

DAVE FONS MEMORIAL FUND

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

The Dave Fons Memorial Fund Continues to Evolve



Garrett Fons
President

The Dave Fons Memorial Fund for the Advocacy of Truck Safety was started in late December of 2017 after my father was involved in a fatal vehicle accident involving a tractor trailer dump truck that ran a red light. Although my family and I were suffering from our loss, we agreed that we needed to do what we could to prevent truck related accidents and carry on my father's legacy. We knew we would need to get organized to make the biggest impact possible. The first part of 2018 we formed a board to manage the fund and we started meeting on a biweekly basis. After a few meetings we found our rhythm. Since our commencement we have worked very hard to make a difference. I am proud to say we have made a difference and exceeded our original goals. Some of our accomplishments from the last 2 years are:

- Scholarship programs in Michigan and Florida
- Truck safety billboard campaigns in Michigan and Florida
- Partnered with Michigan Center for Truck Safety to assist in coordinating trainings
- Developed a website Reached out to families involved in truck related accidents
- Held fundraising events
- Participated in trade shows
- Promote truck safety daily

Although we have a lot to be proud of, we are going to continue to evolve and find additional ways to get our message out. Some of our goals for the future are:

- Work toward raising the minimum insurance requirements for commercial vehicles in Florida
- Continue to organize additional trainings
- Partner with similar organizations
- Expand awareness campaigns
- Plan fundraising events in Florida

The support that we have received has made our success thus far possible. We are truly blessed to have so many people involved from donors to volunteers. The support has been overwhelming. I would also like to recognize Ashely Fons and Happy Days Marketing. Her expertise and assistance has been invaluable. From all of the Dave Fons Memorial Fund board members we would like to thank everyone for their support. We look forward to continuing our journey to make the roads a safer place for everyone.

The Dave Fons Memorial Fund Annual Golf Tournament & Bowling Benefit



Brendan Fons
Vice-President

Annual Golf Tournaments

As part of supporting the goals and mission of the Dave Fons Memorial Fund For The Advocacy of Truck Safety, we hold an annual golf tournament at the end of July. The first annual tournament was held on July 28, 2018 and the second annual

tournament was held this year on July 27, 2019. These events were held at the Golf Club at Mt Brighton in Brighton, MI. The two golf outings have served as our key fundraising events for our organization and have been a main focal point in the efforts of our organization. When our organization was formed in early 2018, our members discussed and brainstormed ideas for fun and interactive fundraising events to hold. I have a strong passion for the game of golf, which I also shared with my father growing up. This was a major impetus in our decision to hold a golf tournament fundraiser. The success of the first outing in 2018 exceeded all of our expectations and was a great success for the organization. We thus decided that the golf tournament would be held annually every year in July. The second annual tournament this year exceeded the success of the first, with a greater turnout of golfers and volunteers. Also, sponsorships and donations to our cause increased significantly from the first outing.



The Dave Fons Memorial Fund board members with the 2019 golf tournament winning team

The outing trophy which is engraved with the winning team name each year. The golf outings have been very enjoyable for everyone involved. The atmosphere felt by all during the

outings is one of great joy and passion to celebrate my father's legacy. During the events, there was a feeling that Dave was there with all of us enjoying the day of fun and appreciating the company of all those who participated. The golfers and volunteers who have participated in our outings come from many different backgrounds. Many of them knew my father through business, family, and social relationships. Many of them have had extremely positive feedback on our outings on the events as extremely positive and have had many good things to say about how the events were run and turned out. We appreciate the feedback we have received and welcome any that the attendees can provide. The overwhelming support we have received through donations and sponsorships through the golf tournament fundraiser we held in 2018 and 2019 have immensely helped our organization to promote our goals and our mission. I know that my father would be extremely gratified to see the support we have received and the positive benefit it is having on our organization. We are really looking forward to next year's outing on July 25, 2020 and welcome the anticipated support from all of you.

Bowling Benefit

The other fundraising event our organization has held since its formation is the Bowling Benefit. The Dave Fons Memorial Fund Bowling Benefit was held on November 24, 2018 at Striking Lanes in Hartland, MI. There were 24 teams that participated in the tournament, which included 3 games of 9-pin no tap with prizes and a raffle following the bowling. This event was highly anticipated as it was the follow-up fundraiser after our first annual golf tournament that July.

The Bowling Benefit was a success that exceeded the expectations of our organization. There was a great turnout, very generous sponsorships and donations given, and great support from volunteers and attendees. The staff at Striking Lanes

did a tremendous job to accommodate the attendees and volunteers for the benefit. Like the golf tournament, the event had an excellent atmosphere and a great time was had by all. It was tremendous to see the support for our cause from those who participated in the Bowling Benefit. We anticipate more bowling benefits to be held in the future and we welcome the support from all of you. We want to thank you for your support of our organization and your participation in our annual golf tournaments and the bowling benefit. We would not be where we are today without your help.

