

**Wisconsin Towing Association**  
Board Meeting Agenda  
Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells  
March 4, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.

-  **Call to Order**
-  **Secretary's Report**
-  **Membership Report**
-  **Financial Report**
-  **Legislative Report**
-  **New Business**
-  **Next Meeting**
-  **Adjourn**

**WISCONSIN TOWING ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
October 29, 2022  
Dewey's Towing, Beloit, WI**

Chairman Jean Wedel called meeting to order at 1:13 p.m.

**In Attendance – see attached sheet**

**Meeting Minutes**

Chair Wedel called on Dan Johnson to read the minutes of the June 16, 2022 board meeting. A motion by Junior Merten and seconded by Steve Davis was made to accept the meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

**Financial Report**

Between October 1, 2021 and October 1, 2022, Wisconsin Towing Association revenue was \$95,730 and expenses were \$92,115 with a Fund Balance on October 1, 2022 of \$52,696. 2022 Tow Show revenue was \$61,456 and expenses were \$36,579, for a net profit of \$24,977.

A motion by Junior Merten and seconded by Betty Parnham was made to accept the report as submitted. Motion carried.

**Membership Report**

**New Members**

Superior Towing LLC – Superior, WI  
Refining Repair and Maintenance – Ladysmith, WI

Total: 2

**Cancelled Members**

M&R Service Center.....Declined to renew  
J&J Towing and Recovery.....Non-payment of dues  
WI Repossession Agents.....Non-payment of dues  
Elite Towing and Transport.....Closed  
Jerr-Dan.....Non-payment of dues  
Brauner's Garage.....Non-payment of dues  
Brown's Service TPL.....Non-payment of dues  
L&S Towing.....No longer towing  
Speedy Peedy Towing.....Non-payment of dues  
Shawn Hughes.....Non-payment of dues

Total: 8

Towing Companies	114
Allied	16
Out of State	13
Friends	6
 Total members	 149

A motion by Junior Merten and seconded by Kyle Gessler was made to accept the report as submitted. Motion carried.

### **Legislative Report**

Since the legislature adjourned for the session, the Department of Revenue's fiscal estimates for the end of the fiscal year ending on June 30th show a surplus of \$4B and projected to exceed \$5B at the end of the calendar year due to higher than projected tax revenues. Both the Governor and the legislature are at odds as to what to do with the surplus in terms of spending and tax cuts.

Governor Evers has set the all-time record for vetoes during the 2021-22 session. Evers vetoed 126 bills in full and on bill in part. The Governor vetoed more bills than any other Wisconsin governor in a single legislative session. The title was previously held by Governor Zimmerman, who vetoed 90 bills in the 1927-28 legislative session.

Businessman Tim Michaels beat former Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch by 5 percentage points and will face Governor Tony Evers in November. Michaels was supported by former President Donald Trump and former Governor Tommy Thompson, while Kleefisch was backed by former VP Mike Pence, former Governor Walker and the state's largest business group, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce. State Senator Roger Roth (Republican) will join the ticket with Tim Michaels which State Representative Sara Rodriguez will be on the ballot with Governor Evers.

Sen. Ron Johnson is one of Democrats' top targets in the fall. Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes is the nominee after several high-profile Democrats dropped out of the primary in recent weeks. One election of interest is in the 3rd Congressional District where Rep. Ron Kind is retiring. State Senator Brad Pfaff won his primary on the Democrat side while Republican Derrick Van Orden won his primary election. This is a closely watched race as the district is considered a coin toss.

Current Wisconsin AG Josh Kaul will face District Attorney Eric Toney as the Republican challenger to this office. This was a tight race on the Republican side but Mr. Toney prevailed. Longtime incumbent Doug La Follette (D) won the party nomination for this office. On the Republican side, State Sen. Amy Loudenbeck won her primary election so the two will face off for this office which has very little power or influence left in it.

No races of interest in the State House, with the exception of the challenge to Assembly Speaker Robin Vos. A Trump-endorsed candidate emerged in the 63rd Assembly District and nearly beat the longtime speaker, losing by only 260 votes.

## **Other Business**

Michelle Sukow shared information regarding the recent WisDOT Motor Carriers Advisory Committee meeting. Noted green lights on government highway trucks, the state freight plan, more SWEFs and more truck parking. January is Human Trafficking Awareness month. DOT is looking for topics to discuss at next MCAC meeting.

