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AIA Winter Meeting with your “Executive Leadership Council”

I know you’re wondering, “What happened to the AIA board of directors?” Amongst an ambitious winter meeting scheduled in beautiful southern California, we came to the decision to change our name to one that more directly defines our activities leading the Auto International Association (AIA). Henceforth the former board will be known as the AIA Executive Leadership Council. In addition to the name change, we’re in the process of developing our guiding charter as your import segment of AAIA.

A variety of issues were discussed throughout the day-long meeting:

- General remarks from Chairman Steve Bearden
- Association remarks from AAIA President and CEO Kathleen Schmatz
- Review of AIA events at AAPEX 2011: What worked well – what needs improvement
- Dissolution of association bylaws in lieu of AIA segment charter
- Review of the industry product and people award presentations at AAPEX
- Updates on AIA positions with regard to a lengthy list of issues under Government Action (will be detailed in a forthcoming Matters of Import issue)
- Education committee updates on certification tests and AIA seminar series at AAPEX
- Membership: data, outreach, developing AIA brand, services and benefits

Reappointed to additional terms with the AIA Executive Leadership Council were:

- Mary DellaValle, Babcox Media, Inc.
- Martin Gold, S-G Imported Car Parts, Inc.
- W. Michael Brown, Olympus Imported Auto Parts Corp.

New appointments to the council were:

- Eric Banas, ZF Services North America, Product Marketing Manager
- Duncan Greathead, GRI Engineering & Development, VP of Sales & Marketing

Welcomed back after a year break in service was former chairman:

- Brian Cohn, Multi Parts Supply USA, Inc.

Finally, we offered our sincere thanks and heartfelt appreciation to Tony Peticari of USA Industries, who ended his final term. Tony has served our industry as part of the AIA board and now Executive Council for a total of 19 years. He served as chairman as well as more committee assignments than we could possibly list here. Tony, you will be missed!

As always, thank you for supporting AIA!