

news

NHTSA



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Editor M. J. Noll

December 1977

Richard Nellius, New Director of Public Affairs



Because of his noteworthy background in all phases of public relations, NHTSA's new Director of Public Affairs has aptly been described as "a real pro."

Richard Nellius steps into his new position with over 20 years experience as a newspaper reporter, freelance writer, public relations director, media information consultant and press director and administrative assistant to three Members of Congress.

After graduating from Columbia University with a Bachelor's in English, Richard Nellius began his journalistic career as a reporter and assistant wire editor for the Chester (Pennsylvania) Times (1957-58) and, later, for the Gainesville (Florida) Sun (1958-61).

With four years solid experience behind him, he then switched to the Miami (Florida) News as a reporter and assistant city editor (1961-66). During this time, his writing received such widespread recognition that Reporter Nellius was awarded first prize by the National Foundation for Highway Safety.

His experience in covering State campaigns had sparked his interest in the political area, and prompted him to accept a position with the St. Petersburg (Florida) Times (1966-68) as a political reporter. His in-depth stories on state and local politics as well as nationally featured murder trials earned him a first place award from the Florida Press Association.

The next year and a half (1968-69), Mr. Nellius spent freelancing in both public relations and writing and, later, became public relations director for E. J. Scheaffer Advertising in Miami.

He remained acutely interested in politics,

(See New Director on page 3.)

NHTSA Participates In "Rehabilitation USA"



The DOT exhibit depicting NHTSA, UMTA, and FAA efforts to assist the handicapped attracted much attention at the "Rehabilitation USA" seminar in Tokyo, Japan.

An exhibit which includes NHTSA's efforts to assist some 500,000 handicapped drivers in the U.S. in operating an automobile safely and effectively was displayed at the "Rehabilitation U.S.A." seminar in Tokyo, Japan, from November 7 through 10. The display developed by the Department specifically for the seminar also covered FAA and UMTA work in assisting the handicapped.

The man-sized exhibit consisted of displays and a TV presentation in English and in Japanese, portraying ongoing research and development efforts to aid the handicapped.

NHTSA's efforts include both the determination of vehicle designs which result in problems for handicapped drivers and the determination of how driver education and licensing programs can be tailored to handicapped needs.

The R&D provides the

base for rulemaking on adaptive controls and for programs related to State licensing, education and assistance to handicapped drivers.

As part of NHTSA's participation, a joint Technical paper on NHTSA's Research, Programs, and Rulemaking for the Handicapped was prepared by Robert M. Nicholson, Head of Driver and Vehicle Systems Research, R&D, and John Carson, Chief of Controls and Displays, MVP.

Mr. Nicholson presented the paper at the seminar in Tokyo. He holds a BS in Industrial Psychology and an MS in Experimental Psychology, is responsible for R&D programs dealing with education and licensing plus programs involving the arrangement and operation of vehicle instruments and controls. Mr. Carson, who has a BS in Mechanical Engineering, is a registered professional engineer and a member of

the Committee to Facilitate Mobility of the Handicapped. His responsibility for safety standards in controls and displays includes those related to handicapped drivers.

NHTSA's participation in the seminar was coordinated by Jack Burke, P&E.

Clothing for Kids

DOT has again joined in the Federal Clothing for Kids Campaign, an effort solely for the purpose of clothing disadvantaged school children. These children, often have to miss school simply because they do not have adequate clothing to wear.

The campaign will continue until December 15. Boxes for the collection of clothing have been placed in all three DOT buildings in Washington. In the Nassif Building, boxes are located in all four main floor entrances. All types of clothing, including good quality shoes, are desired.

All clothing donated is sorted, mended, or otherwise repaired and taken to the "Children's Boutique" on Sherman Avenue, NW. There is very little overhead. Unpaid volunteers, for the most part, conduct the drive and manage the Boutique. If you have any questions about the Campaign, call Edgar (Al) Simpson, DOT's coordinator, on 426-2164.

