

The DEG Switches *Into High Gear*

During the October 31 CIC meeting in Las Vegas, representatives from the Database Enhancement Gateway (DEG) provided an update on the numerous advancements they have made in recent months. Years in the making, the DEG is the result of tireless efforts from assorted members of AASP, SCRS and ASA determined to address and resolve many of the current issues surrounding database accuracy.

DEG member Lou DiLisio announced the December 1 launch date of the highly-anticipated website, www.DEGweb.org, which will serve as a convenient, user-friendly portal for repairers who wish to submit a Database Inquiry (DI) to any of the major Information Providers.

"This is to help people who use these products when they have questions about labor times or missing parts and inadequacies," DiLisio said. "This is for everybody in the industry to have a place to go with a standardized format and a tracking plan."

Additionally, DiLisio officially announced that the DEG has contracted Aaron Schulenburg to handle the administration of the DEG. In this capacity, Schulenburg will oversee the day-to-day operations of the site, including regularly following the progress of the submitted Database Inquiries and keeping site users updated as these inquiries are resolved.

WMABA Vice President Barry Dorn, one of the architects of the DEG initiative, joined Schulenburg in presenting CIC attendees with a sneak preview of the some of the features avail-

able on the website. Once active, www.DEGweb.org will provide users with a general overview of some of the key differences between the Information Providers' products, as well as step-by-step instructions on how to properly submit an inquiry.

With the DEG's many plans finally coming to fruition, DiLisio credited the Information Providers for embracing the industry's need for streamlining and improving the inquiry process.

"I want to thank CCC, Mitchell and Audatex for the support they have given us," he said. "CCC and Mitchell have graciously offered us software at no cost, and we're still in discussions with Audatex about some of the things the Database Enhancement Gateway does."

The seeds for the DEG were planted several years ago, when the late March Taylor began researching and validating numerous database inquiries before sending them to Information Providers for review. Inspired by Taylor's efforts, the three national associations joined forces in turning his idea into a full-time endeavor.

Fittingly, www.DEGweb.org will feature a special tribute section to this sorely missed industry leader.

"This man was the force," said Dorn of Taylor. "He was the one who gave us the vision to see this forward and continue his good work."



Database Enhancement Gateway members (L to R): Aaron Schulenburg, Dan Risley, Barry Dorn, Darrell Amberson and Lou DiLisio.