

# NEWS BULLETIN

## Maine Automobile Dealers Association

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2019-3

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## TIME AND ALLY FINANCIAL HONOR TOPSHAM DEALER

Adam Lee, Chairman of the Lee Auto Malls group of dealerships, was among 51 dealer nominees from across the country who were honored at the 102<sup>nd</sup> annual National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Show in San Francisco. The TIME Dealer of the Year award is one of the automobile industry's most prestigious and highly coveted honors. Recipients are among the nation's most successful auto dealers who also demonstrate a long-standing commitment to community service. Adam was chosen to represent the Maine Automobile Dealers Association in the national competition for the 50<sup>th</sup> annual award.

Lee Auto Malls was originally founded by his grandfather, Joseph Lifshitz, as Advance Auto Sales in 1936. Adam's father, Shepard "Shep" Lee, built the company into one of Maine's largest dealership groups. Today, Lee Auto Malls boasts 13 new-car franchises and 15 used-car stores, and Adam, who serves as chairman, owns the business with his cousin Don Lee and lifelong friend John Isaacson. "I grew up watching my successful father in the car business," Adam said. "I learned the importance of persistence, good customer service and valuing loyalty amongst employees."

A graduate of Hebron Academy in Hebron, Maine, Adam earned a B.S. in psychology from Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York. He started selling cars at his family's dealership in Auburn at the age of 16 and in 1987 he joined the business full-time.

An avid environmentalist, Adam has worked hard to bring critical issues to the forefront. "I felt it was important that Maine have the right to join California in protecting its air, so I was active in trying to raise fuel economy standards in my state and around the country," he said. "We succeeded and I believe that this has helped reduce asthma rates in Maine."

Adam is also a champion of the working class and immigrants. He successfully supported raising the minimum wage in Maine and fought tirelessly to make that happen. In addition, he has tried to help and protect the new Mainers, recent immigrants. "We just kicked off a Shariah-compliant loan product that should allow religious Muslims to be able to buy cars from us," he said. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Maine recently honored Adam and his family with the Justice Louis Scolnik Award, which is presented to Mainers who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the protection of civil liberties.

The TMQDA award is sponsored by TIME in association with Ally Financial, and in cooperation with NADA. A panel of faculty members from the Tauber Institute for Global Operations at the University of Michigan select one finalist from each of the four NADA regions and one national Dealer of the Year. Three finalists receive an additional \$5,000 for their favorite charities and the winner receives an additional \$10,000 to give to charity. In its eighth year as exclusive sponsor, Ally recognizes dealer nominees and their community efforts by contributing \$1,000 to each nominee's 501(c)3 charity of choice. Nominees are also recognized on **AllyDealerHeroes.com**, which highlights the philanthropic contributions and achievements of TIME Dealer of the Year nominees.

"It is an incredible honor to recognize these dealers for their business accomplishments and their unwavering commitment to 'Do It Right' by helping others in their communities," states Ally Finance's CEO. They are extraordinary auto dealers who care and go the extra mile to give of themselves to make their communities stronger. Ally is proud to support and celebrate their achievements."

## **SCAMS GALORE – PLEASE BE VIGILANT**

The email scam business is alive and well. Several times a month MADA as well as individual members are recipients of emails which appear to be sent from a source well-known to the recipient. HOWEVER, upon scrutiny of the full email address of the sender, it is determined to be a scam. In some situations, payment of an invoice is requested. In other instances, there is a request to transfer funds electronically.

As to MADA, please be advised that your Association will NOT send invoices via email unless specifically requested to do so.

Please carefully review any electronic correspondence by checking the full address of the sender, as well as the full address to which responses are directed.

## **HAZARDOUS WASTE – RIGHT TO KNOW – SAFETY DIRECTORS WORKSHOPS**

MADA's Spring series of workshops have been scheduled. The Hazardous Waste and Right-To-Know seminars, as well as the Safety Directors workshops, will be held in Presque Isle, Bangor, Augusta and South Portland between April 24 and May 2. The seminars address the training requirements of Technicians, Parts, Recon and Body Shop employees hired after April 30, 2018. The employees who must receive the training are those who are new to your business over the past year and who have not received this training while in your employ.

The workshops for your dealership's Safety Director are very important from two aspects: understanding and compliance with environmental rules and regulations as well as better management of your dealership's employee safety efforts and resulting worker's compensation insurance experience. During these sessions, attention will also be given to potential dealership operations changes which might be necessitated by proposals pending in the Maine Legislature.

Agenda outlines and registration forms will be mailed to you in early April.

## **2019 SESSION OF MAINE LEGISLATURE**

Legislators elected in November of 2018 have arrived in Augusta and are now deeply involved in their work – that of addressing an expected volume of nearly 2400 proposals. If these proposals all develop into printed Legislative Documents (LDs), the number will set a new record. To date approximately 1250 LDs have been referred to the various committees, which will hold public hearings and worksessions, then vote on what to recommend to the full House and Senate. MADA is working on over 200 LDs so far – testifying on some, monitoring others, as these could have some impact on dealerships and their operations. In the next week, we will be sending you an outline of the LDs MADA is following and provide a synopsis of the issues.

## **BACKGROUND CHECKS re: SAFETY INSPECTION LICENSE**

Your Association office periodically receives inquiries from dealerships concerning the background checks required for licensure as a Motor Vehicle Safety Inspection Station. Due to several instances of stolen stickers, Maine State Police (MSP) require a background check of ALL persons who handle safety inspection stickers – office personnel, couriers, service advisors (owners, service managers, licensed technicians already undergo these checks). Generally, the background check should be done before the person begins to handle stickers, but MSP is flexible with employees who are already doing so.

MSP states that it is easier and less expensive if the dealership submits the completed form along with a check for the \$21 fee. However, the dealership can obtain the background check through INFORME, then submit the completed form with the SBI background check, which must have been generated within the last 6 months. The required form accompanies this Bulletin.

**Maine State Police – Traffic Division – Motor Vehicle Inspection Unit**  
**20 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0020 # 624-8935 or 624-8934**

**\*\*Background Checks Only\*\***



Form must be filled out completely.  
 Fees are as follows: Criminal History/SBI Fee - \$21.00  
 Make checks payable to: Treasurer, State of Maine

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement Agent/Tint Certifier   | <input type="checkbox"/> On-site/Business Manager |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office Personnel(Handles Stickers) |   |

Name: Last	First	M.I.	Jr/Sr
Date of Birth:		Driver's License #:	
		State held:	
Home (Mailing) Address:			
City	State	Zip Code	U.S. Citizen Yes No
Work Phone Number:		Alt. Telephone Number:	
Are you currently employed at a licensed inspection station?			Yes No
Station Name:		Station Number:	
Have you <u>ever</u> had any criminal convictions? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Have you <u>ever</u> had any traffic tickets? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Do you have any pending charges? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If you answered yes to any questions, please explain briefly on the back of this form.			

**NOTE:** "I understand that false statements made on this form are punishable by law. Knowingly supplying false information on this form is a Class D offense under the Criminal Code, punishable by confinement of up to one year or by monetary fine of up to \$2,000.00 or by both."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date