



TIF Talk

Taxi Industry Forum of
Western Australia Inc

Volume 1, Issue 1
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Chairman's Message

Hello and Welcome to the first edition of Tif Talk.

We hope that you will enjoy reading our newsletter and that it will provide you with useful information regarding our industry and the role that we as drivers play in it.

We welcome all input from our members and with your input we will give you, representation at various levels of Government and with associated stakeholders in order to offer them "The Operators Perspective".

As your Chairman, I offer my sincere apologies for the lack of communication from your board to you our members.

The reasons for this of which there are many are due to financial constraints in producing a

publication of this type and its inherited costs.

We shall Endeavour to publish a newsletter monthly, but updates and issues will be available on our website www.tifwa.com.au

In my first few months in the position that I have had the honor of being your chairman. I have had the opportunity to meet with many stakeholders in our industry and look forward to mutual cooperation and establishing a strong TIFWA presence and opening dialogue with a view to fostering better relationships throughout the industry.



Tony Glazner
Chairman
TIFWA Inc

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Welcome to your newsletter.

- We need your help
- Join Us to help you!
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Secretary's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome members, new members and potential members to read this newsletter and please feel free to comment.

As you may realize there is little or no representation for the taxi operators or owners to voice their thoughts within the taxi industry and/or work environment to those who regulate us.

The board of tifwa in the past has presented numerous complaints to the stakeholders within our industry.



Your Board

Tony Glazner	Chairman	Chairs meetings Interacts with stakeholders Formulates future ideas. Meets with stakeholders as Board Executive. Continues to investigate any business , opportunities and ideas to benefit Taxi Operators
Len Powell	Chief Executive Officer	With Chairman Formulates, plans discussions with Stakeholders and attends meeting as Board Executive. Liaises with Chairman at all times regarding investigating business ideas and opportunities
Les Ross	Vice Chairman	Form sub-committee for constitutional planning, Membership and Newsletter Executive team member
Kenneth Jacob	Treasurer / Media Collator	Keeps finances up to date. Keeps Board up to date with what is happening in the media Executive team member.
Brian Smith	Secretary	Keeps minutes of meetings. Passes on information to other Board members. Works with Chairman and CEO at attending meetings with stakeholders as Board Executive
Ibrahim Durrani	Membership / Social Organizer	Formulates plans for BBQ's Membership Drives etc, table ideas and plans for same and utilizes his sub-committee to run events.
Romi Mukajee	Information Technology	Form sub-committee and team he can trust to work without supervision to keep members apprized and updated via the Website and ensure any News and events are on website for membership.
Sabrina Vitale	TBA	
Frank L'abbate	TBA	Set up sub-committee formulate plan and action
Robert Broad	TBA	Set up sub-committee formulate plan and action
Paramjeet Saini	TBA	Set up sub-committee formulate plan and action

Secretary's Message.....

The Board at this time is meeting on a monthly basis and our wish is for members to contribute via the website so we are able to formulate submissions on your behalf.

We must be able to present relevant statistics and anecdotal evidence to the Stakeholders to strengthen any negotiations in our favor.

Over the next few weeks we hope to put in place a template for members to use as a complaints procedure giving us a folio of facts to present.

We therefore discourage unsanctioned meetings between the few that will ultimately disadvantage the many.

Thank You

Any TIFWA member can participate in sub-committees as we believe we are all in this together and your input, feedback and expertise is welcome & vital.





Secretary's Message..... Continued.

Please feel free to approach the Board Member who is setting up a sub-committee and ask them if you can help, you need to advise them of your experience in their particular field.

It is with some regret we have to announce the resignation of Gheorghe, Mohammad Ali, Homee and Vince due to personal reasons.

We have all known these gentlemen as Taxi drivers for many years and staunch members of TIFWA for a lot of those years

On behalf of Taxi drivers ,TIFWA and your many friends in this industry many thanks for your efforts and service, during your tenures as our representatives and we welcome your input to assist the new Board in our Endeavour to improve the future of Taxi Drivers

Please remember **DON'T BE STRANGERS**, we will miss you!

Cheers

TIFWA BOARD

Who are we talking to.....?

Over the past five months we have met with & will continue to meet with on a regular basis;

City of Subiaco

The Minister of Transport and his representatives

Swan Taxi's

The Department of Transport

Black & White Taxi's

Westralian Airport Commission

Live Taxi ePay; Free EFTPOS Facility and 1 year free associate membership to TIFWA;

just mention TIFWA to Tianah

City of Perth

News Updates.....

