# **Wisconsin Towing Association**

Board Meeting Agenda The Pointe Hotel – Minocqua, WI October 18, 2025

- Call to Order
- Secretary's Report
- 🔌 Membership Report
- Treasurer Report
- Legislative Report
- New Business
  - o Bill Tomlinson Education Fund Mission Statement
  - o Supplemental Insurance Information
- Next Meeting
- Ndjourn 🏖

# WISCONSIN TOWING ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES June 22, 2025

#### Chula Vista Hotel, Wisconsin Dells

Date: June 22, 2025

Location: Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

Chairman: Jamon Ingelse

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jamon Ingelse at 10:51 a.m. In attendance were Tom Hedglin, Matthew, Bill and Kathy Sellner, Greg Laabs, Steve Davis, Glenn Meyer, Josh Wedel, Jeanette Rogers-Wedel, Ryan Tessman, Jim Weyandt, Chase Leonard, Kyle Gessler, Craig Goldbeck, Ben Richard, Max Richard, Riley Richard, Tyson Richard, Ryan Richard, Aaron Richard, Homer Schultz, Darrell Parnham, Betty Parnham, Jai Grunewald, Ken Weber, Jamon Ingelse, Junior Merten, J.J. Sancinati, Lee Loveall, Mark Platt, Marty Platt, Mark Salentine, Mark Salentine, Wayne Lammert, Jeff and Geri Roskopf, Alex Schmidt, Dean Zifko, Carol Klismet, Dave Whealon, Dan Johnson, and Sean Zacher.

#### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the April 5, 2025 meeting were approved as submitted on a motion by Jeff Roskopf and seconded by Steve Davis.

Wisconsin Towing Association Membership, Financial Report and Legislative Report were provided at the Annual Meeting.

#### **Election of Officers**

Kyle Gessler made a motion to nominate Craig Goldbeck to Chairman, seconded by Steve Davis. Chase Leonard made a motion to nominate Kyle Gessler to Vice Chairman, seconded by Pat Kumbier. Chairman Ingelse asked three times for any additional nominations. Hearing none, nominations were closed on an approved motion by Junior Merten, seconded by Aaron Richards. Junior Merten made a motion which was seconded by Aaron Richards to approve both nominee to Chair and Vice Chair. Motion approved.

#### **Other Business**

Auturo's Unified Towing Software discussion (Shelli Hawkins). An update was provided on Auturo, a company formed from the merger of several towing management software systems: Auturo plans to unify its various products into one comprehensive system over the next 10 years. Tracker software is being phased out, but users were assured their data would be retained and supported during the transition. Members asked questions of Ms. Hawkins which were fielded appropriately.

The group addressed the financial challenges of providing plaques for the wrecker contest due to high costs relative to entry fees. Solutions discussed included: Raising entry fees. Finding sponsors for the plaques. Switching to certificates for second and third place. The group agreed to prepare a breakdown of sponsorship allocations for the Fall Board meeting.

Positive feedback was received regarding the recent convention and training. Suggestions were made to sign a multi-year deal with the current venue due to its improvements and expansion plans. Initial planning for the 60th anniversary event in two years began, with a call for ideas from members.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. on a motion by Aaron Richard and seconded by Wayne Lammert. The next meeting will be October 18, 2025 in Minocqua, WI.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Johnson, Secretary Wisconsin Towing Association

# WISCONSIN TOWING ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP REPORT OCTOBER 18, 2025

## **New Members**

<u>Name</u>	Type		Start Date
1.	Isaac Maisonet	Friend of Towing	6/24/2025
2.	MidState Towing LLC	Towing	6/23/2025
3.	Select Container	Towing	7/30/2025
4.	Chuck Bauer	Friend of Towing	9/22/2025
5.	Jake Domres	Friend of Towing	9/25/2025

Total: 5

#### **Cancelled Members**

<u>Name</u>	Mem	<u>bership</u>	Drop Reason
1.	Bob's Main Street Auto	Towing	Declined to Renew
2.	Chippewa Towing & Transport	Towing	Non-Payment of Dues
3.	CW Recovery LLC	Towing	Non-Payment of Dues
4.	JJ's Towing and Recovery	Towing	Non-Payment of Dues
5.	US Bank	Allied	Declined to Renew
6.	Ace Towing	Out State	Non-Payment of Dues

Total: 5

Towing Companies	144
Allied	12
Out of State	10
Friends	7
<b>-</b>	4=0
Total members	173

# WI Towing Association Treasurer's Report October 18, 2025

Between October 1, 2024 and October 1, 2025, Wisconsin Towing Association revenue was \$177,578 and expenses were \$138,426 with a Fund Balance as of October 1, 2025 of \$77,458.

2025 Tow Show revenue was \$89,885 and expenses were \$45,921. A donation of **\$7,386** to the Survivor's Fund was made on July 1, 2025, which was generated by the Silent Auction.

