



hook & winch

FROM THE DESK OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SUE MILES

What a weekend!

The 2026 Indiana Tow Show is officially in the books, and I want to begin by saying **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped make this year's show such a success.

As we all know, Mother Nature didn't exactly cooperate with us this year. The rain forced us to make some last-minute changes, move vendors and activities around, and adjust plans we had spent months putting together. But if there is one thing the towing industry knows how to do, it is **adapt, overcome, and keep moving forward**.

And that is exactly what we did.

Despite the weather, our vendors showed up, our sponsors supported us, our members came out, and our volunteers and Board members stepped in wherever they were needed. Instead of letting the rain dampen the weekend, everyone pulled together and made the best of it. To me, that says a lot about the people who make up ITWA and the towing industry here in Indiana.

Thank You to Our Vendors & Sponsors

I cannot say enough about the vendors and sponsors who supported the 2026 Indiana Tow Show. These companies invest their time, resources and dollars into our Association and our industry, and their support makes events like this possible. Moving our vendors indoors on Saturday certainly wasn't part of the original plan, but they rolled with the changes and continued visiting with our attendees, showcasing their products and services, and supporting our members.

I hope our members will remember those businesses throughout the year. When you have an opportunity to purchase equipment, insurance, services, technology or other products for your company, **please support the companies that support ITWA**.

A Weekend About More Than Tow Trucks

One of my favorite things about the Indiana Tow Show is that it has become more than simply a place to look at equipment. It is a weekend for our towing families to come together.

Continued on page 3



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Advertisers needed for 2026 Newsletters:

If you're interested in reaching all of our members during 2026 by advertising in our newsletter, just call Sue Miles at 765-288-6041.

Continued from page 1

From the Beauty Contest and Rotator Challenges to the Ladies' Luncheon, training opportunities, kids' activities, music, photo booth, silent auction, awards banquet and everything in between, there was something happening throughout the weekend.

It was especially great to see families spending time together and people from different towing companies sitting down, talking, laughing, sharing ideas and simply enjoying each other's company. In an industry where so many people usually see one another on the side of the highway or in the middle of a difficult recovery, having an opportunity to come together under much better circumstances is important.

To Everyone Who Helped — Thank You

Events like the Indiana Tow Show do not happen because of one person.

There are months of phone calls, emails, registrations, sponsorships, paperwork, planning, setup, last-minute changes and countless details that happen behind the scenes. Then show weekend arrives, and it takes another group of people willing to jump in and do whatever needs to be done.

To our **Board of Directors, volunteers, sponsors, vendors, instructors, contest participants, members, towing families and everyone who attended — thank you.**

Whether you helped set up, worked registration, donated an auction item, sponsored an event, entered a truck, participated in a challenge, attended a class, bought a raffle ticket, helped move something out of the rain, or simply showed up and supported the Association, **you were part of making the 2026 Indiana Tow Show a success.**

And after seeing everyone come together despite the challenges we faced, I was reminded once again why our Association continues to grow stronger.

The Work Continues

While the Tow Show is certainly one of the highlights of our year, ITWA is much more than one event or one weekend. Behind the scenes, your Association continues working throughout the year to represent, protect and strengthen Indiana's towing industry.

A perfect example of that came just before this year's Tow Show, when ITWA became involved in an important case before the Indiana Court of Appeals involving Tri-State Towing. The outcome of this case has the potential to impact towing and recovery companies across Indiana, particularly when it comes to whether certain towing and recovery expenses are covered as property damage under an insurance policy.

After reviewing the situation and discussing its potential impact on our industry, ITWA made the decision to take action on behalf of our members. Working with legal counsel, an **amicus curiae** — or "**friend of the court**" — **brief** was prepared and filed with the Indiana Court of Appeals to make sure the towing industry's perspective is represented as the Court considers this important issue.

I was especially encouraged by the response from our members when we shared what was happening. The support was immediate and overwhelming.

That response reinforced something I have said many times: **there is strength in numbers.**

One towing company speaking alone can sometimes struggle to be heard. But when hundreds of towing professionals stand together through one Association, our voice becomes much harder to ignore.

That is exactly why ITWA exists.

