



*New Motor Vehicle Board*

# *In-Site*

January 2013

A Publication of the California New Motor Vehicle Board

1.13 Edition



Ramon Alavrez C.

## **PRESIDENT'S YEAR END WRAP**

Much has occurred in the automotive industry this past year. Hurricane Sandy had a profound effect on the industry, damaging a massive amount of new vehicles and also destroying dealership facilities.

The good news is that the industry is improving. We all hope that 2013 proves to be a prosperous year.

I am proud to have served as the Board's President during 2011 and 2012; it has been a true pleasure. The Board and staff continue to successfully accomplish its goals and responsibilities in accordance with our Mission "to enhance relations between dealers and manufacturers throughout the state by resolving disputes in the new motor vehicle industry in an efficient, fair and cost-effective manner."

Changes to the Board's staff included the retirement of Linda Lighter, Administrative Analyst, and losing 2 student assistants, Taquita Lugo and Anthony Vela, due to State cutbacks. This brings the number of staff to 9; yet as a team, they ensure that the Board runs smoothly and efficiently.

The Board made several changes to its fee collection regulations. First, the annual Board fee paid by manufacturers/distributors and dealers was reinstated. The annual fee for manufacturers and distributors is \$.45 per vehicle with a minimum of \$300; the fee charged to dealers is \$300. The reinstatement of the annual fee was necessary for the Board to comply with its statutory obligation of charging fees sufficient to fully fund its activities. Second, the Board streamlined the process for collecting its fees and can now send invoices via e-mail or regular mail in lieu of

certified mail, return receipt requested. This measure reduces the Board's costs in performing these functions.

The 2012 Industry Roundtable was very successful and well-received by those in attendance. The event was held in the Assembly Room at the Department of Motor Vehicles for the first time, and will most likely be held there for all future Roundtables. Please watch for materials concerning a tentative Roundtable scheduled for March 14, 2013. It is held the day after the California New Car Dealers Association Dealer Day. This forum continues to educate our members and staff concerning relevant industry issues and encourages members of the vehicle industry to attend and participate.

I would like to thank our staff, William G. Brennan, Robin P. Parker, Dana Winterrowd, Dawn Kindel, Suzanne Luke, Nicole Angulo, Eugene Ohta, Jackie Grassinger and Kathy Tomono, for their excellent performance and all of their hard work. In addition, thank you to the attorneys and members of the industry that appear before the Board for their professionalism in representing their interests and clients.

Last but not least, a special personal thank you for the dedication of each Board member, Ryan L. Brooks, Robert T. (Tom) Flesh, Peter Hoffman, David C. Lizárraga, Bismarck Obando, Victoria Rusnak, Glenn Stevens, and David Wilson. As president, I am very proud of their tireless work. Each is successful in their own right and busy either running their own business or working for companies that understand the importance of public service; yet they are willing to devote significant time and energy to public service with only nominal compensation.

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## PETER WELCH NEW NADA PRESIDENT

Peter Welch has been selected as the new president of the National Automobile Dealers Association, being the unanimous choice of its board of directors meeting in Dallas. He served as president and CEO of the Sacramento-based California New Car Dealers Association (CNCDA) since 2003, and managed CNCDA's government affairs office since 1990.

Peter has assisted and supported the New Motor Vehicle Board (Board) throughout the years in many ways, such as guiding important legislation impacting the Board through the California Legislature; advocating the importance of the Board to elected officials, the auto industry and new vehicle dealers; sharing CNCDA training resources and data; actively participating as a speaker and presenter at Board Roundtables; and marshaling support and advocacy to prevent legislation to abolish the Board and curtail a Sunset Review

He will start his new position at NADA, which is based in McLean, VA, on Feb. 1, 2013. CNCDA has formed a search committee to find a replacement for him.

## 2012 ANNUAL LA AUTO SHOW

The 2012 Annual LA Auto Show was held at the Los Angeles Convention Center November 30 through December 9, 2012. The event is an International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (OICA - Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles) sanctioned international exhibition and also endorsed by the Greater Los Angeles New Car Dealers Association. It is open to the public for ten days each year. The show hosted journalists and top industry leaders from more than 50 countries, making LA the global stage for some of the most important vehicle and industry announcements of the year. Exhibited were makes and models of import and domestic cars, including several World and North American debuts, as well as alternative fuel/electric vehicles and race cars.

