

TRANSPORTATION MATTERS:

Highway Users Alliance Targets Legislative Priorities
Highway Funding, Congestion Relief, Safety and Environmental Issues Top List

For more than 70 years, the Highway Users has been one of the top lobby groups for transportation issues, fighting to improve road and bridge investments, improve highway safety, reduce congestion, promote economic growth and, overall, improve the quality of life for all Americans. And at last week's Annual Membership Meeting of the American Highway Users Alliance, of which WANADA is a long-standing state advocate member, it was obvious that job isn't getting any easier.

With Congress locked in battles over fiscal, environmental and safety issues that impact transportation, Diane Steed, former NHTSA Administrator and now president and CEO of the Highway Users, listed the following legislative priorities for the coming year:



Highway Users President Diane Steed with Bryan Hannegan, President's Council on Environmental Quality, Gerry Murphy of WANADA and Phil Brady of NADA at the Highway Users annual meeting.

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WRAP Celebrates Success Under Champeau's Leadership



Outgoing WRAP Chairman Nick Champeau (left) receives a token of appreciation from incoming WRAP Chairman's John Undeland.

As outgoing chairman of the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), WANADA Vice President Nick Champeau said he was very proud of the major accomplishments made by the award winning program that WANADA helped found in 1982. His remarks came at

WRAP's recent annual meeting, in which John Undeland, senior vice president of Strat@comm, was named new WRAP chairman.

Over the two years he served as chairman, Champeau's focus was financial, such that WRAP has:

- Increased its total revenue by 30%;
- Increased support for its acclaimed *SoberRide* program by 18%;
- Increased public contributions by 14%;
- Limited *total* administrative costs to just 6% of total expenses;
- Raised over three-quarters of a million dollars each year in grant funding to let all area drivers know that "sobriety checkpoints are back" through WRAP's coordination of the region's "Checkpoint Strikeforce" campaign;

- Ushered in its 10th and 11th years and over \$ 70,000 in support for our area high school student groups promoting alcohol and drug-free lifestyles to their peers through WRAP's 2002 GEICO Student Awards program.
- And, most importantly, removed a would-be drunk driver from the Washington area's roadways every five minutes

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Highway Users

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- **Highway Funding.** Given the backlog of deficient roads and bridges in the U.S. (32% of roads and 28% of bridges are in poor or mediocre condition, according to the government), a key legislative goal for Congress this year will be drafting a successor to the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21), which governs all federal highway funding and policies. Due to expire on September 30, 2003, TEA 21 got a brief, five-month extension until February 29, 2004, giving Congress time to come up with a long range plan.
- **Traffic Congestion** has become a national problem that studies say cost Americans nearly \$70 billion a year and wastes 3.5 billion hours – or 51 hours per commuter struck in traffic. The

Highway Users will press Congress for a balanced, comprehensive attack on gridlock that includes targeted expansion of our highway system, particularly at key traffic bottlenecks, and improvements to the operation of existing facilities. The benefits would be many, including improved quality of life.

- **Highway Investment.** In addition to improved safety, better fuel economy and lowered emissions, easing gridlock through road investments also help grow the economy and increase job creation – to the tune of 47,500 new jobs for every \$1 billion invested.

Jim Cunningham, the chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality and keynote speaker for the meeting, pointed out that while the economy had expanded by more than 160% in the past decade, air pollution has

been reduced by more than half—a fact that should be promoted by all highway user groups to offset the myth that air quality has worsened.

- **Roadway Safety.** Substandard road conditions and obsolete designs are a factor in nearly one-third of all fatal crashes. Congress should make roadway safety improvements a top priority in the next highway bill.
- **Bureaucratic Delay.** Needed highway projects currently face a bureaucratic and legal obstacle course that can delay improvements for a decade or more. Congress should look for ways to move important projects from design to reality more expeditiously, while ensuring that public involvement and environmental progress are not compromised.

For more information on the activities of the Highway Users go to www.highways.org.

WRAP Celebrates Success

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during the operating hours of WRAP's award-winning and growing *SoberRide* program.

On the legislative front, Champeau said WRAP has had two "banner years," including representation on Virginia Governor Warner's Taskforce to Combat Drunk and Drugged Driving and serving as the Legislative Chairman of Maryland's Impaired Driving, made up of 150 member organizations.

WRAP helped *lead* the fight in successfully championing Maryland legislation to increase penalties for repeat drunk drivers, disallow open containers of alcohol in motor vehicles, make the too often alcohol-related crime of hit & run a felony, and streamline the

enforcement of unlawful sales of alcohol to minors. In Virginia, WRAP led the fight to allow hospital blood tests to be admitted into court in DUI trials, as well as, allow police additional time to obtain blood and breath tests from suspected drunk drivers.

WRAP also made major strides in maximizing the public and private dollars it raises for its pro-traffic safety and pro-health endeavors.