Looking Ahead to the Legislative Session

The Tow Show also gave several of our officers an opportunity to sit down with our lobbyist, **Hamilton Smith**, and attorney **Ryan Leagre** to discuss some of the current legal and legislative challenges facing Indiana's towing industry.

It was a productive conversation and an important opportunity to look beyond the issues we are dealing with today and begin talking about where ITWA should focus its attention during the upcoming legislative session.

We discussed several potential areas of concern for Indiana towers and began identifying issues where we believe ITWA may be able to make a difference. There is still work to be done as we determine our priorities, but these conversations are exactly why it is so important for our Association to have knowledgeable people working with us who understand both the legislative process and the legal challenges facing our industry.

I am very pleased to have **Hamilton and Ryan working alongside ITWA**, and I am excited about what we may be able to accomplish together on behalf of Indiana's towing companies.

A New Legislative Update Every Month

You will also notice something new beginning with this newsletter.

Hamilton Smith will now be contributing a monthly legislative article to the ITWA newsletter, helping keep our members informed about what is happening at the Statehouse and other legislative and regulatory developments that could affect our industry.

Keeping our members informed is an important part of what ITWA should be doing. Legislative issues can move quickly, and sometimes something that may not appear significant at first can have a very real impact on how our members operate their businesses.

We are so happy to have Hamilton contributing to the newsletter and providing our members with another direct source of information about the issues that matter to Indiana towers.

I encourage you to read his update each month. As we move closer to the next legislative session, these reports will become even more important.

Your Membership Matters

Membership isn't just about attending the Tow Show, receiving a newsletter or getting your company listed as a member. It is about having an organization watching what is happening in our industry and being willing to step forward when something could affect Indiana towers.

Whether the issue is happening at the Statehouse, in a courtroom, with a regulatory agency or somewhere else within our industry, we want ITWA to have a seat at the table.

And the more members standing behind this Association, **the stronger that seat becomes.**

To our current members, thank you for continuing to support ITWA and believing in what we are trying to accomplish together.

And if you know another towing company that isn't currently a member, I encourage you to talk to them. Tell them what ITWA is doing. Invite them to become involved. Because every new member doesn't just make our Association bigger —

it makes our collective voice stronger.

What's Next for ITWA?

Just because the Tow Show is over certainly doesn't mean things are slowing down around ITWA!

Help Us Build the 2027 ITWA Calendar!

I am currently working on a fun new project for our members — a **12-week Facebook Photo Contest** that will help us create the **2027 ITWA Calendar!**

Each week for 12 weeks, we will announce a **new photo theme** on the ITWA Facebook page. Members will have the opportunity to submit their pictures, and everyone can get involved by voting for their favorites. **One winner will be selected each week**, giving us 12 winning photos to feature in the 2027 ITWA Calendar.

This is a great opportunity to show off your trucks, your people and the towing industry we are all so proud to represent. Be sure to visit the ITWA Facebook page each week to see the new theme, enter your pictures and vote for your favorites! With a different theme and a new winner every week, you'll have plenty of chances to participate.

I can't wait to see the pictures everyone submits and, ultimately, to see our members represented throughout the pages of the **2027 ITWA Calendar!**

Fall Chapter Meetings & Elections

We are also gearing up for our **Fall Chapter Meetings and Elections**, and I would like to hold these meetings during the month of **October**.

Directors, now is the time to start planning! Please begin looking at possible locations and dates for your chapter meeting so we can get the fall schedule finalized and out to our members.

Our chapter meetings are an important opportunity for members to get together locally, hear what is happening within ITWA, discuss issues affecting their area and have a voice in the direction of the Association. I encourage our members to attend their chapter meeting when the dates and locations are announced.

Save the Date — December 5th!

And while you have your calendars out, there is one more important date I want everyone to save:

Saturday, December 5, 2026 — ITWA Annual Meeting & Christmas Party in Lafayette!

We are already beginning to plan this year's celebration, and I'm looking forward to bringing everyone together again to wrap up another busy year for ITWA.

More information about the Annual Meeting and Christmas Party will be coming soon, but for now, **mark December 5th on your calendar and plan to join us in Lafayette!**

Looking Ahead

We have a lot to be proud of after the 2026 Indiana Tow Show, but we also have a lot to look forward to.

