

NEWS BULLETIN

Maine Automobile Dealers Association

180 Civic Center Drive P. O. Box 2667 Augusta, Maine 04338-2667 DIAL 623-3882
e-mail:info@maineautodealers.com FAX 623-2318

2024-3

DISTRIBUTION

- General Manager
- Office Manager
- Parts Manager
- Sales Manager
- Service Manager

TIME AND ALLY FINANCIAL HONOR TRENTON DEALER

Mark Politte, president of Stanley Subaru in Ellsworth, has received the 2024 TIME Dealer of the Year award for Maine. Politte is one of a select group of 49 dealer nominees from across the country who were honored at the 107th annual National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Show in Las Vegas on February 3. The TIME Dealer of the Year award is one of the automobile industry's most prestigious and highly coveted honors. The award recognizes the nation's most successful auto dealers who also demonstrate a long-standing commitment to community service. "I've been lucky enough to assemble a tenured, seasoned, and motivated management team," nominee Politte said. "They support our vision of surprising and delighting every guest and our culture of going the extra mile to ensure that employees and the community flourish. It's only because of them that our success has been realized and endures."

A 1993 graduate of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering technologies, Politte took a circuitous route to owning a car dealership. He first worked as an engineer in Baltimore for two years before landing a job at Ford Motor Company, where he worked as a field service engineer trainee before spending 10 years in sales and marketing.

That experience and depth of knowledge would be advantageous when Politte got the opportunity to purchase a small Subaru dealership in rural Maine in 2004. Politte rose to the challenge by building relationships and providing an outstanding sales and service experience – and by offering great value and exclusive perks to his guests. The success of his business model has prompted him to add a second store to this portfolio, Stanley Chevrolet in Belfast.

Since 2014, Politte has served as a Trustee for the Maine Automobile Dealers Association Insurance Trust, and he is very active in the organization, participating in the full range of association business, including political action. He also belongs to three NADA 20 Groups and benefits from this peer network while recruiting other dealers to participate. Giving back to the community is the cornerstone of his business, and one of his most important initiatives is supporting teachers in local schools. For more than 15 years, Stanley Subaru has implemented a full calendar of campaigns and events for educators. Each September, the dealership's Adopt-A-Classroom program provides \$500 to each teacher to purchase school supplies. On in-service day in March, Politte's team delivers 400 pizzas and flowers to schools in his district for teachers to enjoy. And at the end of the school year in May, he marks Teacher Appreciation Day by delivering care packages to every teacher featuring candy, flowers, a grocery store gift card, and a certificate for a free oil change.

Politte also supports the arts and has donated and raised funds for the Grand, a local theater in downtown Ellsworth that presents live productions on the Stanley Subaru Stage. During Stanley Subaru's Test Drive for a Cure initiative in October, Politte donates \$10 for every test drive during the month of October to the Mary Dow Center at Northern Light Maine Coast Hospital for those who need financial assistance to receive a mammogram. He also galvanizes his employees to get involved. His

team worked together and cleaned up trails at a local bird sanctuary and on grounds of the Woodlawn Museum; hosted pet adoption events at the dealership for the SPCA of Hancock County; unloaded tractors full of food at the Bar Harbor Food Bank; and many other charitable endeavors. Politte was proud to receive the 2023 Subaru Love Promise Customer & Community Commitment Award and to be nominated for the Subaru Love Promise Retailer of the Year.

The paragraphs above were excerpted from TIME Magazine's article on Mark. MADA extends its congratulations to Mark on his receipt of this Award.

DEALERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING OFAC LIST

All citizens and businesses, including auto dealerships, are prohibited under Federal law from conducting business with certain persons named by the U.S. Treasury Department. Prior to completing any sale, the dealer must check a customer's name against the Office of Foreign Assets Control's (OFAC) blocked persons list.