"In short, WRAP commemorated its 21st year in a position of increased strength, respected standing in the community, and unmatched commitment to not just *combat* drunk driving, drugged driving and underage drinking in the Washington Metropolitan area

but to *defeat* the problem," said Champeau. "To that end, I thank the dealer community for your valued contributions, and welcome your support of WRAP's future, lifesaving efforts." For more information on WRAP, visit www.wrap.org.

Halloween SoberRide Sets Record

Results from this year's Halloween SoberRide show a record 502 rides were given to revelers. That's more than one potential drunk driver removed from the roads every minute in the eight hours the service was available! Since 1993 (the first year statistics were kept), total ridership is 23,169!

DEALERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT:**DARCARS, WANADA, WWSA Team Up to Brighten The Taste of DC*****Donated Van to be Featured at the Auto Show***

The recent Taste of DC festival wasn't *all* about food. In partnership with WANADA and DARCARS Toyota of Silver Spring, the Washington Very Special Arts (WWSA) invited children and families to the "KidzQuest" area in the Art Pavilion to paint a van and create a spectacular work of art! The water-base paint was washed off each day to make way for new artists.

The event was so successful WANADA is planning to use the "canvas" van, a 1993 Dodge Caravan donated by DARCARS Toyota, at this year's Washington Auto show in the Playland area. Afterward, it will be donated to WWSA arts connection.

WWSA is a unique non-profit organization that for over 20 years has used the arts as an innovative method of education to work with DC area children and youth with special needs. The goal is to "provide programs to individuals who battle substantial risk factors that may inhibit their potential." From modest beginnings in the basement of Trinity College with a part-time executive director operating an annual arts festival, WWSA has grown to over 40 staff operating numerous year-round programs. In 1998, WWSA moved to the corner of 16th and L streets NW.

The Taste of DC event also helped announce WWSA's launch of its newest "arts-infused" charter school, AutoArts Academy High School, opening in September 2004, which will also offer technical skills



Brightening up the recent Taste of DC are parents and kids painting a van (top) donated by DARCARS Toyota of Silver Spring. Above, young artists and WWSA arts connection staff offer a big "Thank You WANADA!"

training in automotive mechanical and collision repair and detailing.

For more information, check out the website, www.wvsarts.org.

Car Donation is Easy with NADAguides.com and Vehicle Donation Center

NADAguides.com announced it has launched an online vehicle donation center on its website, www.NADAguides.com. The program, created through a partnership with the Vehicle Donation Processing Center, Inc., one of the nation's most comprehensive car donation service providers, is designed to simplify the vehicle contribution process.

"Donating a vehicle to charity is one of the most rewarding and personally satisfying things a consumer can do to assist his or her favorite non-profit organization," said Mark Perleberg, lead automotive expert at NADAguides.com. "Until now, many people found the process difficult. We formed this service to provide consumers with the information and the convenience they need to make donating a vehicle to charity simple."

Consumers visiting the vehicle donation center at the NADAguides.com website simply complete an online application, answering basic questions about the vehicle they wish to donate. Then, they choose a charity to support. Donations of cars, trucks, vans, RVs and boats are accepted and the donor can choose from a list of more than 200 dedicated charities. Donors then download and print a detailed, NADAguides.com valuation report for virtually any type of vehicle—the fair market value report essential for IRS tax deduction purposes. Once the vehicle donation application is submitted, trained specialists contact the donor within 72 hours to assist with the completion of all remaining paperwork and the vehicle is picked up right at the donor's home or office.

SAVE THE DATES:

Last Chance! Register Today for
WANADA's Annual Meeting, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2003

Featuring Keynote Speaker

Donald E. Graham, Chairman, The Washington Post Co.

Washington area new car dealer principals, kindred-line affiliates, associates, key managers, and business friends will not want to miss WANADA's Annual Meeting and Luncheon, Tuesday, Nov. 18, at the Ritz-Carlton in Tysons Corner, VA. The keynote speaker will be Donald E. Graham, chairman of The Washington Post Company, who will offer his well informed and witty "off the cuff" observations on a variety of global, national and regional topics.

WANADA Chairman Vice Sheehy also will offer an update on dealer group activities and programs for the past year, and elections will be held for new seats on the 2003-2004 WANADA Board of Directors.

For more information and reservations, see the information sheet enclosed with this WANADA Bulletin. Do it today!



All Together Again at The NADA Convention!

**VADA to join MNCTDA/WANADA
 For a joint member reception**

Sunday, Feb. 1, 2004, 6-8 p.m.

At the fabulous

VooDoo Lounge, Rio Hotel-Casino
 3700 W. Flamingo Rd.,
 Las Vegas, Nevada

WANADA Welcomes New Kindred-Line Member

The WANADA Board of Directors recently approved the following organization for Kindred Membership in the association:

- Castrol North America, Wayne, NJ; Tom Hayes, North East Consumer Business Unit Director; Jamie Lucedo, Distributor Business Manager (Associate)

Thought for the Week...

*Sometimes I lie awake at night, and I ask, "Where have I gone wrong?"
 Then a voice says to me, "This is going to take more than one night."*

—Charles M. Schulz, "Peanuts"

Enclosure:

WANADA Annual Meeting and Luncheon information and reservation form