

TIRE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

2022-23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES



GIL APPLGATE – Tredroc Tire Service, Elk Grove, Ill.

Tire Dealer, Retreader, Supplier

Markets: Retail, Commercial/Truck, Industrial, Retread/Repair, OTR, Farm/Agriculture

During his 34-year tire industry career, Gil Applegate, director of operations at Tredroc Tire Service, worked his way up from entry-level technician to service management, sales, location manager, regional manager to his current position. He is committed to doing it right, with no short cuts, and the safe way being the only way, even when no one is watching. Gil has a life-long passion for training and the ambition to serve the industry as well as the community as an ambassador of safety. As a TIA Board member, he said he would like to develop programs to increase the knowledge of both experienced technicians and the generations to come. He brings years of hands-on experience, industry knowledge and the determination to see tasks to completion.



BILL BAILEY – Myers Tire Supply, Akron, Ohio

Non-Tire Dealer, Wholesaler/Distributor

Markets: Retail, Commercial/Truck, Industrial, Wholesale, Retread/Repair, OTR, Farm/Agriculture

Bill Bailey has worked at Myers Tire Supply for the past 25 years in multiple roles and markets ranging from operations to his current position as vice president of sales, customer service and training. During his career he has served as a board member of the Iowa Tire Dealers Association and the North Central Tire Dealers & Suppliers Association and participated as a member of the Texas Tire & Automotive Association. Growing up in the industry and being able to participate and learn from the many great people and organizations has helped him personally in his career, “so being able to give back is a duty and responsibility that I am very committed to.” He would bring to TIA his two decades of experience of expertise that has helped him understand the changes members face as well as a hands-on approach to finding solutions to those challenges; this, and a can-do attitude and servant leadership style that is always looking to help wherever and whenever he can.



ROB CZUKOR – Tire Recycling Consultants, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Supplier, Recycler

Market: Recycling

President and CEO of Tire Recycling Consultants, Rob Czukor has spent much of the past 29 years developing customer relationships and representing equipment and machinery manufacturers that provide specialized machinery for the processing and recycling of tires, tire pyrolysis and tire retreading. He has focused his efforts in diverting the flow of scrap tires from incineration and landfill disposal to recycling, helping to create numerous recycled tire-derived products. In the 1980s, Rob recognized the value of used and scrap tires as an international resource and has worked to promote the recycling of scrap tires into feedstock materials in the manufacturing of environmentally friendly recycled products. He has worked with the states of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, South Carolina and Pennsylvania to develop more efficient scrap tire collection and processing programs. He is sought by companies, entrepreneurs and inventors for his advice on product development, processing technology and for his vast knowledge and extensive database of contacts in the industry. Rob believes his years of experience in end-of-life tire recycling will benefit TIA and its members and that his insights into tire recycling and technologies will add value to industry sustainability and promote the initiative for a circular green economy for years to come.



RUSSELL DEVENS – McCarthy Tire Service, Wilkes-Barre, Penn.

Tire Dealer, Retreader

Markets: Retail, Commercial/Truck, Industrial, Wholesale, Retread/Repair, OTR, Farm/Agriculture

Russ Devens, director of safety & risk management for McCarthy Tire Service, is a current TIA Board member and chair, for the past three years, of the Training & Education Committee. He has more than 30 years of experience in safety, law enforcement, security, insurance and risk management and is a Level-400 Commercial Tire Service TIA instructor. He also is a Part 48 Certified and Part 46 Instructor with the Mine Safety & Health Administration (MSHA), 30-hour General Industry Certified with OSHA and a Certified Commercial Vehicle Inspector with U.S. DOT. In addition, he is the co-founder of the Tire Industry Safety Leadership Summit. He conducts ongoing training, evaluations of workplace safety, emergency response, hazardous materials management and facility security for more than 70 McCarthy Tire locations and 1,300 employees. He said he would like to serve another term on the TIA Board of Directors to continue TIA's mission of updating and improving the training programs that are offered. “Being a member and end user of all of the programs offers me a true perspective of the value of the training,” he said.



BILLY EORDEKIAN — 1-800EVERYRIM OEM Wheels, Santa Fe Springs, Calif.

Supplier

Markets: Wholesale, Recycling

Billy Eordekian, president of 1-800EveryRim OEM Wheels, began his career in 1976 re-boxing parts and pulling wheels at Motor, Rim & Wheel Service - Los Angeles. From 1977 to 1986 he paved the way at his father's tire store specializing in insurance replacement work and new car dealer changeovers. In 1987, he started Used Rim, Inc., which was one of the first companies to specialize in used and new take-off OEM replacement wheels on a national level. He then founded his second company, 1-800EveryRim OEM Wheels, in 2007 and once again became recognized as a premiere distributor of factory original wheels. Being a founding member of the SEMA Wheel & Tire Council and two-term president of the California Tire Dealers Association, Billy describes himself as committed to the industry, creative and enthusiastic. With a focus on people and marketing, Billy said as a TIA Board member he would contribute from both a retailer's point of view and that of a supplier to independents as well as large retailers. Looking forward to helping the tire industry further prosper, Billy would serve as an "idea person" with the expertise to promote membership, programs, and to tackle "whatever it takes," as he often says.