Please be advised there have been more assaults, verbal and physical aggression toward Taxi Drivers.

The media has found it necessary to report any inappropriate behavior by Taxi Drivers and only now thanks to our chairman (reminding them there are two sides to every story) we are getting these reported on.

We need to have anecdotal evidence of FARE EVASIONS, VERBAL AND PHYSICAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT any unfair INFRINGEMENT NOTICES by Rangers, Police and other Public Officers as whenever we present these to DOT, Minister etc we look incompetent as we have nothing to give them as evidence.

Please advise us via the website and/or bring copies of infringements to our attention so we can keep statistics. We will keep them all confidential. Any M99 photocopy report that Dispatch demands and forward us a copy please.

We have met with Minister O'Brien with discussions on the following

CITY OF PERTH INFRINGEMENTS IN PARTY PRECINCTS

PPT'S

FARE SCHEDULES, TIB AND TIBRG

FUTURE COMMUNICATION WITH MINISTERS OFFICE

1) Minister O'Brien has advised us that he will discuss problems Taxis are having trying to service Northbridge and other Party Precincts with the City of Perth.



More Updates.....

He has encouraged us to collect anecdotal evidence re: fines, infringements and warning notices by COP that indicate we are being targeted.

WE NEED COPIES OF ANY FINES, INFRINGEMENTS OR WARNINGS

To gather statistical evidence which we can present to TIBRG and form some sort of resolution to stop this behavior.

2) PPT's Discussion included the fact that there are more PPT's plates are being released.

TIFWA's ARGUMENTS BEING:

A) There is not enough work in Perth.

B) PPT'S are necessary to cover the Peak Times including returning passengers leaving the Party Precincts and only to Service the Airport Ranks if and when necessary e.g. when requested by Airport via the TDS this being when there is an excess of passenger disembarking.

C) Compliance Officers will monitor this

3) THE MINISTER APOLOGISES FOR LAST YEARS DEBARCLE AND RIDICULOUS RISE OF 0.97% AND THE COST TO OWNERS FOR THE PRICE OF METER CONVERSION AND AGREES HE WAS UPSET WITH CONSULTANTS FINDINGS.

A) Via the DOT, TIB, TIBRG and input needed from TIFWA and its members it is necessary that we have the statistics (Thank you Vince for last year's collation of these) that we can present before the TIBRG in the form of a presentation with which they can work with.

B) The model used this time will be one that deals with WA and not a Country wide formula.

TIFWA NEEDS FROM CONCERNED MEMBERS

Any increases in Insurance, Maintenance, fuel fluctuations, lease payments to management companies etc. We need this to formulate the needs and relevance to our INDUSTRY.

Len reminded the Minister that the TDS's increased their RANK FEES immediately placing more stress on Operators

TO FORM A PRESENTATION THESE ARE IMPORTANT

So please be forthcoming with any information you have.

4) Minister O'Brien invites transparency with his office and TIFWA. Via emails and telecommunication with his personal assistant Nichol.

TIFWA AND IT MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO THANK VINCE AND LEN FOR DRIVING THE MINISTER'S REPRESENTATIVE (ON THEIR OWN TIME AND VEHICLES) AROUND NORTHBRIDE AND THE CITY GIVING THEM SOME INSIGHT INTO WHAT A STRUGGLE FOR OPERATORS IT IS OUT THERE.

The minister would like to be more involved and would appreciate any input from TIFWA's members via their representatives in investigating problems with City Ranks.

STAKEHOLDERS MEETINGS

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

The meeting held with the DOT 29/10/2010 at their Brown Street Office in East Perth.

TIFWA Represented by Len Powell and Brian Smith

DOT Represented by Rick Roberts and Keith Evans

Rick has advised us that he is now the DOT representative on the Taxi Council of Western Australia and he is also our liaison with the Minister.

