

DAVE FONS MEMORIAL FUND

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Inspire & Impact the Future



Garrett Fons
President

As we enter our 7th year of The Dave Fons Memorial Fund, I look back and think, "Wow we have come so far." Yet, I also feel like we have so much to do and that our work will never be done. As the years go by, we have adapted and focused on innovative ways we can spread truck safety awareness, and I could not be prouder of our success. The future is not a distant concept; it is an opportunity that awaits our contribution.

I recently attended a presentation where the speaker said, "If we can inspire, we can have an impact on the future." It really got me thinking about whether we inspire people to truly care about truck safety. We may have missed a few, but we have connected with so many that deeply care about our mission. I have said it before and I will say it again: as long as we are making a difference and potentially saving one life, then it is all worth it.

The simple fact is people get things done when they feel inspired. Inspiration is the fuel that motivates movements and the driving force behind all great achievements. Think of inspirational people in history. Most of them have one thing in common: they have contributed to our society in positive ways. I would like to think over these past 6 years, we have contributed to society in a positive way.

Inspiration works both ways. I get extremely motivated when people show us appreciation for what we do. Whether they are donating, participating in our events, putting up one of our safety signs, or simply thanking us, it makes an immense difference. Our ability to make the best impact on safety is directly related to inspiring one another. We count on everyone that believes in our movement to inspire people in their lives. By taking action, raising awareness and rallying others to join our cause, we can create a ripple effect that will ensure a lasting legacy. Together, let's inspire greatness, ignite change and continue to have a positive impact on the future.

2023 was another successful year for our organization. We were able to once again host two successful full capacity events. The first was our 6th Annual Dave Fons Memorial Fund Golf Tournament held at Mystic Creek in Milford, Michigan. The other was our 4th Annual Fins for Fons Fishing Tournament held at The Westin in Cape Coral, Florida. Our events grow each year, and we have so many loyal supporters that show up each to do what they can.

Some of our accomplishments in 2023 were:

- Scholarship program funding in Michigan and Florida
- Provided commercial driving scholarships to Veterans
- Supported families involved in truck related accidents
- Safe drivers of the month in Michigan and Florida
- Promoted trainings
- Held successful fundraising events in Michigan and Florida
- Promoted truck safety at all times
- Donated truck safety signs
- Continued to promote truck safety awareness campaigns on all of our social media platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, & Instagram)
- Successfully partnered with similar organizations
- Attended/volunteered at industry events and had informational booths
- Attended safety events and shared our story

In 2024, we are pushing to make even more strides in our truck safety awareness campaign by devoting more resources to traffic enforcement and public safety education initiatives. We will continue to partner with the Michigan Center for Truck Safety, Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Institute for Safer Trucking, and Truck Safety Coalition, and we look forward to partnering with other like-minded organizations.

With 2023 behind us we anticipate another successful year in 2024. We will look forward to expanding our outreach and growing our organization each year. Our 2024 goals include:

- Expand our scholarship program
- Revise our Mission Statement
- Partner with additional commercial driving schools to provide scholarships in Michigan and Florida
- Increase Billboard campaign exposure in both Michigan and Florida
- Increase our training efforts
- Board members to take more active role in like-minded organizations
- Support law enforcement
- Collaborate with other groups to come up with truck safety action plans
- Be a truck safety resource
- Grow our support network

The continued involvement and trust in our organization has been vital in our journey to bring truck safety awareness to the forefront, as well as in making the Dave Fons Memorial Fund the successful organization that it is today. On behalf of the Dave Fons Memorial Fund board members, I would like to extend our gratitude to all of you who have been and continue to be the foundation of our organization.

The 2022 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. This year, we proudly hosted two successful fundraising events across two different states.

Dave Fons Memorial Fund Sixth Annual Golf Tournament



Brendan Fons
Vice President

The 6th Annual Dave Fons Memorial Fund Golf Tournament was held on July 29th, 2023, at Mystic Creek Golf Course & Banquet Center. This was our third year holding the event at this venue. As in past years, the accommodation from staff and personnel at Mystic Creek was again well received. With rainy weather the day preceding and in the hours leading up to tee off, there was worry of weather impacting the event. The rain ended up holding off during

the hours of play, and the golfers just needed to contend with some wet course conditions. Overall, though, the weather was satisfactory for the event. The outing took place over all three nine-hole courses: Lakes, Woods, and Meadows. With the three courses available to us, we were able to accommodate more teams than in prior years. This year's event had the highest attendance of any outing to-date.

As with every outing, a fun atmosphere was enjoyed by all. We strive to continue providing a positive experience for the attendees and look to improve each year. Building on the positive feedback from 2022, the side games, including the golf cannon and chipping game, were held again this year. Food and beverages were provided throughout the day, and dinner and raffle took place after the rounds were complete. As always, our volunteers excelled at putting together a very popular raffle, which included fan favorite prizes, such as Garrett's Catch, Dave's Favorites, and the CAT cooler, as well as some exciting, new prizes.



