day.

The show floor was huge, busy and genuinely fun. Suppliers came ready to engage with attendees, demonstrate products and answer questions and, of course, there were some really great swag along the way. The combination of education, new products and face-to-face conversations made the expo much more than simply walking through rows of booths.



We sometimes talk about the challenges facing independent automotive repair – and there are plenty of them. But walking through STX 2026 made it impossible not to also see the tremendous opportunity in front of us.

The future of independent automotive repair will belong to the shops and professionals who continue to learn, adapt and invest in their people. Just as importantly, it will belong to an industry that continues to connect with one another and share what we know. Training makes us better at what we do. Networking reminds us that we don't have to figure it all out alone. STX 2026 delivered both in a very big way.

Looking Ahead to ASCCA's Annual Training Conference

I'm even more excited!

Attending STX reminded me how valuable strong training, networking and supplier relationships are. It made me even more excited for **ASCCA's Annual Training Conference, September 11 through 13 in Irvine, California.**

Our Annual Training Conference is where ASCCA members can expect valuable training, fresh ideas and meaningful connections that help our businesses and our teams thrive.



SEPTEMBER 11-13 | IRVINE, CA
www.ascca.com/trainingconference

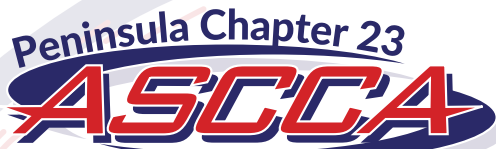
If STX reminded me of anything, it is how important it is for our industry to keep learning and showing up for one another.

I hope to see you in Irvine at ATC 2026!

Jennifer Barizon

President & Chapter Representative, Chapter 23
President, ASCCA State Board President 26-27





Automotive Service Councils of California
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2026-2027

CHAPTER MEETINGS

10.27.26

Let's Talk Profits

Gross profit analysis, how to assess, and changes to make now to be more profitable in 2027

1.19.27

"Holiday" Party

Dinner, drinks, and lots of great conversation!

Table Topic: Most successful marketing from 2026

4.20.27

Special Training

We've invited a special guest presenter ~ Watch more more details soon!! Save the Date Now!

ascca23@assoc-office.com

www.ascca23.org

UPCOMING STATE EVENTS & CONTACT INFO



SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2026
HILTON IRVINE/ORANGE COUNTY AIRPORT

**STUDENTS &
INSTRUCTORS:
APPLY FOR
SPONSORED
REGISTRATION!**

**THREE DAYS OF
EDUCATION
MANAGEMENT &
TECHNICAL
TRACKS**

**REGISTER
TODAY**

www.ascca.com/trainingconference

ATC 2026 – September 11-13, 2026

At this year's conference, you will gain tools and knowledge to better your social media skills, employee retention, increased sales, team productivity, and day-to-day management.

NOVEMBER

TEAM WEEKEND

November 14-15, 2026
Embassy Suites
Sacramento Riverfront Promenade

ascca.com/events/team-weekend

Team Weekend – November 13-15, 2026

ASCCA Team Weekends allow ASCCA members to exchange ideas with fellow shop owners, network with industry vendors, and build camaraderie with other men and women passionate about automotive repair. Register @ www.ascca.com/events/team-weekend



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Get In Touch



www.ascca.com



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TRAINING OPTIONS

Between ASCCA and our corporate partners, there's real training behind your membership — technical and business management alike — built to help your team stay current and your shop run better.

CLICK ON ANY LOGO TO VIEW THE TRAINING WEBSITE



ASCCA Advantage

ASCCA is the vehicle to help you improve your repair shop operations today, saving you time AND money — while positioning your shop and the industry for long-term growth and success tomorrow.

The ASCCA Advantage is:

- Business management coaching
- Education and training opportunities
- Free legal consultation
- Free HR services and resources
- Access to discounts and rebates
- Networking events with local chapters
- Statewide association events and lobby days
- Information on CA laws impacting shop owners
- Political representation with the state
- Updates on industry news
- Access to TeamTalk — an online forum for peer-to-peer advice on vehicle repair, business issues, and more!