JOHN EVANKOVICH – Sam's Club Tire and Battery Centers, Bentonville, Ark.

Tire Dealer

Markets: Retail, Retread/Repair, Recycling

John Evankovich is director of Sam's Club Tire and Battery Centers, overseeing more than 580 retail outlets across the U.S. He has worked at Sam's Club for nearly 33 years, starting out as a tire installation technician. In 2009, the company presented him with the Sam's Club Achievement in Service Award for outstanding contributions in customer experience, and four years later recognized him with the Sam's Club Carpe Diem Award for achievements in consumer and workplace safety. He also has received a Certificate in Human Resource Employment Practice and Law. John, who served as TIA president in 2019, said his strengths are in building relationships with stakeholders and collaborating to improve business operations to meet mutual goals. He describes himself as a student of the industry with a passion for consumer safety and environmental sustainability and is highly engaged in government relations. "As an industry veteran and long-time TIA member, I understand the power of collaboration within our industry to ensure our voice is heard on a legislative level," he said. "The TIA allows me to utilize my industry experience and understanding of the legislative process to help further TIA initiatives that impact all of us. I'm a long-time advocate of consumer safety and protecting our environment. The TIA gives me the opportunity to be involved in developing training and best practices to help all tire retailers."



TRAVIS GLIDDEN — Stellar Industries Inc., Garner, Iowa

Supplier

Markets: OTR, Commercial/Truck, Industrial, Farm/Agriculture

Travis Glidden, a current TIA Board member, is regional sales manager for Stellar Industries Inc. He started in the tire service truck business in 1986 building trucks for Collins Equipment, which was purchased by Stellar in 1993. For the past 30+ years, he has traveled extensively throughout North America, selling, demonstrating, delivering and putting tire trucks into service. He has taken TIA's Advanced Hands-On Training courses in both earthmover and farm tire service and takes pride in the personal relationships he has made throughout the tire industry. Working with independent tire dealers who are servicing commercial truck, farm/ag and all sizes of OTR tires has given him a good understanding of the industry and its challenges, including safety considerations and lack of formal training. Working with TIA also has allowed him to bring his service truck experience of proper tire truck and crane operation and maintenance into the classroom. Travis said he would like to see TIA training classes become a more prevalent industry standard and a requirement for all tire service technicians. Travis said he has greatly enjoyed his last two years serving on the TIA Board of Directors. "Even though I have been involved with TIA for over 30 years, my past two years serving on the Board of Directors really showed me how much the TIA staff and Board members do to make the Association operate smoothly," he said. "My passion and focus will continue to be involved with the training of farm/ag and OTR tire service along with increasing membership."



ED JONES – BARTEC USA, Sterling Heights, Mich.

Manufacturer – Tire or Other

Markets: Retail, Commercial/Truck, Wholesale

Ed Jones, director of sales for BARTEC USA, has 40 years of automotive aftermarket experience including 24 years in the tire and tire repair segments. He has been involved in all aspects of TPMS since its inception and has conducted hundreds of TPMS training dealer clinics nationwide since 2008. He is a current member of TIA and was previously certified as a TIA Automotive Tire Service Advanced instructor and by Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). In addition, Ed is a current member of the Automotive Oil Association, American Maintenance & Repair Association, Equipment and Tool Institute, the Heavy-Duty Manufacturers Association, SEMA and SEMA's Wheel & Tire Council. Ed said his years of experience providing hands-on training with tire dealers and his support of TIA's training program demonstrates his ability to make a positive industry impact. If elected to the TIA Board, Ed would like to advocate for the Association's overall vision by participating in government affairs, specifically right-to-repair, tire registration and the many other legislative issues tire dealers are facing from Washington. He said it would be his honor to serve on the TIA Board and to contribute in a positive way to advocate and provide support for the tire industry.



GARY MACCAUSLAND – VIP Tires & Service, Auburn, ME.

Tire Dealer

Markets: Retail, Wholesale

Gary MacCausland is senior vice president of operations for VIP Tires & Service, one of North America's largest retail tire dealerships with 65 locations at the end of 2021. Gary's entire career has been dedicated to the tire service profession, "with a huge focus on doing it the right way." He has more than 35 years of experience overseeing multi-unit tire and service operations working for such companies as NTW, Tire America, Sears, Merchants, NTB, Pep Boys and now VIP. During his career, he has been a mentor for many people in the industry and his disciplines can be found in many organizations. He is described as "super passionate" about training and employee development and was the lead at VIP to go "all-in" with TIA. Today, VIP has two Advanced TIA instructors, 40+ TIA Certified Instructors and nearly 300 associates certified to Basic Automotive Tire Service and Advanced TPMS. Gary currently serves on the board for the Automotive Maintenance Repair Association (AMRA) and its Motor Assurance Program (MAP). In seeking to join the TIA Board, Gary said "I would appreciate the opportunity to utilize my decades of experience, knowledge and industry relationships to work with an organization whose values of customer safety and associate training align directly with mine."