Board members with the 2023 golf tournament winning team



2023 Best Dressed Team: Ajax Paving Industries of Michigan

The turnout from participants and support of volunteers and sponsors was overwhelming and gratifying to our organization. Each year, we obtain new sponsors and we were very grateful for that again this year. It was great to see new faces at this event and hear from all those who have supported our mission and the goals.

Each year, the success of our golf outing helps our organization grow and this year was no different. My father would be extremely proud of the growth achieved with the golf outings. He would also be elated to see how far we have come since the inception of our organization. We want to thank you all for your participation and interest in the 2023 golf outing. We really appreciate your continued support for our organization.

Fourth Annual Fins for Fons Fishing Tournament



Michelle Fons
Director of Public Relations & Events

Our Annual Fins for Fons Charity Fishing Tournament continues to grow! This year we had 33 boats. We did have a little bit of rain, but the anglers still brought in those fish and didn't seem to mind the scattered showers. Our 2023 4th Annual Fins for Fons Fishing Tournament was once again a huge success thanks to our outstanding group of amazing donors, sponsors, volunteers, and participants. This year, due to popular demand, we decided to keep our tournaments venue in the Southwest Florida area. He held it once again in Cape Coral, Florida at The Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village. Our welcome cocktail party and captain's meeting were held on Friday, September 15th and our tournament and awards dinner were held on Saturday, September 16th.

With 126 anglers and more than 200 guests, our annual event continues to grow and remain a fun-filled time for the entire family. With all the overwhelming support, we were able to hold an Adult Inshore & Offshore Tournament, as well as an Inshore & Offshore Junior Angler Division. We had several new sponsors and anglers to add to our outstanding list of contributors this year. We could not be more humbled by the kindness, support, and generosity of our growing list of supporters.



First Place Adult Division Inshore Team: Team Ring Power CAT with 85.25" Total Length



First Place Adult Division Offshore Team: Team Blind Date with a 64.05 lb Total Weight



First Place Jr. Division Inshore: Lucas Rea 70" Total Length



First Place Jr. Division Offshore: Gavin Katz 11.35 lbs Total Weight



Second Place Jr. Division Inshore: Dean Croathers 64" Total Length



Second Place Jr. Division Offshore: Charlotte Katz 10.30 lbs Total Weight

TACO Materials was kind enough to once again highlight our tournament on their blog and we had the honor of once again having The Reel Chase, Monika Urbanski, supply our official tournament shirts. And we couldn't possibly host a tournament without the lovely Captain Leiza Fitzgerald from the CCA as our officiate. Every year she brings her expertise and amazing personality to our tournament, which has been such a huge help over the years. This year, Chandan Bangar, owner & operator of CabCreates, was again chosen for the task of fulfilling our professional photo needs and we were thrilled with the essence that he captured for our tournament.

We simply cannot begin to thank all of our guests, participants, sponsors, and volunteers enough. Every year just keeps getting better and better, and it is all of you who have made that possible. Our gratitude goes beyond what we could ever express, and we truly are so very thankful for your continued support. Whether you shared our posts on social media, donated, fished, sponsored, or joined us a guest, it is all of you who continue to make our events successful and memorable. We look forward to seeing everyone at our 5th Annual Fins for Fons Fishing Tournament to be held September 2024. Further details to be released on our website and social media platforms soon.

Annual Financial Report



Craig Fons
Treasurer

Looking back on 2023, it was another successful year from a fundraising standpoint thanks to the amazing support we received from all our benefactors. From an expenditure standpoint, we lack in finding enough useful places to spend money in ways consistent with our mission statement. It seems that with only our board members looking for ways to help our mission, we are still coming up short in that category. If you are interested enough to read this newsletter, I hope that you are one of the people who could help us with this. I ask you contact any board member with any suggestion you have for anything from driver safety training, to helping a family that has been affected by a tragic accident like the one that took Dave's life. If you or anyone you know or do business with can

find a useful place to post one of our complimentary and customizable safety signs, then by all means reach out and we will supply as many as practical.



Dave Fons Memorial Fund Safety Sign proudly displayed at one of our sponsor's new facilities in Fort Myers, Florida.

A program we are hoping to receive more participation with is our Safe Truck Driver of the Month reward program. We are looking for more nominations of safe truck drivers, especially in Michigan. If selected, these drivers will receive a check for \$250 to reward them for their safe behaviors. Nominations can be easily submitted on our website.



Louise M. with Daniel Mullins Trucking who was one of our July Safe Truck Drivers of the Month from Florida

A big thank you goes out to our accounting firm, Pfeiffer Hanniford and Palka CPA of Brighton, Michigan who, since the inception of this fund, donate their time and resources to help us keep our taxes filed appropriately and audit our expenditures every year to keep us on track as a 501c3 entity. On a yearly basis, they review all of our spending to keep us consistent with our mission statement. We take the responsibility of making the best use of the funds entrusted to us very seriously. Since we are a board of volunteers who may lack for expertise in this area, it is comforting to have them keep an eye on how we operate. Thank you again John, Pat, and Ken. We very much appreciate your efforts.