Jean Wedel brought up the issue with EVs and that Gateway Tech. did some demonstrations on training and handling EVs. Automated vehicles and EVs are on the horizon but still testing in small areas near Racine. Wayne Lammert said a class on EVs may be held in their area in the spring. Perhaps we should consider doing something at the Tow Show. Ben Richard mentioned the Energy Security Agency and maybe inviting them to the Show. Glenn Meyer said All-State does EV seminars as well, both in the north and southern parts of the state. Kyle Gessler said he would contact some folks about this.

The 2024 Tow Show was discussed. Kalahari is really the only other option outside of Chula Vista. Check on the first week of June or maybe move it to September/October. Mark Platt said Kalahari would handle many of the logistics of the event, including the vendors and registration. Question came up if we should move the date, the location, or both. Jamon Ingelse said we should get three dates from Kalahari in 2024 along with their pricing for rooms, parking, vendor space and food. Jamon Ingelse made a motion on that item which was seconded by Junior Merten. Motion approved.

Jean Wedel mentioned the Succession Planning Webinar and video which is available in the WTA newsletter each month.

The next board meeting will be March 25, 2023 at a location yet to be determined. Seeing no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mark Salentine and seconded by Junior Merten. Motion passed, meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Johnson, Secretary  
Wisconsin Towing Association



WI Towing Association Board Meeting  
General Attendance

PLEASE PRINT

NAME

COMPANY

Ted Roskopf	Roskopf's
GARY Wedel	Dewey's
Craig Goldbeck	GOLDBECK TOWING
Guy Richard	Guy's Towing & Ser
Alex Douglas	Al's Towing
Amee Richard	Guy's
Ann Richard	Guy's
Ben Richard	Guy's
Jane Richard	Guy's
Steve Davis	Davis Cito
MARK PLATT	PLATT'S
Pat Rogers	Powr's
Danison Rogers	Dewors
Cathy Davis	Davis Cito
Alex Schmidt	Schmidt's Auto.
David Anlex	Road Sync.
Mark Sakentine	Ray's
Michelle Sunkow	HDM



WI Towing Association Board Meeting  
General Attendance

PLEASE PRINT

NAME

COMPANY

DAN JOHNSON WTA

JR MERTEN MERTEN'S

Wayne Lammert Rod's Towing

Marion Lammert Rod's Towing

Nancy Brust Milwaukee

Mary Weber KWTs

Betty Parnham Johnson Towing

Darrell Parnham Johnson Towing

Marilyn J. Rogers Dewey's

Kym Tessmer EST

Kyle Gessler Gessler Auto

Ky Wilson KWTs

Mark Bradfish Terrys Towing

TOM HEDGLIN AREA WIDE

Jamon Ingelse Lamber Towing

Shirley Zachar Zachar Towing



**WISCONSIN TOWING ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP REPORT  
MARCH 4, 2023**

*Last report issued October 29, 2022*

**New Members**

Speedy Peedy Towing (re-joined)  
Kapnick Insurance Group

**Total: 2**

**Cancelled Members**

On Time Towing	Non-payment of dues
Brickner's of Wausau	Declined to renew

**Total: 2**

<b>Towing Companies</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Allied</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Out of State</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Friends</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total members</b>	<b>150</b>

**WI Towing Association  
Treasurer's Report  
March 4, 2023**

Between October 1, 2022 and March 1, 2023, Wisconsin Towing Association revenue was \$17,077 and expenses were \$20,607 with a Fund Balance on March 1, 2022 of \$47,420.

The 2023 budget for the Wisconsin Towing Association was set at the WMCA December board meeting and is included in this packet.

Financial statements are in the packet as well, and this concludes the financial report.