From our new calendar photo contest and fall chapter meetings to elections, legislative advocacy and our Annual Meeting and Christmas Party, there is plenty happening within ITWA over the next several months.

Most importantly, we will continue doing what this Association is here to do — **bringing Indiana's towing industry**

together, keeping our members informed and working on behalf of the men, women and families who keep it moving every day.

I am excited about where ITWA is headed, and I believe we have an opportunity to continue building on the momentum we have created this year.

Thank you for being part of it, and thank you for your continued support of ITWA.

United By The Hook. Stronger Together.

Sue Miles

Executive Director

Indiana Towing & Wrecker Association

FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT BILL McCLANAHAN

Hello everyone, Summer is coming to a close and hopefully you all had time to get away and enjoy some family time.

The trade show was well attended, despite the inclement weather, we pulled together and everyone enjoyed the training, light show, beauty contest, ladies' luncheon, banquet, entertainment, and camaraderie.

I want to thank ALL who pitched in and gave us a hand on our dilemma with our wrecker. It meant so much to me. Sure glad we weren't on the side of the highway. Hats off to Tim Hedinger for answering the personal call on a Friday afternoon, also delivered it Sunday morning, by Monday at 2pm truck was repaired and ready to roll. Now that's customer service! Thanks, Hedinger Equipment and crew, well done.

On behalf of the entire organization I want to thank everyone who pitched in and helped and made the trade show a success. Special thank you to Sue and Bret for all the attention to detail and making sure everything ran smoothly.

Please be thinking about Fall Chapter meetings and plan on attending your chapter.

Any thoughts on training or topics that you might like to have. All information is available online at: towingindiana.com

God Bless and Stay Safe,

Bill



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Thank You For Supporting ITWA!
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ITWA WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of another great ITWA Tow Show at Fair Oaks Farms. Thank you to President Bill McClanahan and Executive Director Sue Miles for their leadership and hard work.

Thank you to the vendors and sponsors who so generously supported the show. You are very much appreciated.

A big thank you also goes out to all our volunteers. We could not have had a show without you.

Now about the Ladies Auxiliary. The mission of the Auxiliary is to promote fellowship among members and provide financial aid and support for ITWA through various events and fundraisers.

The Ladies Auxiliary hosts the Ladies Luncheon every year. This year the theme of the Power of the Purse Ladies Luncheon was "Denim Diamonds & Pearls. There was a delicious lunch buffet. Followed by an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and a chance to go home with a lovely purse. Thank you to all who donated purses. Your generous donations are much appreciated. A big thank you also goes out to Zip's AW Direct, Shepherd Insurance, Hedinger's Equipment, and Autura for sponsoring the Ladies Luncheon. And last, but not least, thank you to all the ladies who attended. All proceeds from this fundraiser go towards the Scholarship Fund and the Survivor Fund. Your support of the Auxiliary and its fundraisers make all the difference!

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UPDATE FROM THE STATEHOUSE FROM HAMILTON SMITH



For those I have not yet had the chance to meet, I'm Hamilton Smith, and I am part of the Ice Miller team representing the association at the Indiana Statehouse. I appreciate the opportunity to join you as a guest contributor and share a few updates on what is happening in Indiana government and politics—and what we are watching as lawmakers prepare for the 2027 legislative session.

First, I hope everyone is safe following the severe storms and flooding that have affected communities across Indiana. Governor Mike Braun has declared a statewide disaster emergency, and state and local officials continue to respond to flooding, storm damage and power outages across the state.

At the Statehouse, the General Assembly's interim study committees are underway. These committees meet during the summer and fall to examine topics assigned by the Legislative Council. Lawmakers use the meetings to hear from state officials, industry representatives and other stakeholders before deciding whether an issue should be addressed during the next legislative session.

None of this year's assigned topics directly affect the association or its members. Even so, the Ice Miller team is monitoring the discussions and will let you know if something arises that may be relevant.

Attention will soon turn to the November election. All 100 seats in the Indiana House, 25 of the 50 Senate seats and several statewide offices will be on the ballot. One of the more closely watched statewide contests is the race for secretary of state, involving Republican Max Engling, Democrat Beau Bayh, Libertarian Lauri Shillings and former Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard, who is running as an independent.