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The ASCCA Advantage ~ Member Benefits



SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2026
HILTON IRVINE/ORANGE COUNTY AIRPORT



A lot has happened this year. ICYMI, here's a quick-hit recap of the items most likely to affect your shop day-to-day, from regs to new partners.

Third-Party Payer Invoicing

If a repair will be paid by a third-party payor, BAR requires the payment amount to be included on the estimate (CCR § 3353(d)(1)). If that amount isn't known at the time, the estimate must instead include this exact statement (CCR § 3353(d)(2)):

"This estimate is for repairs to meet vehicle manufacturer and industry standards. As the customer, it is your responsibility to contact the third-party payor for approval of payment for the repairs you have authorized."

Worth double-checking that your shop's estimate templates already carry this language.

Low Rolling Resistance Tire Rule – 2029

The CEC's replacement tire efficiency regulation (covered in Leg News last month) is has completed the comment period and will take effect in 2029. ASCCA is hopeful this gives us time to weigh in and push for edits before it's in place – worth watching, and commenting when you're asked for feedback.

Revisit "Write It Right"

It's a good time to pull "Write It Right" back out. BAR's repair-order guidance is still available free on their website and remains

one of the best references for staying compliant on estimates, invoices, and disclosures.

Tire Pressure Sensors – Recycling Fee

On January 1, 2026, SB 1215 expanded California's Electronic Waste Recycling Act to cover products with non-removable, embedded batteries – including TPMS sensors, which contain small sealed lithium batteries.

Shops must now collect a recycling fee of 1.5% of the retail price (capped at \$15 per item) at the time of sale on TPMS sensors and other battery-embedded products, and remit that fee to CDTFA – the same way you already handle the California Tire Fee or the lead-acid battery fee. If you sell TPMS sensors, confirm your POS is set up to collect and track this correctly.

New Endorsed Vendors & Associate Members

Chapter 42 members now have access to a few new corporate partners through ASCCA:

- **RO Writer** – shop management software
- **California Green Business Network** – sustainability certification and resources for shops, see page 15 for details on this new program for shops
- **AutoTechIQ** – diagnostic and repair information platform

Check out ascca.com for all our partner offers and discounts.

BAR Regulatory Changes

The California Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) finalized several additional mandates over the past few months that shops must actively follow:

Biometric Device Updates

Smog Check and Vehicle Safety Systems Inspection manuals require updated Palm Vein Scanners (Model FAT13FPS01 or newer).

Strict Reporting Windows

Shops must report a business address change to the BAR within 14 days. Other material changes (such as phone numbers or controlling individuals) must be reported within 30 days.

Remedial Training Extension

Under Senate Bill 774 (and as a part of the Sunset Review), the citation disclosure prevention program is extended through January 1, 2028. This allows shops to take remedial training to prevent minor citations from becoming public on the BAR website.

Documentation Transparency

Revised "Write It Right" guidelines mean mobile invoices must list the repair location, and teardown estimates need only describe the general disassembly area (not an itemized list).

BAR Advisory Group

The BAR Advisory Group (BAG) advises the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) on issues and programs affecting the automotive repair industry.

Next BAG Meeting: October 22 @ 9:30 AM; live in Sacramento and on WebEx

August 2026 Legislative Update

The CA Motor Vehicle Glass Act (SB 988)

Passed both CA Chambers and the Governor has until September 30, 2026, to sign or veto. It prohibits insurance assignment of benefits for glass repair, establishes a consumer's right to choose their shop, and mandates that glass shops explicitly notify owners about Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) calibration needs.

Labor & Wage Related (2026)

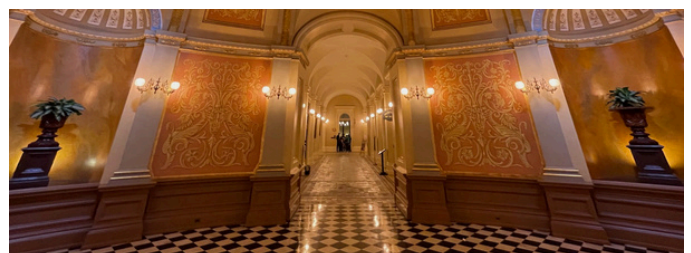
California shop owners must also be aware of these 2026 updates to avoid steep penalties:

New Workplace Notices

Under updated Labor Code sections, employers must issue an annual written rights notice to all employees in their native language. Additionally, employees must be allowed to officially designate an emergency contact in the event of workplace detainment or arrest.