From street vehicles, foreign and domestic, to future concept cars to dream about, the LA Auto show has it all. Attendees only needed to wander the convention hall and soak it all in, as did Executive Director Bill Brennan and Board Members Ramon Alvarez C. and Glenn Stevens at one day at the show. Board Member Peter Hoffman also attended multiple days.



*State of California*  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

**Officers**  
Bismarck Obando,  
President  
Peter Hoffman,  
Vice-President

### IN-SITE

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*Department of Motor Vehicles*  
Jean Shiomoto, Chief Deputy Director

### *New Motor Vehicle Board* Members

Ramon Alvarez C.  
Ryan L. Brooks  
Robert T. (Tom) Flesh  
Peter Hoffman  
David C. Lizárraga  
Bismarck Obando  
Victoria R. Pearson  
Glenn E. Stevens  
David W. Wilson

Photo  
unavailable  
at this time

Brian P. Kelly  
Acting Secretary

*Business, Transportation  
and Housing Agency*

**Executive Director**  
William G. Brennan  
bbrennan@nmvb.ca.gov

**Senior Staff Counsel**  
Robin P. Parker  
rparker@nmvb.ca.gov

## CNCDA 2013 DEALER DAY

California New Car Dealers Association (“CNCDA”) Dealer Day Legislative Conference will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2013, in Sacramento. Mark your calendars for this important event. Attend a variety of events, including Dealer Day, Annual Meeting of the Members, and informative seminars to learn about the current state of affairs in the industry and see dealers and dealership personnel outside the confines of the office. Contact the California New Car Dealers Association at (916) 441-2599 for more information.

raise money that are in addition to the pledge forms which give staff the opportunity to contribute to selected organizations through a one-time donation or through monthly payroll deductions.

In spite of challenging economic times, State employees remain amazingly generous. The Board raised \$4,375.00 for the 2012 campaign through substantial donations made by Board Members, Administrative Law Judges and staff, and through the fund raising events mentioned above.

### A LITTLE TRIVIA:

#### VEHICLE COLOR POPULARITY

For the second consecutive year, white and white pearl are the most popular car colors in the world. Black and black effects are second, followed by silver then gray according to Paint company DuPont who released its annual Color Popularity Report in December. At fifth place a splash of color comes in: red, which is followed by blue, brown/beige, green and then yellow.

Black and white make up 44 percent of the cars on the road today; if you add silver and gray to that, the four colors account for three out of every four cars on the road. In North America, white and white pearl won for the sixth consecutive year. Those colors were followed by black, silver and gray. Red was also fifth for North America.

#### SAFEST CARS

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has named the safest cars for 2013, including 13 that qualify for a new “top safety pick+” designation.

The 13 cars that earned the rating are:

- Acura TL
- Dodge Avenger
- Chrysler 200 sedan
- Ford Fusion
- Honda Accord coupe
- Honda Accord sedan
- Kia Optima
- Nissan Altima sedan
- Subaru Legacy
- Subaru Outback
- Suzuki Kizashi
- Volkswagen Passat
- Volvo S60

*Save the Date!*



### New Motor Vehicle Board

#### INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE

Thursday, March 14, 2013, 8:00 a.m.

Sacramento, California

For additional information

Contact Eugene Ohta or Nicole Angulo at (916) 445-1888  
or email [nmvp@nmvb.ca.gov](mailto:nmvp@nmvb.ca.gov)

## CALIFORNIA STATE EMPLOYEES CHARITABLE CAMPAIGN (CSECC)

Each year the Board participates in the California State Employee Charitable Campaign (CSECC) to contribute to non-profit organizations supported by the United Way. Kathy Tomono, Mediator/Analyst was Chair, with Eugene Ohta, Legal Assistant, as Co-Chair for 2012.

Although the campaign kicks off in August, the Board fundraising events are held throughout the year, as we are a small office. Events include ice cream socials, pot lucks, rummage sales, and drawings that are held for items donated by local businesses. The local businesses included The Cheesecake Factory, In-N-Out Burger, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Jimboys, and Golfland Splash. Staff also donated items for the rummage sales. The events

**NEW MOTOR VEHICLE BOARD**  
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