



December 2020 Bulletin

Dear Fellow Members,

I'd like for all of us to take a moment and reflect on how this past year has affected each and every one of us. In 2020 our world endured a great deal of change, pain and suffering because of COVID-19. There has been loss of lives, jobs and businesses. Going out to dinner on the weekend is not routine anymore. Attending sports games whether professional or for your child has been put on hold. Holidays, weddings, graduations, birthdays etc. are limited to a small group, if any. Virtual celebrations and contact have become the norm.

My condolences go to all of those who lost someone during this time and my prayers go to those who were stricken with this virus and are now dealing with the debilitating effects from it. I hope those effects will cease soon. Mentally this year has put a strain on all of us. We need to stay positive and know that this will end and hopefully it will end soon.

Although there have been negative effects from this, keep in mind that there have also been so many acts of kindness. There have been reports on schools giving drive-through meals to students, athletes helping low-wage workers, everyday people helping neighbors, food banks set up in communities, some landlords giving rental reprieves, our government helped businesses with the PPP loans, grants and stimulus checks. A HUGE thank you to our healthcare workers who are on the frontlines battling COVID-19. They're our "COVID Warriors".

Let's all make a New Year's Resolution for 2021; to focus on all the good and keep the goodness in our hearts and acts as we move into the new year. You can show acts of kindness in the simplest ways:

- Call a friend that you haven't spoken to for a while or someone who is experiencing loneliness during this time.
- Tell a family member how much you love and appreciate them.
- Tell someone you know that you are proud of them.
- Tell someone you know why you are thankful for them.
- Send a motivational text to a friend who is struggling.
- Lend your ear – call a colleague and ask how they're finding the change in routine.
- Give praise to your colleague for something they've done well.
- Donate to foodbanks. Or offer to send someone a meal.

These are just some suggestions. There are many more acts of kindness and if you think of any please pass that act on. Kindness is contagious.

On that note I leave you with this quote from Albert Schweitzer:

“Constant kindness can accomplish. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate.”

Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Carla Obalde

ASSOCIATION CONTEST

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NOVEMBER 2020 CONTEST WINNER AJ'S REPAIR SHOP OF MONSEY, NY. Please read through this bulletin for your chance to win!!! Call the office with the correct answer to the trivia question and you will be entered in the monthly drawing for a chance to receive a free month's dues; a value of \$45.00.

ATTORNEY'S CORNER

YOUR REPUTATION IS EVERYTHING - ENHANCE IT BY FOLLOWING THESE 4 SIMPLE STEPS

To the average consumer there is significant stress associated with vehicle repair and maintenance; I need the car! I can't buy another one! How much will this cost? With the kids not in school I can't work as much as I should. I am short every month.

Today it is critical that consumers find an honest repair shop that they can trust with their vehicle.

1. Did the customer bring the car in for a simple oil change? You notice a severe condition and suddenly a big repair bill looms. What do you do as a repair shop? You clearly explain the problem and solution. You may even tell your customer that they have the option of getting a second opinion. Oh no – you may lose the business to a competitor! Maybe not, remember the story line in Miracle on 34th Street. The Macy's store Santa directs one shopper to another store because the desired item is not available at Macy's. Initially confused, but nevertheless impressed because the store Santa tells the truth and does not steer parents to Macy's items, she informs all who will listen that she is now a loyal Macy's customer.

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2. Make sure that the repair bill is never a total surprise. After explaining the needed repairs, give a written estimate for what the job will likely cost. Labor rates and methods of payment should be posted in the waiting room of the repair shop.
3. Make sure that your customer knows that you “know your stuff”. You earned those certifications – display them. When you go to the doctor, you see the doctor’s certificates on the wall – why not put yours on your wall?
4. Nobody expects an auto repair shop to be as clean as a hospital, but customers don’t want to spend time in a place that’s a filthy mess.

PPP UPDATE

In speaking to a well known tax attorney a few days ago, it became known that the IRS, as they usually do, issued an opinion as to the deductibility of PPP expenses. Their position is that if you apply for forgiveness then the monies cannot be used to deduct the payroll costs – it will be treated as income to the business - the exact opposite of what Congress intended. Hopefully it will be fixed at the next Congressional session.

