

DAVE FONS MEMORIAL FUND

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

The Dave Fons Memorial Fund Gains Momentum Despite a Turbulent Year



Garrett Fons
President

2020 was a very difficult year that many of us are happy to see come to a close. Despite this year's challenges our supporters showed an unwavering commitment to truck safety. We had 2 major fundraising events, one being our annual golf tournament in Hartland, Michigan and our first ever fishing tournament which was held in Bradenton, Florida. Our volunteers worked harder than ever and showed up when it counted the most. Both of these events were at capacity with participants and our sponsors were very generous making this our best year yet!

One of the biggest accomplishments this year was the amount of new people that got involved. Our fishing tournament really helped add to our list of supporters. Florida has always supported our cause so it felt good to host a local event. Another big win for the fund is the amount of people that participate every year in our Michigan events. Keeping people involved is what is going to truly make a difference on our roadways.

Some of our accomplishments in 2020 were:

- Continued Scholarship programs in Michigan and Florida
- Continued truck safety billboard campaigns in Michigan and Florida
- Continued website reach out to families involved in truck related accidents
- Held successful fundraising events in Michigan and Florida
- Continued to promote truck safety daily
- Expanded our awareness campaigns by successfully launching two additional social media platforms (LinkedIn and Instagram)
- Successfully partnered with similar organizations

In 2021 we are devoting even more resources to traffic enforcement & public safety education initiatives. This year we are continuing to partner with the Michigan

Center for Truck Safety as well as newly partnering with The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, The Institute for Safer Trucking & The Truck Safety Collation, just to name a few. Our partnerships with these reputable institutes further demonstrate our commitment to reducing fatalities and injuries attributable to truck related accidents.

We truly have so much to be proud of and could not be more excited for this coming year and the all of the endeavors we have in store for our organization. We will continue to grow, expand and make our name known to ensure our message of truck safety is echoed. Our 2021 goals include:

- Increase our Scholarship giving amounts for both Michigan and Florida
- Add a commercial driving school scholarship in both Michigan and Florida
- Increase our Billboard campaign exposure in both Michigan and Florida
- Continue to organize additional trainings
- Plan additional fundraising events in both Michigan and Florida
- Continue to work with like-minded organizations
- Collaborate with other groups to come up with truck safety action plans

The continued support and involvement with our organization has given us the opportunity to be successful and we could not be more thankful. The last 3 years, we have watched our goals and aspirations for the fund come to life and we look forward to the future. On behalf of the Dave Fons Memorial Fund board members we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you who are and continue to be the cornerstone of our organization.

The 2020 Dave Fons Memorial Fund Fundraising Events

Fundraising events are essential to our mission. They serve the important functions of raising funds for our charitable activities, increasing our visibility, and establishing and maintaining relationships with our supporters and donors. Despite the hardships of 2020, we proudly hosted two very successful fundraising events across two different states.

Dave Fons Memorial Fund Third Annual Golf Tournament



Brendan Fons
Vice President

One of the main fundraising events that has been essential to our mission is our annual golf tournament. On July 25th, 2020, our 3rd annual golf tournament was held. The previous two golf tournaments in 2018 and 2019 were held at the Golf Club at Mt. Brighton in Brighton, MI. Due to the unexpected closure of the Golf Club at Mt Brighton, the venue for the 2020 tournament was changed to Dunham Hills Golf Club in Hartland, MI.

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit the state of Michigan in early 2020, planning the event became difficult with the stay-at-home orders and restrictions that were put in place. Much uncertainty surrounded the scheduling of the event and the logistics of it. We were able to proceed with the event, but we needed to enact certain safety protocols. On the day of the event, the weather was great for golf and the wonderful staff at Dunham Hills accommodated the event in a combined indoor and outdoor setting.



Board members with the 2020 golf tournament winning team

There was an outstanding turnout for the event. We had a full tournament with teams registered and the support from volunteers was overwhelming. We received over \$18,000 in sponsorships for the event with several of the donations coming from sponsors from our previous golf outing fundraisers. New sponsors were also recognized at the event for their generous donations. The 1st place team had a

winning score of 55, which is an outstanding round for the course. Food and beverages were provided throughout the day and a dinner and raffle took place after the rounds were complete. Lots of great raffle prizes were at stake, which were possible due to our generous donors.

This event was extremely successful for our organization in terms of the participation and money raised for our cause. It was also extremely gratifying to our board members to have such an interactive event take place. There was an enjoyable atmosphere and many great stories involving my father were shared. Many of the event participants knew Dave and were so happy to be part of the event and contribute to our cause. We strive to improve on the overall experience of the event for the participants year-by-year. We appreciate the feedback we have received and welcome any that the attendees can provide.