Discussed at this meeting

FARE SCHEDULES AND WHAT WE NEED TO DO TO ENSURE FAIR REPRESENTATION

OVERCHARGING BY LEASE COMPANY'S

PPT'S TIMES AND AREAS OF OPERATIONS

LEASE PAYMENTS MONTHLY/QUARTERLY/EFTPOS ETC

TARIFF 3 AND MPT'S CONCERNS

**FARE SCHEDULES.**

We have been advised that due to the Minister's and Departments concerns re: last year's debacle

They have reviewed and changed the model used to evaluate any changes to the Fare Schedule. The Taxi Industry Board has questioned Price Waterhouse Cooper and has presented the Minister with a workable model based on Western Australia's needs not those of other states this primarily because of our ever growing demographics Increase in Insurance premiums due to hail damage, repairs, maintenance and other overheads that are continually increasing. The TIB and Minister were concerned that the previous model was too low and therefore not suitable for WA's Taxi Service.

This has given us a reprieve and hopefully with members input we can present them with our views, but we need your feedback to do this.

OVERCHARGING BY MANAGEMENT COMPANY'S

Mr. Peter Ryan has met with the State Lawyers and apologizes for how long this has taken.

We need from our members anecdotal evidence e.g. receipts from company's etc so we can formulate some statistics to present to the Departments Lawyers and strengthen our case.

As this is not the Management Company's problem. The Department has to chase up and take legal action against the owners these company's represent.

We can take this as some success for us on Operator's behalf as this shows we are being listened to.

PPT'S TIMES AND AREAS OF OPERATION

Keith advises us that the times will not be changed at this time as at the moment Compliance is monitoring PPT's to ensure they are working their correct days i.e. Odd numbers odd dates even numbers even dates.

Len suggested the areas of operation do not reflect fairly on the full time operators as we need PPT's during the Peak times in the city especially the Party precincts of Northbridge etc during closing times to cover influx of patrons leaving nightclubs etc, it was also suggested that there be some monitoring of PPT's on airport ranks during these busy times.

Rick advises that in the past PPT's were directed to cover airports when there was a call from airport staff advising TDS's of lack of Taxis.

We will continue discussions to get this rectified.

TARIFF 3

As this is set by the TDS's and their logo is on Fare Schedule TIFWA will write a submission to Swan's and B&W on member's behalf.

We need input from members to formulate this submission, this should include your thoughts when you are given a job by TDS's and or called up at the Airports specifically to transport large leisure objects and /or excessive luggage. We also need to know if surfboard and bicycle bookings are being dispatched to station wagons etc or only to vans or people movers.

If no input forthcoming we have no case.

WESTRALIA AIRPORT MEETINGS

We have been advised of a Smart Card being introduced for Taxis entering and exiting Airport Ranks.

This will be able to confirm driver's credentials & payment of Airport tolls.

After discussions with DOT the passenger's \$2.00 will be able to be charged via the meter as extras ensuring driver gets his money back.

Mr Jerry Baranski of WAAC, will keep us appraised of the progress in this.

WAAC will also offer training for drivers to ensure a smooth transition.

City Of Perth

We have recently meet with City of Perth officials regarding the unsatisfactory working conditions that have become day to day issues within the city and will continue our dialogue

Some of the issues under discussion;

Lack of adequate Rank spaces

Loading and setting down of passengers

Security lighting and signage at Taxi Ranks

Use of Bus Lanes

City of Subiaco

Trialing of a secure rank in Hay Street, Close to Hungry Jacks. More news to follow



HOW TO SUCCEED IN OUR ENDEAVOURS

The only way we can guarantee any form of success is to:

Plan

Gather information

Prepare & Research the information

Present the information for negotiation

Negotiate towards a resolution

Evaluate the resolution & if unsuccessful go back to planning stage

We cannot enter into any negotiations unprepared and our preparation must be complete i.e. written, statistically sound data whereby we can counter any arguments.

We must prioritise our wants and needs to benefit the whole industry and not get tied up on things we cannot change until we have some semblance of control.

FUTURE PLANS AND GOALS

Our future plans are to acquire funding to have access to

Legal representation

Occupational and Safety Issues including family assistance in the case of assault, inability to work due to assault.

Taxi friendly insurances

Some form of Superannuation

As these plans are a long way off we expect to be able to ensure full time members have access to them

And also offer associate members a portion of any entitlements in the future

MEMBERSHIPS

FULL MEMBERS; FULLVOTING RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO ANY TIFWA NEGOTIATED BENEFITS OF THE FUTURE.

\$50 PER ANNUM

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS; NO VOTING RIGHTS AND PROPORTIONAL ACCESS TO NEGOTIATED BENEFITS

\$20 PER ANNUM

HOW TO JOIN:

Feel free to approach Board members.

Go to the website and complete membership forms with payment as detailed

www.tifwa.com.au