REMINDERS

All employers regardless of size must adopt a sexual harassment prevention policy for their workplace and provide annual anti-harassment training for their employees. If you have not taken steps to comply with the law, now is the time to take action. By establishing anti-harassment policies and providing training to employees, employers will be better positioned to defend claims of sexual harassment by demonstrating that they complied with the regulations and took reasonable preventative measures.

Contact the Association for a program kit and renewal.

LEGAL PLAN

If you have any questions and/or issues, ask the Association for a formal Docket Number and you will have your answer from me usually within 24 hours. Any member who wishes the complete Legal Plan, ask and the plan will be emailed to you.

Vincent P. Nesci, Esq. Association General Counsel

Don't forget to visit our website

WWW.SSDGNY.ORG



OSHA CLARIFIES COVID-19 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published two additional answers to its list of COVID-19 frequently asked questions (FAQs). The new answers clarify when employers must report COVID-19 in-patient hospitalizations and fatalities.

Reporting Hospitalizations

OSHA requires employers to report in-patient hospitalizations only if the hospitalization occurs within 24 hours of an exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace. As a result, employers must report COVID-19 hospitalizations only if the hospitalizations are:

- For in-patient treatment; and
- The result of a work-related case of COVID-19.

The report must be submitted within 24 hours of the time the employer determines there was an in-patient hospitalization caused by a COVID-19 case. Hospitalization for diagnostic testing or observation only is not “in-patient” hospitalization. Reporting Fatalities OSHA requires employers to report fatalities that occur within 30 days of an exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace. Employers must submit fatality reports within eight hours of learning that the fatality took place and that it was due to a work-related exposure.

Tech Tip

“Always refer to manufacturer recommended service interval chart on vehicles in your bay. Recommend any services that are due per those manufacturer recommendations!!!”

Thanks Bob Coholan of Skyview Service Inc. of Nanuet and an SSDGNY Board Member for sharing a Tech Tip with your fellow members!

If anybody else would like to share your thoughts, please call the office, or email us with your incite.

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SITUATION AND ACTIONS REQUIRED ON CORONAVIRUS STIMULUS BILL

During the next five weeks Congress will work to pass two important measures:

1. An Omnibus Appropriations bill to fund the government for the remainder of fiscal year 2021 and to extend the authority for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, which is due to expire on December 31st, and
2. A stimulus bill to alleviate economic distress for workers and businesses due to the coronavirus, with the prospect of including a new WOTC COVID-19 target group and an improved Employee Retention and Rehiring Tax Credit (ERRTC).

The House has already passed its stimulus bill, known as The HEROES Act, containing an improved employee retention tax credit renamed Employee Retention and Rehiring Tax Credit. The Heroes Act doesn't include a WOTC COVID-19 target group—it's only included in the Senate stimulus bill, known as the HEALS Act, at this time.

Senate Republicans have tried three times to pass a stimulus bill with a much lower cost than the \$2.2 trillion HEROES Act, but have been unable to obtain sixty votes required to take up the bill.

Senate Majority Leader McConnell may soon proceed on a different track. He's prepared to bring to the floor S. 4800, a bill introduced by Minority Leader Schumer that's identical to The HEROES Act.

McConnell's strategy is to show that The HEROES Act doesn't have enough votes to pass the Senate. He'll then try again to pass a smaller, targeted, stimulus bill with a tax title from the Senate Finance Committee that includes a new COVID-19 target group for WOTC.

The tax credit for hiring unemployed workers in the new WOTC COVID-19 target group is 50 percent of the first \$10,000 of wages. Eligible workers are individuals who received jobless benefits in the week before they were hired. (See attached summary Text—Grassley HEALS Act, in the section dealing with the American Workers, Families, and Employers Assistance Act.)

Our situation speaks for itself. We will continue to call on Ways and Means Committee members to urge Chairman Neal to cooperate with Senator Grassley for a WOTC COVID-19 target group both can accept. The odds of winning both provisions will be much improved if we can get the two chairmen talking.

Our goal is for both WOTC COVID-19 target group and ERRTC to be in any stimulus bill that has a chance of passage. A stimulus bill may not emerge at all before January, it may be deferred to the next Congress, but whatever transpires, we remain confident of our goals and the importance of achieving them.

OMNIBUS MAY CARRY STIMULUS PROVISIONS AND TAX EXTENDERS

Federal government funding expires on December 11th, and one of the final duties of the 116th Congress is to pass an Omnibus Appropriations bill to the end of FY 2021 or, if necessary, a Continuing Resolution to assure government operations.

