

Mark Rizzi Honored at IGA Convention

At the IGA Independents' Days awards banquet Friday, April 5th, Carolyn and Phil Rack, managing editor and publisher, respectively, of Beyond Parts & Equipment were honored with the Carl W. Jolliff Leadership Award "For outstanding leadership in the glass industry." In introducing the winners of this annual award, which recognizes leadership from people outside the glass industry, our 12 years of service to the collision repair industry were also noted. The 2001 winner of this award was Ray Asbury of Equalizer.

We began serving the glass industry more than five years ago when we realized that the two industries had common problems, such as arbitrary price controls (glass networks) and audit or review firms (collision) that reduced or eliminated line items to suit insurers' wishes. Neither network nor audit firm personnel ever saw a vehicle, so their cuts couldn't take into account the true cost of repairing a damaged vehicle.

Glass professionals have had to deal with networks for several years. Collision repair readers have the advantage of learning from glass professionals' experience in dealing with PPG's ProStars program (the collision counterpart is CertifiedFirst) and networks' steering and control of pricing (the collision counterpart: LYNX's new auto claims handling plan, including first notice of loss).

In addition, Mark Rizzi, owner of ACR Glass (Alliance, Nebraska) and a columnist for BP&E, was awarded the IGA's first Special Achievement Award in recognition of his exceptional research skills and his sharing of findings with the IGA. For nearly 10 years, Rizzi has been researching and developing procedures to treat rust in pinchwelds, which is present in far too many vehicles that have previously had a windshield replaced. Rizzi presented a seminar on this topic at the 2001 Independents' Days.

In 2002 he presented a similar seminar, updated and accompanied by selections from the more than 850 detailed photographs he has taken of vehicles that have come into his shop with various degrees of rust in the pinchweld. His photos of most vehicles include several "before," during repairs, and "after" repair.

According to Rizzi, 7 of every 10 vehicles with previous windshield replacements, have elements of an improper installation. Many of these have corrosion. This is despite Alliance's very dry climate. He recalls only one vehicle that had the original windshield in it, and that was minute.

Rizzi accepts no payment for his services to IGA. "What I do is just part of being a responsible association member. Helping to raise the bar of quality is something that benefits consumers everywhere."

We are honored, we thank the IGA, and we look forward to many more years of service to our readers.

Beyond Parts & Equipment