**Wisconsin Towing Association  
Profit Loss Comparison**

	<u>Oct 22 - Feb 23</u>	<u>Oct 21 - Feb 22</u>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>		
<b>Other Income</b>		
Contribution Income	1,148.50	1,034.00
Convention Income	0.00	340.00
Dues	15,929.00	13,630.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<u>17,077.50</u>	<u>15,004.00</u>
<b>Other Expense</b>		
Administrative Fees	17,800.00	17,800.00
Convention Expenses	1,807.92	2,076.04
Contributions & Scholarships	0.00	110.00
Membership Dues/Subscriptions	1,000.00	0.00
Office Supplies	0.00	101.40
Travel Expenses	0.00	122.08
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<u>20,607.92</u>	<u>20,209.52</u>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<u>-3,530.42</u>	<u>-5,205.52</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><b>-3,530.42</b></u>	<u><b>-5,205.52</b></u>



**Wisconsin Towing Association  
Balance Sheet Comparison**

	<u><b>Jan 31, 2023</b></u>	<u><b>Sep 30, 2022</b></u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Total Checking	\$ 47,420.24	\$ 52,696.40
Total Checking/Savings	47,420.24	52,696.40
Total Current Assets	47,420.24	52,696.40
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><b>\$ 47,420.24</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 52,696.40</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
Equity		
Fund Balance	\$ 47,420.24	\$ 52,696.40
Total Equity	47,420.24	52,696.40
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><b>\$ 47,420.24</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 52,696.40</b></u>



# Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association

## Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

### October 2021 through September 2022

**Towing**

	Actual	Budget	Budget
	2021-2022	2021-2022	2022-2023
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
Contribution Income	2,068.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Convention Income	62,156.50	55,000.00	60,000.00
Dues	35,079.00	40,000.00	35,000.00
Total Other Income	99,303.50	97,500.00	97,500.00
Other Expense			
Administrative Fees	53,400.00	53,400.00	53,400.00
Association Meetings	0.00	500.00	0.00
Awards & Prizes	64.39	0.00	0.00
Contributions & Scholarships	9,255.00	5,000.00	7,500.00
Convention Expenses	36,281.73	35,000.00	35,000.00
Convention Entertnmt/Speakers	599.00	1,000.00	599.00
Membership Dues/Subscriptions	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Office Supplies	101.40	100.00	100.00
Travel Expenses	465.71	750.00	500.00
Total Other Expense	101,167.23	96,750.00	98,099.00
Net Other Income	-1,863.73	750.00	-599.00
Net Income	-1,863.73	750.00	-599.00



**WI Towing Association  
Legislative Report  
March 4, 2023**

**2023-24 Legislative Session Begins**

A new legislative session is underway with a very large freshman class in the Legislature and Governor Evers starting his second term in office. The state Assembly remains solidly in control by the Republicans; however they came up two seats short of securing a veto-proof majority.

The State Senate has also had an increase in Republican Senators who were able to secure a veto-proof majority of 22-11. They can now override any veto by the Governor, but it's somewhat of a moot point since the State Assembly is unable to do so. Still, very strong numbers in both Houses for the GOP.

The Governor has recently introduced his Executive state budget for 2023-25 and probably the biggest item on the table is how the Governor and Legislature plan to utilize the projected \$7 billion budget surplus.

The Governor would like to see more money go to public education, medical assistance and some tax cuts, but the Republicans have plans for sweeping changes to the tax code to significantly reduce taxes, but also have a tacit agreement with the Governor regarding more for K-12 education. However, the Legislature would like to see an expansion of school choice and charter programs, which the Governor generally opposes.

The Governor is also planning on pushing a number of controversial policy items as he's done before, such as legalizing recreational marijuana, ending the state ban on abortion, and providing driver's licenses to undocumented individuals. More than likely, the Legislature will reject all those initiatives when they get their chance to rework the state budget.



In his state budget address, the Governor is hoping to:

- Create a tax credit for families and individuals totaling \$840 million over the next two years, with an average tax cut of about \$200 a year per family.
- Expand the Child and Dependent Care tax credit from 50% to 100% to provide an average of \$260 a year for about 100,000 taxpayers.
- Expand social welfare programs targeted at childcare, mental health care and public education - all with a price tag that will easily exceed \$1 billion dollars – which is too much for the Republican Legislature.
- Enact measures to increase spending on classrooms and programs to address mental health, proposing to spend \$500 million more overall for mental health and behavioral services, including \$270 million dedicated to expanding services in schools.
- Allow for 12 weeks of **paid** Family Medical leave.
- Increase the state minimum wage.
- Eliminate the 'Right to Work' law.
- Legalize recreational marijuana.
- Repeal Wisconsin Act 10 and restore collective bargaining for state and local employees,
- Increase funding for public schools by \$2.6 billion, an amount the Legislature will more than likely reject.
- Fully repealing the Personal Property Tax, which may have support in the GOP Legislature.