The May primaries produced relatively little disruption in the House, where incumbents emerged largely unscathed. The Senate was a different story. Six Republican senators lost their primaries following the debate over congressional redistricting, including five standing committee chairs. A seventh race remains unsettled after the Indiana Recount Commission reversed Sen. Spencer Deery's three-vote victory and declared Paula Copenhaver the winner by three votes. Deery plans to appeal the decision. Sen. Michael Crider, who chairs the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation, remains in the Senate.

The chamber will also have a new leader. Senate President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray recently announced that he will not seek another term as president pro tempore when Senate Republicans reorganize in November. Sen. Chris Garten has announced his candidacy and, so far, is the only senator to publicly enter the race. Because the president pro tempore appoints committee chairs and helps set the Senate's agenda, the outcome could bring additional changes before lawmakers return in January.

The months leading up to session are an important time for meeting with policymakers and getting an early sense of the issues they are considering. This summer, the Ice Miller team has visited with lawmakers around the state on both sides of the aisle, attended legislative fundraisers, participated in Republican Governors Association meetings with Governor Braun and senior members of his team, and attended Republican Legislative Campaign Committee events with House Speaker Todd Huston. I also enjoyed attending the association's Tow Show on August 1. These conversations and events give us opportunities to make sure the association's perspective is understood as legislative ideas begin to take shape.

Neither House nor Senate leadership nor the Governor has released a formal agenda for the 2027 session at this time, so much remains unsettled. Still, some early themes are emerging, including additional property-tax reform; automated license-plate-reader systems, including Flock cameras; social-media and technology restrictions; Medicaid and other safety-net programs; and broader affordability concerns, including energy and housing costs. Data centers, education and Indiana's workforce pipeline are also likely to receive attention. Governor Braun has also identified affordable, high-quality early learning and child care as a priority for the next budget. Because 2027 is a budget-writing year, many of these policy discussions will be closely tied to decisions about the state's next two-year budget.

The details will become clearer as lawmakers move through the fall. We will continue staying close to legislators as they develop their priorities and will keep members informed as proposals affecting the association begin to take shape.

Finally, the Ice Miller team recently had the privilege of preparing and filing an amicus brief on the association's behalf in a case pending before the Indiana Court of Appeals. Although the association is not a party to the underlying case, we believed the issues before the Court were important to the association and the broader towing industry. The case involves more than the interpretation of insurance law. At a practical level, it asks who pays for the work that must be done after a catastrophic highway accident. We are optimistic as we await the Court's decision. If you would like to discuss the case or the association's brief, please feel free to contact Sue or me.

Hamilton Smith

Associate

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DOT UPDATE FROM ISP MASTER TROOPER BRENT HOOVER



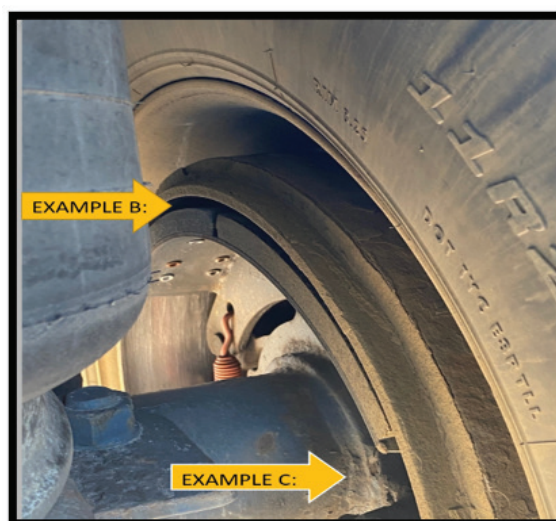
Hello and welcome back! If you are new to the column, I would like to take a minute and bring you up to speed on who I am. My name is Brent Hoover. I am a Master Trooper with the Indiana State Police. This October will mark my 22nd year with the ISP. I am assigned to the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division or CVED for short. My primary daily duties is to enforce the State and Federal Regulations for CMV's in the State of Indiana. I am certified to complete Part A and B Inspections as well as General Haz-mat and Cargo Tank inspections. I am also a Part B Instructor and Master Instructor for the National Training Center, which means I teach new inspectors on how to inspect and Document Level 1 inspections. I have competed twice in the North American Inspectors Championships. I am the current administrator of the CVED Facebook page where I post about tips and tricks to improve your pre-trip inspections and to avoid common roadside violations.