The live auction brought in **\$19,100** for the Bill Tomlinson Training Fund and a separate donation of **\$6,390** was made to the fund.

In addition, equal donations of **\$1,268** were made to the following five chapters of the Wisconsin Special Olympics.

- Bay Navigators Green Bay
- Polk County Special Olympics St Croix Falls
- Manitowoc County Miracles Manitowoc
- Lancaster Special Olympics Cuba City
- Barron County Special Olympics Rice Lake

Financial statements are in the packet. If there are no questions, this concludes the financial report.

# Wisconsin Towing Association Profit Loss Comparison

	Oct 24 - Sep 25	Oct 23 - Sep 24
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Advertising Income	100.00	0.00
Contribution Income	2,409.00	2,126.50
Convention Income	89,885.50	71,276.68
Dues	42,158.50	37,129.50
Seminar Income	43,025.00	4,450.00
Total Other Income	177,578.00	114,982.68
Other Expense		
Administrative Fees	55,400.00	53,400.00
Association Meetings	331.80	0.00
Contributions & Scholarships	13,726.00	4,701.04
Convention Expenses	47,554.64	53,699.09
Membership Dues/Subscriptions	1,000.00	1,000.00
Office Supplies	357.95	109.00
Professional Fees	0.00	10,731.00
Seminar Expenses	19,941.08	4,270.11
Travel Expenses	115.24	192.63
Total Other Expense	138,426.71	128,102.87
Net Other Income	39,151.29	-13,120.19
	39,151.29	-13,120.19

# Wisconsin Towing Association Balance Sheet Comparison

Sep 30, 2025		Sep 30, 2024	
\$	77,458.54	\$	38,307.29
	77,458.54		38,307.29
	77,458.54		38,307.29
\$	77,458.54	\$	38,307.29
\$	77,458.54	\$	38,307.29
	77,458.54		38,307.29
\$	77,458.54	\$	38,307.29
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2024	2025
\$32,646.00	\$23,274.00
\$3,534.00	\$3,937.00
\$3,944.00	\$5,477.00
\$590.00	\$625.00
\$66.50	\$67.81
\$24.54	\$22.64
\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
\$25.92	\$26.35
\$19.64	\$31.00
\$45,850.60	\$38,460.80
\$47.08	\$49.90
\$40.48	\$13.50
\$32.98	\$13.50
	\$32,646.00 \$3,534.00 \$3,944.00 \$590.00 \$66.50 \$24.54 \$5,000.00 \$25.92 \$19.64 \$45,850.60

#### **2024 NUMBERS**

Friday Pig Roast: 340 Saturday Cookout: 270

Banquet: 285 Ladies Lunch: 70 Kids Party: 29

#### **2025 NUMBERS**

Pig Roast: 250

Saturday Cookout: 185

Ladies Lunch: 42 Kids Party: 18 Banquet: 248

# WI Towing Association Legislative Report October 18, 2025

#### **2025-27 State Budget Enacted**

The 2025–2027 Wisconsin State Budget, totaling \$111 billion, was signed into law by Governor Tony Evers in early July 2025. While many predicted a long, drawn out budget process, the Governor and Legislature moved very quickly in the last days of June due to the pending signing of the federal 'One, Big Beautiful Bill', which was signed into law on July 4th.

The budget needed to be enacted prior to the enactment of the OBBB, or Wisconsin would have lost more than \$1.5 billion in Medicaid funding.

The speed by which the budget was enacted was critical, but by doing so, provisions that will negatively impact the trucking industry could not be stopped.

Most notably, there will be an increase of Truck Registration Fees, and trucks over 6,000 pounds gross weight will see a 10% increase in registration fees.

### **Governor Evers Will Not Run in 2026**

Governor Evers announced on July 24, 2025, that he will not seek a third term as Wisconsin's governor in the 2026 election. His departure sets the stage for Wisconsin's first open gubernatorial race since 2010, with both Democratic and Republican fields expected to be competitive.

His decision also comes at a pivotal time, as Democrats aim to capitalize on newly redrawn legislative maps and potentially gain control of the state legislature.

#### **Private Property Impound Fee Legislation**

We are currently working with Rep. Will Penterman on new legislation which proposes increased fees for towing vehicles from private property. The bill sets maximum allowable charges for towing and storage, similar to those found in Trans 319, but with the following increases:

- \$200 for vehicle removal using standard towing methods.
- Up to \$200 for special equipment or circumstances

The bill addresses *commercial motor vehicles* by allowing additional charges when the removed vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating or registered weight of 10,001 pounds or more. In such cases, towing services may apply a "commercially reasonable surcharge" beyond the standard \$200 removal fee.

The bill also prohibits certain fees (e.g., administrative or gate fees) unless justified by specific circumstances. Finally, the fee limits would be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index.