New Director

(from page 1)

however, and accordingly accepted the job as press director for the Senatorial Campaign of Congressman Bill Cramer (1969-70). In 1971 he was appointed administrative and press assistant to Congressman C. W. Bill Young of Florida. And, after a brief stint as a media consultant in 1973, Mr. Nellius served as administrative and press assistant to Congresswoman Margaret M. Heckler (1973-74).

In August 1974 Mr. Nellius accepted a position as chief of the Office of Information for the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Interior, and served in that capacity until coming to NHTSA on November 21. As director of a staff of 16, he had responsibility for the agency's total media program and also served as the Administrator's personal advisor on public affairs. During this span, he initiated a well accepted employee newsletter and a publications manual and created MESA Magazine, a highly successful sales publication issued six times annually and aimed at assisting the mining community in understanding MESA programs and complying with its regulations.

Richard Nellius, his wife, Andrea, and daughter, Kelly, live in Springfield, Virginia.

NHTSA Exceeds CFC Monetary Goal

Dan Butler of PACS, day-to-day coordinator for the Combined Federal Campaign, reports that NHTSA exceeded its monetary goal by 16 percent. Total contributions came to \$38,949.80, or \$5,513.80 more than the \$33,436 goal. Of the 679 headquarters employees, 514 donated to CFC, or 74 percent of the Washington area's total workforce.

The following reflects the percentage breakdown of employee and monetary participation for each area.

	Participation	Monetary Goal
Fuel Economy	100%	100%
Administrator's Office	77%	131%
TSP	87%	114%
R&D	63	92%
P&E	67%	114%
AD	89%	113%



Personnel

Welcome Aboard

Linda J. Rogers,
Clerk-Typist, Office of
Fuel Economy, 10-3.

Robert Churella,
Attorney Advisor, OCC,
10-4.

Terence Jackson,
Research Psychologist,
RD, 10-9.

Mary Klink, Secretary,
MVP, 10-9.

'Bye and Good Luck

Paul Honke, Safety
Standards Engineer, TSP,
9-28.

Gail Moler,
Clerk-Steno, Region VIII,
10-01.

Sidney Kelly, Math.
Statistician, RD, 10-8.

Congrats on Promotion

Mark Cassidy, Math.
Stat. RD, 10-9.

Cleonica Croft,
Printing Assistant, AD,
10-9.

Suellen Gardner,
Clerk-Steno, TSP, 10-9.

James L. Green,
Accountant, Region VII,
10-9.

Maydean Hardy, Acct.
Technician, Region VII,
10-9.

Dolores Richard,
Personnel Staffing
Specialist, AD, 10-9.

Sylvia Smith, Clerk-
Typist, RD, 10-9.

Joyce Tannahill,
Secretary, RD, 10-9.

Sineta Wooten,
Secretary, AD, 10-9.

In Lieu of Exchanging Cards



Administrator Joan Claybrook is among the first to give her contribution for Children's Hospital to Alice McGonagle, AD. Many NHTSA employees choose to follow the tradition of donating to Children's Hospital in lieu of exchanging cards.

This holiday season NHTSA will again follow the tradition of sending a special greeting to Children's Hospital. The greeting is special because it is signed by employees who have chosen to contribute to the Hospital fund in lieu of exchanging cards. The giant poster card, which customarily has been used by Children's Hospital as part of its holiday decorations, is accompanied by the donation. Last year's joint contribution was \$820.

Any NHTSA employee who wishes to contribute to this fund in lieu of exchanging greeting cards should give their donation to Mrs. Alice McGonagle, AD, Room 5238, or any of the following Associate Administrators' secretaries no later than December 15:

MVP - Shirley Siler, Room 5321

TSP - Jane Prather, Room 5208

RD - Diane Diffenbacher, Room 3118 Transpoint

P&E - Jerrilynn Pennington, Room 5212

AD - Zelfhia Gouldson, Room 5238

All contributors are encouraged to sign the poster card which will alternately be placed outside the Associate Administrators' offices for ease of access to all employees.

In a memorandum to all employees, Administrator Claybrook said: "I personally believe this is a good idea--and I know that it is fully endorsed by the Associate Administrators. I want to stress, however, that participation in the joint contribution is entirely voluntary. There is no thought in this suggestion that any of you who prefer to exchange cards should not do so."