Annual Financial Summary



Craig Fons
Treasurer

At The Dave Fons Memorial Fund we take very seriously the trust you have shown in us to make a difference regarding truck safety. If you have received this newsletter you have shown us your support by donating time and/or money. The stewardship of said money is a task I handle at the fund and I would like to share with you some of the good uses where we've put your hard earned money to work.

We have set up scholarships in Michigan and Florida offering tuition assistance for young people to attend college and work towards any construction management degree. We hope that our involvement in their education will continue the promotion of our cause and will create a cycle of involvement for years to come.

We have been able to obtain valuable billboard time to promote our message. We use the strategy of asking for "deals" when it comes to board placement and times. Unlike billboards that advertise a certain thing at a certain location, our cause is essentially a public service announcement. It is a message can be sent via billboard to any motorist at any time and any location.

Although we focus on corridors with high truck traffic, we take most anything if the price is right. Some of the minor uses of funds has been to support others who have been impacted by the tragedy of a loved one's death. Some examples of this support include flowers to a funeral home, a note to a family, or even an offer of monetary support to a family with limited means. Our mission is to prevent the same tragic event that befell our family, but, if we can't, we are there to help as they move forward.

We want everyone to be involved with our cause, and we are always attentive to your comments and suggestions. If you know someone in the trucking industry and want us to contact them about training opportunities, or if you think we can be of help with being part of a support network, don't hesitate to reach out to us. We want everyone to be involved and be part of the mission to create safer roads and a safer relationship between automobiles and trucks. Thank you and God bless you.

Increasing Driver Motivation to Drive Safely



Courtney Sprague
Secretary

Most people would agree that safety is an important goal in various aspects of life. However, if you are in the trucking industry, you may not always see safety given all of the attention it deserves. Truck drivers have one of the least-supervised jobs. Thus, the most thorough safety program could be implemented, but unless drivers are motivated to operate safely, that program is going to fail. It is important for companies to promote a better attitude among truck drivers. It is a driver's attitude that is going to determine whether they are going to use the training they receive. This is why some drivers go many years without a preventable accident and others have them at great frequency despite having all of

the same equipment and training. Fortunately, there are several measures companies can take to improve driver motivation and ensure compliance, including:

- Hold drivers to a higher standard. It is critical for companies to set a target of zero accidents and hold every driver individually responsible for their driving. It is easy to just say that accidents are going to happen, but this does not have to be the case. The vast majority of accidents are largely preventable through safe driving.
- Communicate early and effectively with drivers. Even small failures to comply with safety standards should be pointed out and remediated. It is important that this communication be prompt before unsafe practices become a habit. It should also be constructive and conducive to problem solving rather than be critical and punishing.
- Ask drivers for feedback and collaboration. A safety program may sound good on paper, but that will not always translate to real life situations. Welcome driver feedback and tailor programs accordingly. If drivers feel heard and programs are tailored to their specific needs, they will be more motivated to comply.
- Offer innovative professional training. Management should explore options for more engaging safety trainings, such as simulations or hands-on workshops. Some of these trainings may be offered by your state free of charge.
- Implement a mentoring program. Enlist experienced drivers with excellent safety records in a mentoring program for new drivers. It benefits new drivers by giving them a resource to learn and have questions answered. It also makes experienced drivers feel like they are a part of making the company better and have a role in shaping new drivers. Further, it employs a peer pressure element in a highly individualized industry that may motivate drivers.

- Recognize and reward top performers. Instead of just punishing and threatening violators, management should also dedicate efforts to reward safe drivers. This may be through public recognition or compensation. Small monetary rewards or gift cards are relatively inexpensive compared to accidents.

In conclusion, it is simply not enough for companies to just implement safety trainings and educate their employees. Any safety program will fail if the foundation of driver motivation is not adequately developed. Employers must foster an atmosphere where safety is given the utmost respect, and safety practices are continually encouraged and rewarded.

Tips for Safer Truck Driving

Mike Fons
Board Member

Long-haul trucking is both one of the most crucial jobs and, unfortunately, one of its most risky. Over 100,000 injuries and 300,000 accidents involved large trucks in 2012, according to the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration. Fortunately, there are ways to make truck driving considerably safer.

- Truck drivers should watch their blind spots. Other motorists may not be aware of a truck's "no zones." These zones include: off to the side just in front of the cab, just behind the side mirrors, and directly behind the truck. These are where crashes are most likely to occur. If others aren't aware of these trouble spots, they may drive dangerously close. It is up to the truck drivers to exercise caution before turning or changing lanes and to maintain a safe distance.
- Truck drivers should reduce speed in work zones. Roughly one-third of all fatal work-zone accidents involve large trucks.
- Drivers should pay attention to truck maintenance. They should check their vehicle each morning.