ERI MUCA – ATEQ TPMS Tools, Novi, Mich.

Supplier, Manufacturer – Tire or Other

Markets: Commercial/Truck, Industrial

Eri Muca is global aftermarket TPMS manager for ATEQ TPMS Tools and was named one of 2021's best and brightest young stars by *Modern Tire Dealer* magazine in its 48 Under 40 list. A year earlier, SEMA named him to its 35 Under 35 list of Next-Gen talent. A current board member of the Equipment and Tool Institute (ETI), Eri's area of expertise is technology, which along with his global experience, has given him a unique perspective on the industry. He has traveled worldwide and gained first-hand experience in how other countries handle TPMS. Fluent in Albanian, English and Italian, Eri's global business leadership role has taught him how to handle business outside the U.S. and he's gained new insight into problem solving and how to enhance a company on a global level. Eri has a strong passion about the safety aspect of the industry and for following industry standards. If chosen for the TIA Board of Directors, Eri said he would "absolutely" reflect TIA's core value of safety at every step of the industry. He added, "it would be an honor to serve in this great organization and certainly the experience I bring from being a board member at ETI will be very valuable, I believe."



CRAIG STEVENS – Big Horn Tire, Gillette, Wyo.

Tire Dealer, Retreader

Markets: Retail, Commercial/Truck, Industrial, Retread/Repair, OTR, Farm/Agriculture

Craig Stevens, sales manager of Big Horn Tire, has been fortunate in his career. The work ethic instilled and cultivated in him by his parents and the lessons he was taught at an early age have given him the ability to appreciate the expertise and abilities of others and willingness to learn from those he's been privileged to work with over the years. He said his biggest achievements have come from being able to find solutions to problems for clients and that success in his business career has come from leading by example and surrounding himself with the best talent available. As a TIA Board member, Craig said he would bring a unique perspective to the Association, specifically OTR/mining. He has worked on all of sides of the business, with Michelin as a manufacturer/supplier, at ANR as a tire and vehicle process manager, and currently on the dealer side. One thing that's consistent in these segments is the need to foster a safe work environment. The challenge continues to be finding new and unique ways to communicate the safety message that can sometimes seem stale and repetitive.



CRAIG TINKLENBERG – Fuller Brothers Inc., Clackamas, Ore.

Manufacturer – Tire or Other

Markets: Retail, Commercial/Truck, Industrial, Retread/Repair, OTR, Farm/Agriculture

Craig Jay Tinklenberg, sales and safety trainer for Fuller Brothers Inc., was 16-years old when he started in the tire industry working in the family tire shop, changing tires, working in the retread plant and serving the front counter. As a territory salesman he was provided with the opportunity to directly connect with fleets both large and small. His extensive training has covered foot-print analysis, tire application, retreading, vehicle alignment, job site studies, tire expenditure and budget projections, scrap tire analysis, and he is also a certified Level-400 TIA Commercial Tire Service and Earthmover Tire Service trainer. While at Tredroc Tire, Craig was heavily involved in MSHA and OSHA compliance and training. Craig's dedication to the industry and his passion for lifelong learning has fueled his desire to educate and enhance the knowledge of all stakeholders that run small or large equipment with tires. Now with Fuller Brothers Inc., the opportunity to work with tire service dealers around the U.S. and on a global scale has opened up new vistas in how the tire industry works in so many different and diverse places. "My desire to serve on the TIA Board is to continue to seek opportunities to help and serve the next generation of techs, to pass the torch so to speak by helping them understand that safety is paramount to the tech, the companies they work for and the customers they service," he said.



T.J. TRUM – Pomp's Tire Service Inc., Kansas City, Kan.

Tire Dealer, Retreader

Markets: Retail, Commercial/Truck, Industrial, Wholesale, Retread/Repair, OTR, Farm/Agriculture

T.J. Trum is the general counsel for Pomp's Tire Service Inc. and a current TIA Board member presently serving as chair of the Association's Government Affairs Committee and leading the Association's support of Trucker's Against Trafficking. He also chairs the American Commercial Tire Network (ACTN) Human Resources and Safety Committee and is a licensed legal counsel and certified senior professional in human resources by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM-SCP). T.J. has hybrid tire industry experience in legal, operations, safety, and human resources. He is committed to the servant leadership model that inspires leadership up the organizational structure and believes proper engagement, staffing and training will be defining keys to success for industry dealers.