Over the next few months, we will be discussing some of the top violations that I see roadside and how we can go about making sure that we are not making the same mistakes. This month I would like to discuss brakes and how we can see if a brake is working.

When you conduct your pre-trip inspection on your CMV make sure to take time to check each brake for proper function. In the examples below I will explain more.



Example A: note the large amount of dry, powdery rust on the brake pads and drums. A brake that is working correctly will not be leaving rust on these components. Instead, they will be more brake dust consistency.



Example B: Note the large gap between the brake lining and the brake drum. A properly adjusted brake will have just the slightest bit of a gap.

Example C: This one is a little tougher to see in the photo, but the S Cam roller is missing. With the S Cam roller missing the brake will not operate correctly.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions!

Brent N. Hoover, Master Trooper

Email: bhoover@isp.in.gov

PHYSICAL EVALUATIONS

By Brian J. Riker



Brian J. Riker is the President and Chief Compliance Specialist at Fleet Compliance Solutions, a nationwide motor carrier safety and compliance consulting firm that specializes in non-traditional fleets such as towing and auto transport companies. With more than 30 years' experience as a tower and auto transport company owner, Brian blends real world experience with professional knowledge of the regulations and best practices to help towers stay safe, stay compliant and thrive in business.

Does your company require a pre-employment physical examination of your employees? What about a US DOT medical certification for all your drivers, not just your CDL licensed drivers? Do you require periodic reevaluation of your employee's physical condition for continued employment?

If you answered no to any of these questions you may be placing your company at great risk. Workplace health evaluations for employees, especially those that perform physical labor, are critical to catching issues before they become emergencies, injuries or even result in death. I was reminded of this recently while working with a client to review their driver qualification files for a mock motor carrier compliance audit, when one specific medical certification, or lack thereof, caught my eye for a new hire that was about to start driving that week.

Many employers of professional drivers are already familiar with the requirements to have a DOT medical certificate for



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their CDL drivers, after all they can't have a valid CDL without one, yet there is some confusion around this regulation and how it applies to non-CDL drivers. Following my contention that most towers regularly engage in non-excepted interstate commerce, and therefore all your drivers that operate any vehicle in furtherance of commerce with a gross weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds must be fully qualified interstate drivers. This includes 49 CFR 391.41, which mandates they possess a valid medical certificate issued by a provider registered with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and listed on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners.

This DOT medical certificate must be carried by any non-CDL driver, and produced to law enforcement officers upon demand, whenever they are operating a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce, and in many states, even when operating intrastate only. The employer must have a copy of this certificate in the driver qualification file and have a system in place to ensure the driver presents an updated certificate prior to the expiration of the current certificate. Further, the employer must verify that the certificate presented is valid and the provider is listed on the Registry with documentation of such kept in the driver qualification file.

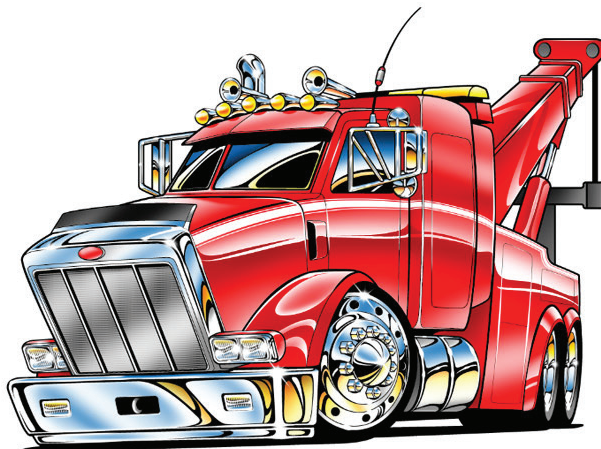
It is my recommendation that all employers require their drivers to obtain a medical certification with at least one year validity, any less than one year indicates the driver may have serious health concerns that need to be addressed before they have a health related emergency while operating one of your vehicles.

Keep in mind, for federal purposes, a commercial motor vehicle is any vehicle with a gross weight rating, or actual weight, greater than 10,000 pounds. Given that most towers engage in interstate commerce, and therefore are subject to the federal standards, it is a best practice to always require a DOT medical certificate.