We are looking forward to continuation of the programs we've put in place since our founding in 2017, and are hoping to expand to whatever training, awareness, or support opportunities arise in 2024. Please know that our organization depends on input from all our participants. Whether you golf in our outing in Michigan or fish in Florida, our door is open to everyone who depends on the trucking industry or simply wants to navigate our highways and have a level of confidence that the seemingly gargantuan truck next to you is operated by a person who takes safe trucking as serious as we do.

Truck Safety Objectives for 2024



Courtney Sprague
Secretary

Each year, the Institute for Safer Trucking releases their Annual Safer Trucking Report. This comprehensive report is an invaluable resource in educating the public about truck safety in the United States. This year's report showed that, despite efforts from truck safety organizations like ours, trucking continues to get deadlier. From 2012 to 2021, there was a 47% increase in truck crash fatalities, while the number of miles traveled by trucks during that same time period only increased 21%. In 2021, there were 5,788 truck crash fatalities and 154,993 truck crash injuries in the U.S. Florida ranks 3rd in the nation in absolute numbers of truck crash fatalities. It is clear that more measures need to be enacted in order to prevent senseless truck crash deaths.

Work zone crashes are one important area where truck safety efforts should be targeted. From data collected in 2021, it was found that an average of 33% of work zone crashes involved at least one large truck. In several states, this number was as high as 100% of work zone crashes. This information really emphasizes how important work zone safety is to truck safety; the two cannot be separated. Thus, for 2024 and beyond, we would like to continue to advocate for and support increasing truck safety efforts in the domain of work zones. As my dad, Dave Fons, was involved in road construction for the vast majority of his life and several of our board members still are, this is an area where we believe we can have a significant impact.

The Institute for Safer Trucking has introduced a number of calls to action for the federal government to improve truck safety including:

- Requiring automatic emergency braking systems to be equipped in and used in all trucks.
- Study use and safety benefits of dual-facing cameras and telematics in large trucks.
- Increase the minimum insurance requirements for motor carriers to account for inflation, since current requirements were set in 1980.
- Finalize a rulemaking to require that large trucks be equipped with and use speed limiter technology set to a maximum speed of either 65 mph or 70 mph with the use of automatic emergency braking and adaptive cruise control.
- Reevaluate the safety benefits of side underride guards, revise how underride is defined to increase accuracy in reporting, and include a specific field for underrides on accident reports.

These calls to action have the potential to greatly improve truck safety in the future and it is critical for progress to be made on them in 2024. In addition to these calls to action, we see a need for greater attention to be placed on measures that will address the safety of trucks in work zones in particular. While speed limiters, automatic emergency braking, and dual-facing cameras could also have a significant impact on truck crashes in work zones, some other suggestions of calls to action include:

- Improved training to help truck drivers navigate work zones in a safer manner
- Enforcing more strict distracted driving prevention protocols while in work zones

There is hope that we can improve the pattern of increasing lethality of truck crashes, including those in work zones. However, that improvement will require swift and comprehensive action on the part of truck safety organizations, truckers, the federal government, and others. The time is now and we are looking forward to what we can accomplish in the coming year.

2023 Dave Fons Memorial Fund Scholarship & Award Recipients



Thank You to Our 2023 Sponsors & 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
AIS Equipment
Ajax Paving Industries of Michigan
Ajax Paving Industries of Florida
Al Serra Auto Plaza
All County Paving
Alta Equipment
American Infrastructure Services
American Pavement Sawing LLC
American Video Transfer
Appian Development Inc.
Ashka Salon
Autobahn
Aylesworth's Fish & Bait, Inc.
Backbay Construction
Belle Tire
Bender Gloves
BenShot
Bermont Excavating LLC
Birchmeier Group LLC
Blackrock
BoatUS
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Bob Myers Excavating Inc
BombTech
Boni Hutchinson Company
Bordines of Brighton
BroBasket
Bull Bay Rods
C.A. Hull
C3 Automotive
Cadillac Asphalt
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Dobbs Equipment
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DSC Outerwear
Egret Baits/Voodoo Shrimp
EHC Construction
Engel Coolers
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Ferguson Waterworks
Firekeepers
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Foote Bros Contracting, Inc
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GBM Recycled Concrete LLC
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Gulfshore Trucking, LLC
Guymann Construction of Florida
Haslock & Sons Inc
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Hogan Farms
Icemule
John & Wendy Savage
John Michaels Diamond & Jewelry Studio
KAI USA
Kates Enviro
Kelly Tractor Co
Kendra Scott
Knockaround Sunglasses
Krullified Construction, Inc
Lakeside Service Co.
Lariat, Inc
LeeMar
Liberty Shores
Linder
Longway Planetarium & Sloan Museum
Lorea Topsoil & Aggregate
Lunkerhunt
Matt Desotell
Matt Horan
McShea Contracting, LLC
Merill Lynch
Michigan Aggregates Association
Michigan Awesome
Michigan CAT
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Milling Cleanup Service
MITA
MJR Digital Cinemas
Morita Custom Gaffs
MSB Services, LLC
Mullybox
Mustad
Norman Love Confections
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Ongrade Contracting, Inc
ORCA
Oriental Trading Company
Outdoor Adventure Center
Paramount Asphalt Sealcoating Corporation
Pavement Consultants, Inc
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