The overwhelming support we have received from last year's golf fundraiser and the previous ones have helped our organization make a difference to help our mission to promote truck safety. Dave would be very proud of what we have achieved so far with the golf fundraisers. We want to thank you for your support of our organization and to the participants in our annual golf tournament in 2020. We look forward to seeing you in 2021 for our next golf outing event and other fundraising events to come. We would not be where we are today without your continued support.

First Annual Fins for Fons Fishing Tournament



Michelle Fons
PR Volunteer

It was sunshine and tight lines for our anglers at the 2020 1st Annual Fins for Fons Fishing Tournament held at Pier 22 in Bradenton, Florida. We wanted to expand our community outreach, and with two of our board members residing in Florida, it just made sense to start there. Dave's widow, Jill, and their oldest son, Garrett, share a passion for fishing. With that notion, we thought holding a fishing tournament in Florida as a fun family fundraiser was the obvious choice. This year our Welcome Cocktail Party and Captains Meeting were on September 18, 2020, with our Tournament and Awards Dinner on September 19, 2020.

Given that it was our first Florida event and with the hurdle of pandemic restrictions, we were blown away by the overwhelming response and support we received. This year we are proud and humbled to report that we

exceeded our fundraising goal by raising over \$50,000 thanks to all of our great sponsors, anglers, donors, and guests. With 63 anglers and 132 guests, it was an event to remember.



Team Ring Power CAT - Measurements: Snook 41", Redfish 33", & Trout 20" for a grand total of 94" (Pictured L to R Front: Arnold Hughey, Bert Hammet, Capt. T.J. Stewart, Andy Carothers, Garrett Fons; Back: Capt. Michael Anderson)



Team Ajax Area - Measurements: Snook 30.5", Redfish 36", & Trout 23" for a grand total of 89.5" (Pictured L to R Front: Jeff Krull, Lee Strauss, Joe Dutton, Ken Fritz, Garrett Fons; Back: Capt. Michael Anderson)



Team Blacklidge Emulsions, Inc. - Measurements: Snook 38.5", Redfish 27.25", & Trout 20" for a grand total of 85.75" (Pictured L to R Front: Capt., Mate, Matt Horan, Mate, Garrett Fons; Back: Capt Michael Anderson; Not pictured: Will Zima, Josh Campbell)

Our venue, Pier 22, really impressed our guests with top of the line food and service. By having Twin Dolphin Marina, Pier 22, and our accommodations at Springhill Suites all within walking distance of each other, we were able to provide attendees with a true trifecta location that was more than convenient for all.

We were thrilled to have our event featured in the Herald Tribune and Coastal Angler Magazine, as well as have recognition in a blog from Taco Materials and a mention in The Florida Fishing Insider Report newsletter. Capt. Leiza Fitzgerald of the CCA was our officiate, Capt. Mike Anderson of Reel Animals TV was our MC, and Chelsea Aldrich donated her photography skills this year.

Our appreciation for each and everyone one of you goes beyond what we could ever express and we cannot begin to thank you enough for your continued support. Our first fishing tournament was a huge success thanks to you.

Whether you shared our posts on social media, donated, fished, sponsored, or joined us as a guest, it is all of you who made our event amazing. We look forward to seeing everyone at our 2nd Annual Fins for Fons Fishing Tournament to be held on September 17-18 2021 at the Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village. Further details can be found on our website and social media platforms.

Annual Financial Report



Craig Fons
Treasurer

To say 2020 was a trying year would be a huge understatement. At the Dave Fons Memorial Fund, we did our best to raise funds to further our cause and keep our participant base engaged with the fund. A lull in the COVID-19 spread afforded us the opportunity to hold our annual golf outing in Michigan and introduce a fishing tournament in Florida. I cannot say enough good things about our volunteers who worked so hard to make them both rousing successes while conforming to all the the rules and restrictions presented. Both events went off without a hitch and were held safely and without turning into "super spreader" events. Because of the restrictions, training events were very tough to schedule. We fully understand the need to keep employees safe and are hopeful that we will be able to engage in more training events in the near future. We are also exploring the possibility of virtual training events as an avenue of promoting truck safety during these difficult times.

This year, we continued with our billboard campaigns in Michigan and Florida. We have been able to get the most bang from your buck by committing to signs that had locations where local demand is relatively low. Our goal with our billboard campaigns is to promote public safety by reminding truck drivers and the motoring public to engage safely. Thus, it is most critical for these billboards to be up in areas with ample truck traffic and not necessarily high demand retail areas.



