

Thank you Tom.

Even though it's August – it's "*Mid-Year*" for our association, in terms of when we all meet together to review the progress and achievements of the association, meet in committees with our colleagues, and even talk about the association's long-range strategic goals, as Tom did earlier.

The status of the Foundation and the activities associated with it are no exception, and I thank Tom and Roger for allowing me a few minutes this morning to touch on a few of the ongoing Foundation activities, each made possible by many of you here this morning, who so generously support this great cause.

Even though the media, community, and general public awareness of the "*work zone safety issue*" has improved over the last several years, we are unfortunately still losing too many lives in work zones. We read about it, or hear about it often – too much in fact.

We hear about an elderly driver hitting a Flagger, or a drunk driver entering a work zone, severely injuring someone trying to do his or her job. Night work – more and more common across the country – also has its share of dangers and bad news. And then there are those who will never slow down in a work zone, regardless of how many signs or warnings are posted asking them to do just that... *slow down*.

When the unfortunate, life-taking accident does occur, your Foundation is standing by to help remember and support those families who are left behind following these senseless accidents.

Your generosity is directly responsible for helping many of these families – right now and in the future – to progress in terms of educational goals and fulfillment of lifelong dreams following their tragedies.

Just as important, the poster contest continues to be very popular in schools where it's helping to educate children at an early age of the dangers associated with roadway work zones. This early awareness of work zone dangers will unquestionably pay dividends when these young people someday take to the roads as drivers.

I have had the pleasure of meeting schoolchildren who participated in the poster contest to present to them cash awards in Missouri, along with members of the Heart of America Chapter. What a heartwarming day that was for me personally. I also commend the Illinois and Texas chapters for their similar efforts in this area as well.

The new Foundation calendars for 2006 will soon be produced using children's drawings depicting *"life behind the cones and barrels."* When you purchase these calendars, you are again – in the long run – helping others who are not as fortunate as most of us are, as the money goes back to the pool to help others.

And all of you by now are familiar with the Foundation's National Work Zone Memorial, which has been the centerpiece of the Foundation for many years.

Unfortunately, the Memorial receives its fair share of "wear and tear" as it travels across the country, and because of this, there are maintenance, repair and upgrade requirements from time to time. Likewise, we continue to add names every year, and this of course requires a period of "down time" to accomplish this very detailed and tedious task.

Because of this, I would ask you to please consider sponsoring the Memorial. For just a few hundred dollars, your company will permanently be recognized on the Memorial's sponsorship panel – and you will have done so much to help keep this program alive for many more years to come.

And finally, on the topic of helping to spread the word.

ATSSA staff recently attended two conferences – one in Dallas and another in Seattle – that hosted hundreds of state legislators and policy makers from across the country, from both sides of the political aisle.

These elected officials visited the ATSSA booth and were excited to learn of the National Work Zone Memorial, the scholarship program, the poster contest and other ATSSA activities.

Many of them had no idea that a roadway safety association was undertaking so many well-intended community relations activities to assist the family members of those who have lost their lives in work zones, or were engaged in programs to help educate school-aged children of the hazards associated with roadway work zones.

Each one of them commended ATSSA – and many of them shared stories of their own with the ATSSA staff regarding their own local men and women who were killed or injured in work zone accidents. They wanted to make a difference at home in some way, but couldn't find the right way to do that – until they learned about our Foundation. Following their visit to the ATSSA booth, they took with them Foundation literature back home to their districts.

I would ask all of you to help by doing just that – take a Foundation information packet to a local official, your DOT, a local school, or to someone in your

community. Make them aware of what's available right now – and then invite them to take advantage of what our Foundation has to offer.

The Foundation cannot continue to move forward and help others without the word being spread through front-line assistance from you – the members of ATSSA.

Tom spoke earlier about getting to know your local elected officials or your local counterpart in the DOT.

What better way to establish a meaningful relationship with them, by showing them what your Foundation has to offer, and then help bring one of these programs into your community so those who need help, can benefit best by what's offered.

Surely there is a family in your area in need of financial support – a family who has recently lost a loved one in a work zone. Tell them about the Foundation scholarship program, and then go one step further and assist them in facilitating a scholarship for their children. It's easy to do and it will be a cherished and meaningful lifelong gift to that family.

Melanie is here this week and she is my *“right hand person”* regarding all Foundation activities, ready to answer any specific question you may have.

If there's a particular Foundation activity that you'd like to learn more about, if you'd like to contribute, or if you want to become involved in some other way to help a family in need of financial assistance – please see Melanie or myself here in Hilton Head.

None of what I just said could ever be accomplished without your dedicated financial support, and hopefully soon, the support of others outside the

association – as we're currently looking in that direction. Today, the biggest support for the Foundation comes through the revenue generated at our annual golf tournament, and of course, through your generous and thoughtful individual contributions throughout the year.

I've said it before... and I'll say it again this morning...

If you are considering making a contribution to something this year that's a good, honest, caring cause – a cause that will help other people fulfill their dreams, then I ask you to please consider making a contribution to the Foundation to keep these wonderful community programs alive and well for many years to come.

When you chose to give to the Foundation, you've chosen to help someone who needs some extra help, but doesn't know that help is available.

Help spread the word, and please, consider supporting the Foundation either now, or in the near future.

My sincerest thanks and gratitude is extended to all of you who are helping to make a difference in the lives of others through the many Foundation activities.

Thank you.