

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **USAC-MD COMMITS \$8000 For Online Certification**

Over the years TRAA has been the beneficiary of over \$50,000 in designated education donations from the United States Auto Club-Motoring Division (USAC-MD). Once again, USAC has contributed \$10,000 to TRAA for the purpose of extending its education endeavors and specifically to support the TRAA online certification testing project.

Since 1997 when it made its first \$10,000 contribution in support of the fledgling National Driver Certification Program, USAC has committed itself to the promotion and the support of this certification program. During his presentation in March, Senior Vice President, Jim Hurst, said, "We want to continue to promote national certification as a part of our ongoing education efforts because we believe it is a safety win-win for all: the national motoring public, the towing operators and all of the incident responders out there every day working together and risking their lives in the line of duty."

The specific focus this year will be the certification online testing. "Testing online is a fairly new process for certification," explained Harriet Cooley, TRAA Executive Director. "It began with our Texas statewide certification project in an effort to get as many drivers certified with a quick turnaround as possible", she said. "Now we are going nationwide with the hope that we can reach many more drivers and get them up to speed with safety and professional towing procedures."

USAC is dedicating \$8000 of the contribution to USAC-MD Level 1 drivers seeking to take the online testing. \$40 for each online application will be paid for the USAC-MD applicants and non-USAC-MD applicants will receive a \$20.00 discount. USAC-MD members will be identified by their USAC ID# on their certification application. Applications may be obtained by calling the TRAA office 1-800-728-0136 or going to our web site , [www.towserver.net](http://www.towserver.net) and clicking on certification.

While the majority of the USAC contributions have been in support of certification, some of the monies have gone to support of the Legislative and Leadership Conferences. This year USAC contributed \$2000 toward the conference and Jim Hurst participated on the very informative panel, "New Technologies in Towing" which was an effort to clear up some misconceptions about digital dispatching, invoicing and bill payment . Education efforts such as these are of great value to the towing industry overall and are the expressed purpose of the Legislative and Leadership Conference.

"We are extremely grateful to USAC-MD for this generous contribution," stated Alan Gregg, TRAA President, "and we know that these monies will be a huge encouragement to USAC-MD tow truck operators looking to increase their safety education through certification."