Dave Fons Memorial Fund billboard design for 2021 Florida & Michigan

The fund currently supports two college scholarships, one in Florida and one in Michigan. Scholarship recipients are outstanding young people who we believe will keep a lifetime commitment to our cause

and will hopefully keep the next generations involved. In 2021, we have plans to expand our scholarship program to help U.S. Veterans attending trucking education programs.

We are also pleased to announce that in 2021 we will now be offering Dave Fons Memorial Fund safety signs to contractors, supply yards, trucking companies, or any other location with truck traffic. These signs will serve as a periodic reminder to "Drive Safe and Save Lives." There is no charge for these signs. Although we always welcome donations, it is our hope that providing these signs free of charge will be a way to get the cause of truck safety front and center in truck-related industries and keep it there.

Please know that we will continue to be the best stewards of your generosity that we can possibly be. We are humbled that you have entrusted us to continue this cause and we will work tirelessly to maintain your trust and be an organization you can be proud to support. God bless you and thank you for your support.

Truck Safety & the COVID-19 Pandemic



Courtney Sprague
Secretary

In early March of last year, the coronavirus shook the entire country and led to lockdowns, shortages, and major changes in many aspects of our daily life. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Association (FMCSA) responded to the pandemic by temporarily adjusting trucking industry safety guidelines and restrictions. One such guideline governs the number of hours a truck driver can drive without a rest. Under this new emergency order, truck drivers transporting essential relief may drive for more than eleven hours without a rest break. This is unprecedented, as truck drivers have not been able to drive more than eleven hours without a mandatory rest period since the Hours of Service law was passed in 1938. Under normal circumstances, truck drivers can drive for up to eleven hours per fourteen-hour work period followed by a mandatory ten-hour rest period. Particularly concerning is the fact that drivers participating in essential duties do not need to keep a logbook of these activities and no documentation is even needed to verify that the driver is operating under exemptions. In addition to the hour exceptions, the FMCSA has also loosened requirements for CDL & CPL license renewals and testing, as well medical examinations and requirements needed for licensure. Thankfully, drivers must still comply with other safety measures like drug testing and insurance requirements.

Advocates of this emergency order maintain that it makes it easier for drivers and trucking

companies to supply essential goods to the public during the coronavirus crisis. Unfortunately, it has made it easier for trucking companies to overwork drivers in the name of getting supplies to their destination as quickly as possible. The relaxation of mandatory rest periods puts drivers at greater risk of fatigue-related crashes. Arguably worse, they may give trucking companies leverage to push for permanent changes to the hours of service rules and other critical safety regulations. Even temporary changes like these could open the industry up to dangerous regulatory rollbacks. This order was only supposed to last three months or until the federal government declared an end to the coronavirus pandemic. However, we are a year into the pandemic and there is no end in sight. Most recently, the order was extended through the end of May 2021.

These dangerous exemptions could easily become standard procedure in the trucking industry if we are not vigilant. This year, we have begun to expand our advocacy work into the area of law change. We are partnering with organizations working on a national level to promote safer trucking. We believe this work will help to keep truck safety moving forward and prevent potentially unsafe temporary orders from becoming permanent.

Recent Truck Accident Data & Tips for Safer Operation



Mike Fons
Board Member

In 2018, 4,136 people lost their lives in crashes involving commercial motor vehicles. This is the latest year for which figures are available. Of these deaths, 16% were truck occupants, 67% were occupants of passenger vehicles, and 15% were pedestrians, bicyclists, or motorcyclists. The number of people who died in large truck crashes was 31% higher in 2018 than in 2009, when it was the lowest it has been since the collection of fatal crash data began in 1975. While it is true the total number of truck miles continued to increase in 2018, the reality is that too many people die in these accidents. As a result, it is incumbent that those of us in the industry take steps to be constantly vigilant to detect unexpected road conditions, distracted drivers, and motorists who do not understand how commercial vehicles operate.

The following are some ideas, brought to you by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, to avoid becoming a statistic. Not surprisingly, some of these best practices start before you get into the cab

- Get enough rest; do not drive when you are fatigued, too ill to focus, or on medications that make you drowsy or dizzy.