PAGA Reforms

The Labor and Workforce Development Agency is developing new administrative regulations to implement the 2024 Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) reforms, aimed at clarifying how employee labor claims and penalties are handled. The regulations are still in the proposal stage, with final adoption not expected until later this year or into 2027.





Automotive Service Councils of California

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**EACH ONE REACH
ONE!**



YOUR MISSION: RECRUIT ONE NEW MEMBER THIS YEAR.

- 1 IDENTIFY:** A shop owner or colleague who would benefit.
- 2 REACH OUT:** Discuss the advantages of ASCCA membership such as networking, professional development, advocacy and business resources.
- 3 INVITE THEM TO A MEETING:** Invite them to join our association and participate in a meeting to learn more about the benefits of ASCCA membership.

Scan to Join ASCCA



members.ascca.com/ap/Membership/Application/VLzd46pn

For assistance please call (800) 810-4272 or email info@ascca.com

New Member Resource: Free Pollution Prevention Support

ASCCA members have a new resource available! The California Green Business Network (CAGBN) is partnering with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) on a federally funded Pollution Prevention (P2) grant to bring free, hands-on support directly to auto repair and maintenance shops in any CAGBN program area.

Funded by the U.S. EPA, the 12-month initiative is delivered as two parallel efforts covering Northern and Southern California. Through it, CAGBN provides shops with one-on-one technical assistance, including bilingual support, to help adopt practices that cut pollution, reduce toxic substance exposure, and improve compliance, at no cost to participating businesses. In fact, the grant provides businesses with rebates of up to \$500 to help in the transition to less-polluting practices.

The work is especially focused on disadvantaged communities, but shops statewide stand to benefit from the tools, training, and best practices the program is building.

If you run a shop and want to green up your operations, reduce waste and hazardous material handling, this is a no-cost way to get friendly, expert help. Watch for outreach from CAGBN in the coming months, including at the ASCCA conference.

Our Impact

Businesses that join our network conserve precious resources, prevent harmful pollution, and enhance their bottom-line.

1,352,648,520
Pounds of GHGs
Emissions Averted



87,096,046
Pounds of Waste
Reduced



67,336,040
Therms of Natural
Gas Saved



5,028,053,112
Gallons of Water
Saved



1,187,061,353
kWh of Energy
Reduced



\$ 206,856,801
In Utility Bill
Savings



GREEN

**CALIFORNIA
GREEN BUSINESS
NETWORK**

Learn More...

If you would like to express your interest in the program please email: info@greenbusinessca.org with your business name and location and you will be added to the interest list.

**COOL
AIR
REBATE**

COOL RIDE!

**NOW SAVE UP TO ~~80%~~ 90%
ON AUTO A/C REPAIR!**

The California Cool Air Rebate Program provides financial assistance to eligible Californians to repair leaking air conditioning systems with R-134a refrigerant in cars and light duty trucks. Fix your AC, enjoy a cool ride, and improve the air quality in your community! See if you qualify today at:

CoolAirRebate.org



*Terms and conditions apply. Must be an eligible customer and a participating repair shop. Applies only to qualifying repairs. Repair reimbursement: The Cool Air Rebate Program will pay participating repair shop 90% of the cost of qualifying repairs up to a maximum of \$1,500 per vehicle (\$1,666.70 repair cost). The program does not pay any portion of repair costs exceeding \$1,666.70. If the diagnosis results in qualifying repairs and the consumer accepts the repairs, the program pays participating repair shop 100% of the diagnostic fee. If the diagnosis results in non-qualifying repairs or the consumer declines the repairs, the program pays participating repair shop 90% of the diagnostic fee.

