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Paul Grech, president of ASCCA Chapter 21, shared some great ideas about the value of ASCCA membership at his chapter's dinner meeting on May 28, 2014. Here are some edited excerpts:

A trade association does many things for its members. It puts on seminars and conventions for its members to attend. At the very first one I attended I came away with the idea that I needed to buy a building for my business. I did that and it is still paying off.

The auto makers tried to cut us off of the information highways for the cars that we work on in the 1990's. ASCCA and other trade associations were able to stop this movement. I was able to get on the front page of *The Examiner* in 1994 and the front page of *The Chronicle* in 1998 about this topic.

Our workman's compensation rate was about \$13.00 per hundred about four years ago. ASCCA went to Sacramento on legislation day and we talked directly to our government representatives about this problem. The problem was that there too much fraud going in workman's compensation and the government wasn't doing anything about it. The rates went down to \$4.00 per shortly after we sat down and talked to them.

ASCCA also watches out for pending legislation that might cause us to do more unnecessary paper work, and for laws that are not needed. For example, the ALDL connector on the bottom of the dash on all modern cars came about because of one of our members. His name was Jack Hyler. He retired in the late 1980's at the age of 85 years. He became bored and started to attend government meetings about matters that pertained to our industry. One of these meetings was in Detroit and it was the Society of Automotive Engineers. They were discussing the coming OBDII changes to cars in the 1996 model year. They were discussing how to access the information in cars' computers. He stood up and said, "Why can't we make one system for all cars so it will be easier for technicians to work on these new systems?" The audience laughed at him. There were some representatives in the audience from the U.S. Government. They said the same thing, "Why can't you?" That is why today we have that ALDL connector to help us repair cars. Can you imagine what it would be like to have to have a different code reader for each car?

I have been an ASCCA member for 36 years and have had my dues dollars repaid many times over during this time period. We also borrow tools from one another as needed. Your fellow members are good sources of information about cars that you are not familiar with. And at chapter meetings, you also get one night a month out with your colleagues where you can talk about your industry in a relaxed atmosphere and have good meal also.