- Allocate 20% of sales tax revenue to local governments, however Republicans are at a much lower level - around 1%. But this may be an item they can find some compromise.
- Create a \$100 million workforce innovation grant program to respond to state's workforce challenges, and \$50 million to address staffing shortages in healthcare fields.
- Provide \$60 million over the biennium for traffic calming grants to construct traffic circles, pedestrian islands, bump-outs at crosswalks, and other treatments that slow vehicle traffic.
- Implement "Driver's Licenses for All", regardless of documented status.
- Allow for automatic voter registration at the DMV, commonly referred to as 'Motor Voter'.
- Provide 35 full-time positions for additional state troopers and 10 positions for motor carrier inspectors.
- Increase the seatbelt violation penalty from \$10 to \$25.
- Create a license plate decal for EVs (front and back) which identifies them as electric vehicles

We've had a chance to review the newly released Executive state budget, specifically as it relates to transportation and do not see anything of great controversy or concern in the transportation budget. Of course, we will continue to monitor the budget in its entirety throughout the process and provide any new details to members.

At some point later this summer, the Legislature will adopt and send their version of the budget back to the Governor for his review. The Governor could sign it, veto some of it...or even veto all of it.



Unlikely he'd veto all of it but certainly there will be several vetoes coming. The Legislature and Governor will have to find some kind of common ground on the big issues in the budget and hopefully get it done before the fall.

The budget will begin the process of legislative review, hearings, mark-up sessions, amendments and voting by the Legislature. It will then be returned to the Governor later this summer for his review and potential vetoes and signature into law.

This concludes the Legislative Report.



**CHAIR**  
Jean Wedel  
Dewey's Towing

**VICE CHAIR**  
Jamon Ingelse  
Lanser Garage and Towing

**ADMINISTRATOR**  
Dan Johnson  
WTA

## 2023-24 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### Priority #1: Vehicle Registration denial for unpaid towing fees

Vehicle abandonment is a real problem in Wisconsin. Each year, thousands of vehicle owners walk away from their vehicle following mechanical failure, accident or other reasons. Such vehicles create a public nuisance and law enforcement often directs tow operators to remove these vehicles from the public eye.

While the problem is solved for law enforcement and the public, the tow operator is stuck with the vehicle with little to no hope of reaching the vehicle owner to collect payment for towing and storage fees. The vehicle owner may purchase another vehicle and subsequently register it with the state even though their financial obligation to the previous vehicle remains open and the tow operator is not paid.

The process to contact a vehicle owner can be costly and time-consuming, particularly when the owner may have no intention to compensate the tow operator. They may purchase another vehicle, register it, and perhaps abandon it in the same manner as their previous vehicle.

The Wisconsin Towing Association is requesting creation of a disincentive for vehicle owners who abandon vehicles and do not pay towing and storage fees. The disincentive is based off of Florida state law which prohibits any person who does not pay towing and storage fees in a timely manner from registering another vehicle until such fees are paid. Tow operators would provide names and other pertinent information by affidavit to the Department of Motor Vehicles in order to compile a 'Do Not Register' list. This vehicle registration prohibition could be created under section 779.415 Wis.Stats and generally follow Florida law.



### Priority #2: Private Property Impound rates and indexing

In 2013, Wisconsin Act 76 was enacted which allows for the towing of unauthorized vehicles from private property. A property owner or landlord could contact a towing company directly to have the vehicle removed rather than contact law enforcement, as was the case under prior law.

The law directed the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to create a specific rate schedule for towing and stowing of such vehicles. Those rates were established in 2016 under Wisconsin Administrative Code Trans 319, but have not been increased since that time, but towing expenses have certainly increased.

Thus, the Wisconsin Towing Association is requesting the current rate for towing under Trans 319.03(1)(a) be increased by \$50; the current rate for other necessary and reasonable charges under (d) increase by \$50; and that both rates be adjusted and indexed each year by the Department to the annual consumer price index.



### Priority #3: Special identifying plates for electric vehicles

A number of states, including Illinois just recently, have created special mandatory plates that identify a vehicle as an electric vehicle. Such vehicles often require special attention, care and training for the purposes of towing and recovery. A license plate which easily identifies the vehicle as an electric vehicle would allow tow operators to make the proper safety decisions when recovering such vehicles.