- Drivers should load cargo wisely. The higher cargo is stacked, the more drag on the truck. By stacking lower and spreading cargo through the full space of the truck, drivers can stay more nimble and improve your fuel economy.
- Truck speeds should be reduced on curves. Reduce speed on curves. Usually, following the speed limit is a good thing. When it comes to trucking, however, there are times when even adhering to posted signs is still too fast. This is especially true on entrance and exit ramps where trucks have a tendency to tip over.
- Drivers should adjust based on the weather. A quarter of speed-related truck accidents are due to inclement weather. It is recommended to cut your speed by one-third on wet roads and one-half on snowy or icy roads. Also drivers should allow more time for maneuvers in poor weather. If you see other truckers pulling over, maybe it's best you do likewise.
- Truck drivers need to make an effort to take care of themselves. It is important for drivers to get enough sleep, eat right, exercise, and spend quality home time. A large part of truck driver safety has to do more with the driver and less with the vehicle.

Leveraging Technology for Truck Safety

Andy DeCraene
Board Member

Over the past decade the advancements in technology have been staggering. From the smart phones to Bluetooth to video calling our lives are now consumed with technology. These advancement have no doubt made business easier and many industries safer when utilized properly. There are over 275 million vehicles registered in the United States, of which, over 35 million registered trucks are used for business. The trucking industry alone employs over 7 million people and

makes up the majority of the nation's freight transportation by weight. This adds up to many miles traveled which increases the risks and hazards. Leveraging the advancements in technology can mitigate risks offering a safer environment for the drivers and traveling public alike. So what does technology have to offer the trucking industry? The answers could be endless, but some are easily accessed and utilized. Let's cover a few.

Record keeping software: Systems for record keeping allow drivers to keep digital logs, perform paperless pre- and post-trip inspections, help schedule, and some can even optimize loading. Most of these are now cloud-based services, so the hardware required is very minimal. **Bluetooth Technology:** Bluetooth technology was introduced in the early 2000s and since then many improvements have been made. Many new vehicles, including commercial vehicles, come standard with Bluetooth capability and many other hands-free systems may be added. This is beneficial because Federal law restricts commercial vehicle drivers from holding a mobile device to make a call or dialing by pressing more than a single button.

Apps: I believe there is an app for everything now. Driving is no exceptions. Drivers operating a commercial vehicles, specifically semis, have challenges not recognized by the average driver. Simple tasks like stopping for a quick bite or finding fuel can become challenging when driving a big rig. App developers have started considering truck drivers in new and useful apps.

On-board Cameras: On-board cameras have been used in auto racing and film productions since the 1980s. In recent years we have seen many companies add these cameras to their commercial vehicle fleet. These products offer a wide range of benefits including asset protection, accident recording, and promoting safer driving habits (when utilizing inward facing cameras). This list could go on and on. These are only a few easily obtained items which can

enhance your company safety program, mitigate driver risk, and potentially increase safety on the roadways. We at The Dave Fons Memorial Fund for Truck Safety are asking business owners with commercial vehicle fleets and owner operators to please do your part to make our roads safer. Your or my life may just depend on it!

How Do Dump Truck Accidents Differ from Regular Accidents?

Jill Fons
Guest Columnist

Dump trucks share the road with passenger vehicles every day. They are there to transport loose material to and from construction sites, haul away garbage and debris, and dispose of hazardous materials. Due to their sheer size and weight, they pose a significant threat to other vehicles on the road. When an accident occurs with a dump truck, it is significantly different than a regular passenger vehicle incident. **Dump Trucks Accidents Can Cause Catastrophic Injuries**

Responsibility in a dump truck accident differs from regular accidents. First of all, the driver of the dump truck may not be the only responsible party. In many cases, the company, or manufacturer of the dump truck's components could be at fault. Dump truck incidents pose a unique set of challenges. These trucks often have leasing companies, multiple service technicians, and never the same driver. Therefore, these parties pool together to create a confusing responsibility claim and each often denies their responsibility. Sadly, these incidents often cause catastrophic injuries. The victims of these accidents often have insurmountable medical costs and some are permanently disfigured. Other times, victims do not survive.

Common Causes of Dump Truck Accidents

Dump truck accidents typically occur because of negligence. Determining which party is responsible for these negligent acts may be obvious. Other times, they may need an in-depth

investigation. The most common causes of the incidents include:

- Failure to maintain the truck and its components
- Failure to offer adequate training or use properly licensed drivers
- Failure to check the truck's performance and safety
- Failure to enforce driving hours of employees
- Failure to conduct background checks on operators

Mark your calendars for our upcoming 2020 events!

- Euchre Tournament on March 21, 2020 in Milford, Michigan
- 3rd Annual Golf Tournament on July 25, 2020 in Brighton, Michigan
- Fishing Tournament September 2020 in Sarasota, Florida

Thank you to all of our generous 2019 sponsors!

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