Car Care Council
Be Car Care Aware



Building Toward April 2027 ~ Stations Are Filling Up

Planning for the 2027 SkillsUSA California Automotive competition is already underway. Several stations are locked in with sponsors and staffed with judges and testing personnel—but there's still plenty of room to get involved before the lineup is finalized.



Student Competitions

Regionals Are Virtual — January 30, 2027

Regional Competition (Automotive MLR and AST) is entirely virtual — a week of video judging on your own schedule, plus **live Zoom judging on Saturday, January 30, 2027** (plan to be available sometime between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM). Winners advance to the live State Competition in Ontario, CA April 2027.

Contact us to volunteer to support the January 2027 (on Zoom) regionals and April 2027 (Ontario Convention Center) State competitions.

Call or email Samantha Tracey, (951) 312-2600, or TC.MLR.AST.CA@gmail.com

2027 Stations ~ Onsite, Ontario, CA

S0 Attire Station

S1 ADAS Station

S2 Information Gathering Station

S3 Electrical Station

S4 Job Interview & Job Test Questions Station

S5 Tire Identification Station

S6 Tire/Steering and Suspension Station

S7 PicoScope Station

S8 High Voltage Vehicles Station

S9 Ignition Trainer Board Station

S10 DVI Inspection Station

S11 Brakes Station

S12 Engine Performance Station



Sponsors & Donors

We Need More Sponsors and Volunteers

Last year's competition ran on the generosity of sponsors, volunteers, and station hosts — and 2027 will need the same. Right now we're specifically looking for:

- More sponsors to fund and stock stations
- Judges for virtual regional & state onsite competitions
- Station volunteers to help run testing
- A photographer to help document
- General event-day volunteers of all kinds

Judges & Graders

Sign Up for January 30, 2027

Time commitment is light and flexible: about a week of video judging on your own schedule, plus live Zoom judging on Saturday, January 30, 2027. Judges will be scheduled closely together to keep things moving and minimize downtime. Reply to TC.MLR.AST.CA@gmail.com to volunteer — let Samantha know if you're open to serving as an alternate too.



Station Hosts & Equipment

Sponsor or Staff a State Competition Station

Sponsoring or staffing a station at the onsite State Competition in Ontario, CA (April 2027) puts your name and expertise directly in front of the students competing — a hands-on way to **invest in the next generation of technicians.**



Sponsor or Volunteer:

Help Build the 2027 SkillsUSA California Competition!

Regional Judging: Saturday, January 30, 2027 — Virtual

State Competition: April 2027 — Ontario, CA

Call or email Samantha Tracey, (951) 312-2600, or

TC.MLR.AST.CA@gmail.com

Or schedule a meeting: calendar.app.google/cE4XmfNduNTZHddK8

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Secretary/Treasurer*

Chris Harter, C & T Auto Toyota Specialist
Sean Hudson, Hudson Automotive



JOIN ASCCA TODAY

<https://bit.ly/join-ascca>

Mission

To Elevate and Unite Automotive
Professionals and Give Them Voice

Core Values

Integrity, Unity, Compassion,
Professionalism

Fighting for the Industry

Doing business in California comes with countless challenges – ASCCA helps shape state laws and regulations to minimize their impacts on auto repair shops and make them work in the real-world. With our relationship with the Bureau of Automotive Repair, we are able to help create guidelines that protect the consumer as well as our shops.

Code of Ethics

1. To promote goodwill between the motorist and the automotive industry.
2. To have a sense of personal obligation to each individual customer.
3. To create a community of automotive service professionals that are prepared and equipped with the skill set for the future of the automotive industry.
4. To perform high-quality services at a fair and just price.
5. To employ the best-skilled personnel obtainable.
6. To use only proven merchandise of high quality, distributed by reputable firms.
7. To itemize all parts and adjustments in the price charged for services rendered.
8. To retain all parts replaced for customer inspection if so requested.
9. To uphold the high standards of our profession and always seek to correct any and all abuses within the automotive industry.
10. To uphold the integrity of all members.
11. To refrain from an advertisement, which is false or misleading or likely to confuse, or deceive the customer.