### **Towed Vehicle Notification System Proposal**

While I have not seen anything introduced, a draft bill proposal was shared with me that seeks to create a statewide Towed Vehicle Notification System as an online system for reporting and locating towed vehicles.

All towing services must register with the system and post information about the system where towed vehicles are stored. Annual registration fee for the towing company is \$1,000 and there are several reporting rules the towing company must follow or be fined or suspended from providing towing services.

I did share this proposal with the Board a few months ago. Again, nothing has been formally introduced but I will continue to monitor things should it appear in the Legislature this session.

#### SLOW DOWN, MOVE OVER FOR DISABLED VEHICLES

State Senator Jesse James has introduced Senate Bill 409 would add "any disabled vehicle" to the current 'Slow Down-Move Over' law. Under this bill, a motorist approaching a disabled vehicle must also move over or slow down, similar to emergency and roadside assistance vehicles.

"Disabled vehicle" is defined as a motor vehicle that is stopped and to which any of the following apply:

- 1. The motor vehicle displays warning or hazard lights.
- 2. Emergency flares or other emergency warning devices are placed near the motor vehicle.
- 3. One or more persons are attending the motor vehicle and visible to passing motorists.

Similar laws exist in 28 other states, including Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa and Indiana. A public hearing was held on September 10<sup>th</sup> but no further action has been taken.

# **Bill Tomlinson Training Fund Mission Statement**

The Bill Tomlinson Training Fund, under the Wisconsin Towing Association, is committed to advancing the towing and recovery industry through quality training, professional development, and dedicated industry advocacy. We uphold Bill Tomlinson's legacy by ensuring operators are equipped to serve safely, skillfully, and with the highest standards of professionalism.



# Wisconsin Towing Company

# 45 Employees

In the spring of 2023, we met with a Wisconsin towing company that, at the time, offered health and dental benefits to its employees. However, no supplemental benefits were available. During our meeting, we discussed how additional benefits could help financially protect employees and reviewed several strategies that could be implemented. We then moved forward with the implementation process.

The employer chose to fund an accident plan to help employees cover out-of-pocket medical expenses under their health plan. They also allowed employees to add voluntary coverage through payroll deductions.

One of the company's biggest historical challenges was effectively communicating benefits to employees. To address this, AssuredPartners developed a comprehensive communication plan. This included:

- A digital benefits booklet
- A company-specific benefits webpage
- A virtual enrollment process
- A benefits administration portal to manage elections
- Outbound text and email communications
- Telephonic enrollment support

To ensure a successful enrollment and benefits education experience, we prioritized flexibility to accommodate drivers' schedules. Our goal was to deliver both employer-paid and voluntary benefits in a simple, accessible way.

The entire enrollment process was completed within one week through a virtual platform. Drivers expressed appreciation for the employer-sponsored benefits and were thankful for the opportunity to participate in voluntary coverage options.

We are now integrated into the company's ongoing benefits communication strategy, supporting both open enrollment and new hire onboarding efforts.

Since the introduction of these benefits in the spring of 2023, they have provided meaningful financial protection to employees. To date, over **\$31,000** in claims have been paid out for incidents including accidents, critical illnesses, short-term disability, and life insurance. (examples on back page)

Before these benefits were introduced, employees at this towing company had **no financial protection** through voluntary benefits. This experience highlights the universal need for supplemental coverage—regardless of industry, background, or walk of life.

We're here to help bring these valuable benefits to your company and employees, along with streamlined communication and a seamless enrollment experience.

Let us know how we can support you!



#### Real-Life Impact: A Thanksgiving Accident

Accidents can happen at any time. One employee was enjoying Thanksgiving morning with family, participating in their annual backyard football game. In the middle of the fun, he unexpectedly stepped into a large hole and broke his leg in multiple places.

Fortunately, he had health insurance—but even with coverage, he faced thousands of dollars in deductibles and coinsurance. Thankfully, because his employer had funded an accident policy and he had enrolled in it, the policy paid out over **\$5,500**. This benefit helped cover his out-of-pocket medical expenses and provided additional financial support during his recovery.

#### Real-Life Impact: Critical Illness, Disability, and Life Insurance

This same towing company also had an employee who was diagnosed with cancer. Due to the severity of the illness, the employee was unable to work for several months while undergoing treatment. Despite a courageous fight, the employee sadly passed away.

Because the employee had both disability and life insurance in place, they were able to receive disability payments during treatment, helping to ease the financial burden during a very difficult time. Additionally, the life insurance policy provided a benefit to the employee's family, allowing them to cover burial expenses and avoid incurring thousands of dollars in debt.

#### Menu of Colonial Life Supplemental Benefits Offered:

- Group Accident (Employee portion funded by Employer)
- Short Term Disability
- Critical Illness
- Life

#### **Colonial Life Benefits Paid since 2023:**

- Group Accident \$5,560
- Short Term Disability \$15,500
- Life \$10,000



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