What about your non-driving positions? They can have critical health issues too, so should they also be examined? Absolutely! A workplace health examination may be the only time many people see a medical professional. These examinations have caught many serious health issues. The recently discovered missing DOT medical exam documentation caught a driver's severe diabetic conditions that had been left untreated and were presenting serious, potentially fatal, threats to their health when they were forced to submit to the evaluation.

The scary part is, this driver had been working for another company and driving every day in a very unhealthy condition, and while medically unqualified to drive. Had this driver passed out or suffered another medical emergency while driving the results could have been fatal, not only to the driver but perhaps a customer or other innocent bystander. The resulting lawsuits would have likely led to large settlements against the employer. This could be financially devastating to a small business tower and could have all been avoided with an inexpensive periodic medical examination and compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

Remember, being a qualified driver, or anyone in a safety sensitive position, is much more than just having the skill set to perform the job duties and a valid license or certification credential. They must also be physically, mentally and emotionally fit for duty or they are a danger to themselves and everyone around them.





INDIANA TOWING & WRECKER ASSOCIATION

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2026 INDIANA TOW SHOW BEAUTY CONTEST WINNERS

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LIGHT-DUTY CLASS

-  Richard Rose — Cheever's Towing
-  Jim Goldsborough — Tom's Auto Service & Towing
-  Brandon Shaw — Bill's Professional Towing

MEDIUM-DUTY CLASS

-  Ryan Rose — Cheever's Towing
-  Chris Henkle — Bill's Professional Towing
-  Ronnie Mitchell — Bert's Towing

SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT CLASS

-  Walter Norton

HEAVY-DUTY CLASS

-  Tom Bertagnolli — Double T Towing
-  Justin Schaeffer — Candido's Towing

ROTATOR CLASS

-  Hunter Rose — Cheever's Towing
-  Chris Henkle — Bill's Professional Towing
-  Ken Parrish — Ken's Westside

ANTIQUE CLASS

-  Danny — Bennett's Towing
-  Matthew Rose — Cheever's Towing
-  Ken Parrish — Ken's Westside

SPECIAL AWARDS

-  Highest-Mileage Truck — Chris Henkle, Bill's Professional Towing
-  Working Class Hero — Jim Goldsborough, Tom's Auto Service & Towing

- 🏆 Best Graphics — Ken Parrish, Ken's Westside
- 🏆 Farthest Traveled to the Show — Justin Schaeffer, Candido's Towing
- 🏆 Best Company Participation — Cheever's Towing, with four trucks

🏆 **2026 BEST IN SHOW**
Justin Schaeffer — Candido's Towing

🌟 **2026 LIGHT SHOW WINNER**
Chris Henkle — Bill's Professional Towing

Congratulations to all our winners! Thank you for your hard work, pride and dedication—and for bringing such an incredible lineup of beautiful trucks to the 2026 Indiana Tow Show!

United By The Hook. Stronger Together.

#2026IndianaTowShow #ITWA #TowTruckBeautyContest #BeautifulIron #TowingIndustry
#UnitedByTheHook

Congratulations to our Raffle Winners

The winning tickets for ITWA
“Tribute to the Towman”
raffle have been drawn!

**1st Place - Rossi Heritage H92 45 LC Tribute to the Towman Raffle –
Butch Holloway**

2nd Place - \$500 Dale Nester

3rd Place - \$250 Sharon Hamilton

Congratulations to all three winners! Thank you to all three winners! Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and supported the Indiana Towing & Wrecker Association.

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THE SHEPHERD INSURANCE TOWING TEAM



What Our Clients Say:

“Great people to work along with reliable and effiecent! Always there for me and my business 24/7 just like we run!”



Karey Crone | Owner
I-70 Wrecker Service & Garage
Camby, Indiana

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- Hook & Winch (I.T.W.A.)
- Professional Towing & Recovery Operators of Illinois (P.T.R.O.I.)
- Towing & Recovery Association of Kentucky (T.R.A.K.)



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Kapnick Towing + Transport

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Over 300 of our towing and recovery clients receive an impressive number of distinct advantages and have benefited from our strong relationship with some of the top carriers specializing in this industry. We consult with you to make an informed decision about the best package of coverages at the lowest overall total cost of risk.

”

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