If a potential buyer's name is on the list, the dealer must then verify that the name is a valid match by specifically following the steps set up by OFAC on their website: www.ofac.treasury.gov/sanctions-list-search-tool. If after taking those steps, the customer is still a valid match, the customer must be reported to OFAC's compliance hotline at (800) 540-6322. OFAC will further screen the name and direct the dealer on how to proceed, either by indicating it is not an exact match and authorizing the sale, or deciding what further action needs to be taken if it still appears to be a valid match,

REMINDER --- POST OSHA 300A FEBRUARY 1 to APRIL 30

All dealerships with more than 20 employees are required to complete and post OSHA Form 300A, the Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses, from February 1 through April 30. This summary is prepared using the OSHA 300 Log which you were required to maintain during the calendar year. Additional information, instructions, and the Forms 300 and 300A are available online at www.osha.gov/recordkeeping.

MAINE'S MANDATORY RETIREMENT PLAN

The Maine Retirement Trust (MERIT) is a new auto-IRA payroll deduction program established by The Maine Legislature. Any employer with more than 5 employees (including part time), who does not currently offer a tax qualified retirement plan, must participate. All employers must either be exempted or enroll by April 30, 2024.

In late January, MERIT began sending enrollment letters to employers who will need to participate in the program. We are told that employers who have been identified by MERIT as exempt, via their 5500 forms, will **NOT** receive notification and need to take NO action to be exempted. If you do not receive an enrollment access code via mail or email, and believe you have been identified as exempt, we highly encourage you to verify this by calling MERIT: (833) 608-8811.

We are aware some dealerships with more than one EIN, all of which may be exempt, have received enrollment letters. If this is the case please reach out for further guidance.

MADA has prepared comprehensive information on this program that is available to members. If you believe your dealership will need to participate, have specific questions, or want to learn more, please contact your MADA office to request the info package.

IX. Maine Prohibited Occupations

Rules Governing Hazardous Occupations for Minors under Eighteen

Effective Date: May 14, 2001

Coverage: These rules apply to all non-agricultural employment and non-employment situations. Non-employment situations include, but are not limited to, legitimate training and volunteer programs that ensure the safety and wellbeing of minors. These rules do not apply to minors in public and approved private schools where mechanical equipment is installed and operated primarily for the purpose of instruction.

A. Minors Under 16 Years of Age

Minors under the age of 16 **may not** be employed in the following occupations:

1. Any manufacturing occupation.
2. Any mining occupation.
3. Processing occupations (such as filleting fish, dressing poultry, cracking nuts, or laundering by commercial laundries and dry cleaners, etc.) when performed in a processing industry such as a plant.
4. Motor vehicle driving and outside helper on a motor vehicle.
5. Operation or tending of hoisting apparatus or of any power-driven machinery other than nonhazardous office machines or machines in certain retail, food service, and gasoline service establishments.
6. Construction occupations involving:
 - a. Maintenance and repair of public highways.
 - b. All roofing occupations.
 - c. All trenching and excavation operations.

(Federal law prohibits minors under 16 from doing any construction work.)

7. All work in boiler or engine rooms.
8. Outside window washing that involves working from window sills, and all work involving the use of ladders, scaffolds, or their substitutes.
9. Most cooking occupations and baking.
10. Occupations which involve operating, setting up, adjusting, cleaning, oiling, or repairing power-driven food slicers and grinders, food choppers and cutters, and bakery-type mixers.
11. All work in freezers and meat coolers.
12. Occupations involving the use of power-driven mowers or cutters, including the use of chain saws.
13. All warehousing occupations, including the loading and unloading of trucks and use of conveyors.
14. All welding, brazing, or soldering occupations.
15. Occupations involving the use of toxic chemicals and paints.
16. Selling door-to-door except when the minor is selling candy or merchandise as a fund-raiser for school or for an organization to which the minor belongs, such as Girl Scouts of America or work in a traveling youth crew.
17. All occupations on amusement rides, including ticket collection or sales.
18. Any placement at the scene of a fire, explosion, or other emergency response situation. (See Section D. Junior Firefighters.)
19. All occupations that are expressly prohibited for 16 and 17 year olds.

NOTE: Teens under 18 are prohibited from handling, serving, or selling alcoholic beverages. Exceptions: 15 year olds can handle liquor (for example, stocking and carrying) but not serving or selling it and 17 year olds can serve or sell liquor if a supervisor 21 or older is present. For more information, call Public Safety, Liquor Licensing at 207-624-7220.