- Stay up to date on weather and road conditions and detours in order to plan driving time.
- Make sure that pre-trip safety inspections are completed particularly for tires and brakes. Make sure your load is well balanced and secure, as a shifting load can cause a rollover or loss of control.
- Use your safety belt every time. Safety belts save lives, reduce injuries, and allow drivers to stay inside and in control of their vehicle
- Once you climb behind the wheel, scan ahead about 15 seconds for traffic issues, work zones, and other dangers.
- Check mirrors every 8-10 seconds to be aware of vehicles entering your blind spots. Signal and brake to give other drivers plenty of time to notice your intent.
- If you must pull off the road, use flashers, reflective triangles, and road flares to alert other drivers.
- Driving too fast for weather or road conditions creates risks as well as crashes.
- Be aware that non-commercial navigation systems and apps may not provide warning of height and weight limitations and other commercial vehicle restrictions.
- Work zones present many hazards, like lane shifts, sudden stops, uneven road surfaces, moving workers and equipment, and confused passenger vehicle drivers. Slow down, maintain extra following space, obey all work zone signs and signals, and to be prepared to stop.
- Texting is among the worst driving distractions. The odds of being involved in a crash, near-crash, or unintentional lane deviation are 23.2 times greater for drivers who are texting while driving.
- Research shows that drivers texting while driving took their eyes off the forward road for 4.6 seconds on average. At 55 mph, this equates to traveling 371 feet (more than the length of a football field) without looking at the road.
- Eating, drinking, interacting with a navigational device, map reading, controlling a pet, or any other activity that takes focus off the road can also be a deadly distraction.
- If you must attend to an activity other than driving, get off at the next exit or pullover, it's not worth the risk.

Thank You to Our 2020 Donors

We want to extend our sincere appreciation to all of our amazing supporters this year.

- AA Surface Pro
- Accu-Temp Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc
- Advanced Sweeping and Service Inc.
- Advanced Underground Inspection LLC
- AIS Equipment
- Ajax Paving Industries Michigan
- Ajax Paving Industries of Florida
- Al Serra Auto Plaza



Alta Equipment Company
American Infrastructure Services
American Pavement Sawing LLC
American Video Transfer Inc
Apex Equipment Repair
Aquabrite Pool & Spa
Asphalt Contractors Association of FL, Inc
Backbay Construction
Bermont Excavating
Birchmeier Group LLC
Bluewater of South Florida Inc
Bob Dettloff Agency
Bob Myers Excavating Inc
Boni Hutchinson Company
Bonness
C3 Automotive Repair
Cadillac Asphalt
Caloosa Site Development Inc.
Carl's Golfand
Chris-Tel Construction
Coastal Angler Magazine
Concrete Construction, Inc.
Copeland Paving
Corrigan Oil Company
D&H Asphalt
D&R Earthmoving LLC
Dave Foote Construction, Inc
Deborah Ford
DeCraene's Port Hope Compound
DM Motors
Dobbs Equipment
EHC
Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc.
Fairview Construction Services, LLC
Five Star Ace Hardware
Fonson Company Inc
Foote Bros Contracting, Inc
Garrett Fons & Family
GBM Sand & Gravel
GM & Sons
Guymann Construction
Haskins Inc.
Haslock & Sons Inc.
Hipoint Aggregate
Hogan Farms
HUB Insurance
Imperial Paving, LLC
Integral Blue
Jill Fons
John & Pilar Baldwin
John & Kristine Pfeffer
John & Wendy Savage
John Baldwin
Judith Tye
Kates Enviro Fencing Inc
Leftcoast Surveyors Inc
Matthew Desotell
Matthew Gribas
McFadden Partnering Group, LLC
McShea Contracting, LLC
Merrill Lynch Winkler Group
Michael Wohlert
Michigan Aggregates Association
Michigan Awesome
Michigan CAT
Mike & Carol Horan
MSB Services
National Staffing and Home Care
Nextran Truck Centers
Northern Concrete Pipe Inc
Ongrade Contracting Inc
Owen-Aimes-Kimball Company
PacLease South Florida
Pamela Fons
Pavement Maintenance LLC
Pfeffer, Hanniford, & Palka
Poured Brick Walls
Preferred Materials, Inc
Proactive Repair
Rhino Seed & Landscape Supply
Ring Power CAT
RKS Consulting Engineers
Rural King
Ryan Erxleben Golf
Safety Products
San Marino Excavation, Inc
Schafer Construction, Inc.
Scott Pittman
South Florida Milling
Southwest Florida Lawncare Inc
Spartan Barricading & Traffic Control Inc
Spot on Performance
T. Disney Trucking
The Bug Terminators
The DeCraene Family
The Herald-Tribune Media Group
TLS Construction
Tom Watson Enterprises LLC
Trans-Phos Inc.
United Rental
Unlimited Turf
Vulcan Construction Materials, Inc