House and Senate are keenly aware of the limited time to come together on an Omnibus. There's also a sense of urgency to pass stimulus aid, especially extending Federal extended unemployment insurance which expires at the end of December. Eight million workers face real hardship without some action on U.I., and many struggling businesses will go down without immediate help.

An omnibus and stimulus can be combined if Speaker Pelosi decides to do so—it's her call because revenue measures must originate in the House. But with time running out, Pelosi is negotiating with Senator McConnell for a compromise.

Whether there will be omnibus + stimulus, or two separate bills, depends on how Speaker Pelosi and Senator McConnell play their cards negotiating the next two weeks. If they can't agree, the only alternative is a continuing resolution, probably to the end of March, possibly combined with some stimulus aid to the end of March.

A CR would cause WOTC to expire till sometime next year, which we cannot allow considering the damage to workers and businesses alike.

REFERRALS

If you know of a station that needs our services and is interested in becoming a member, refer them to us and upon signing you will receive a \$50.00 Amazon gift card. If you know of someone interested, please contact our Sales Representative Bill Griese at 914-227-0144.

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Play Smart * Play Safe * Play Local

New York State's PLAY SMART * PLAY SAFE * PLAY LOCAL campaign encourages residents to engage in responsible recreation during the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis.

New York State DEC and State Parks recommendations for getting outside safely incorporate guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the NYS Department of Health for reducing the spread of infectious diseases. This guidance urges New Yorkers to recreate locally, practice physical distancing, show respect for all outdoor adventurers, and use common sense to protect themselves and others.



Take the Pledge to **PLAY SMART * PLAY SAFE * PLAY LOCAL**: Enjoy the Outdoors Safely and Responsibly

- I pledge to **respect the rules** and do my part to keep parks, beaches, trails, boat launches, and other public spaces safe for everyone.
- I will **stay local** and close to home.
- I will **maintain a safe distance** from others outside of my household.
- I will **wear a mask** when I cannot maintain social distancing.
- I accept that this summer, I may have to **adjust how I enjoy the outdoors** to help keep myself and others healthy and safe, even if it means changing my plans to visit a public space.
- I will be **respectful of others** by letting them pass by me if needed on a trail and keeping my blanket 10 feet apart from others on the beach.
- I will **move quickly** through shared areas like parking lots, trailheads, and scenic areas to avoid crowding.
- If I'm not feeling well, I will **stay home**.

Use the hashtags **#PlaySmartPlaySafePlayLocal**, **#RecreateResponsibly**, and **#RecreateLocal** on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to share how you get outside safely, responsibly, and locally.



Check out our Facebook page
@SSDGNY

DECREASE IN DISABILITY INSURANCE

If you currently get your mandatory disability insurance through the association...GOOD NEWS!...the cost has been decreased to \$1.80 per employee. Please look at the December bill and adjust any automatic monthly payments that you have scheduled. If you are not yet enrolled with us and are interested in doing so, call the association and we can get you this great rate as well.

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: Powersports Dealership for sale, Motorcycles, ATVS, UTVS, Snowmobiles, Generators/power washers. Parts dept. Service dept. 8500 sq. ft. building on 8 acres. Rent or buy. Kawasaki and Arctic Cat, Kymco, Generac generators. We are located on the Newburgh/Marlboro NY, RT 9w. High traffic road. Check our website bigboyztoysny.com Call Tony 845-781-3082 cell.

For FREE: 20 Drums of Waste Oil. We will load onto any truck. Please call Mario at 914-948-0900.

For Sale: NYS Inspection machine with license in Orange County NY. Asking \$20,000 or best offer. Please call Greg at 845-782-2505.

For Sale: Dutchess County opportunity: 6 bays, 5 lifts, 2 - 10ft doors, 2 - 12ft doors, 2 bath, break room, stock room, large reception and office areas, ample blacktop parking, fenced yard, town water, busy intersection and much more. NYS Inspection facility. Zoned for auto repair, autobody and auto sales. Call 845 - 483 - 0400, Monday - Thursday, 9 - 3.

TRIVIA QUESTION

What is the new disability rate? Call the office with the correct answer for a chance to win a free month's dues.

Service Station Dealers &
Automotive Services wishes you all
A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Regards,
Carla Obalde
Operations Manager



Please Pass Me Along to Share
with other Stations!