

2001 OVERVIEW OF ATPA ACTIVITY

ATPA Website

During 2001, the ATPA website was enhanced. The site address is www.miatpa.org. The site provides historical and current data, as well as being interactive with ATPA grantees and the general public.

Innovative Grant Program

Two additional grants were approved in 2001: 1) a special southeast Michigan training program in auto theft recognition for road patrol officers, and 2) a billboard campaign in major cities to raise the awareness of auto arson insurance fraud. (See inside front cover for sample billboard.)

The board introduced this program in order to stimulate original ideas and creative programs to combat auto theft. These one-time grants, with funding up to 100%, are outside the norm of the regular grant process. The applicant can submit a brief concept paper that addresses five specific criteria areas. There is not a set deadline for submission, and projects can be more or less than the usual one-year grant period. The innovative package is available through the ATPA.

Board Appointments/Changes

- Detroit Police Assistant Chief Marvin Winkler was appointed to replace Charles Wilson. His position, which represents law enforcement, was effective on 3/16/01. Mr. Winkler subsequently resigned from the board in December due to his retirement from Detroit PD. This will create a vacancy on the board in 2002.
- Mr. Steven Wagner of AAA Michigan was appointed to the board on August 23, 2001. He represents automobile insurers.

Both appointments are for terms ending June 30, 2002.
- Ms. Rosemary Gordon, who represents purchasers of automobile insurance, moved to Arizona in November. Thus, this position will become vacant in 2002.

Effectiveness Survey

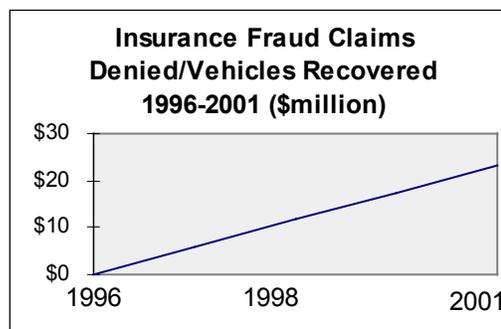
The ATPA conducted a survey through Michigan State University to determine whether the ATPA was utilizing its resources effectively. It solicited responses via the Internet from over 950 international auto theft experts. The results show that the ATPA Board is correctly utilizing its funds and is supported by various statistical methodologies. This survey is on our website under Reports, Survey.

ATPA Grant Hearings

Board members participated in the 2002 grant hearings on November 7, 2001, in Dearborn. Total grant requests were \$9.1 million. Final approved budgets totaled \$8.2 million, with an ATPA share of \$6.2 million. The applicants appearing before the board included: 1) all new grant requests, 2) current grants with significant changes, and 3) grantees that had not appeared before the board in the past few years. Utilizing a streamlined and enhanced grant review process, the board completed the grant hearings and deliberations by mid-afternoon. A total of 46 different agencies received funding.

Insurance Fraud Savings

A review of ATPA funded law enforcement teams in the past six years found that those teams were involved in 3,523 fraud cases and \$23.1 million in recoveries. Without the ATPA teams, these fraudulent claims would have been paid.



Statewide VIN Etching Program

The ATPA coordinated a statewide glass VIN etching program with AAA Michigan. This program, which was open to the general public, utilized AAA employees, ATPA non-profit groups, and ATPA staff. Over 2,300 vehicles were etched at 22 AAA branches. Not only does it make a car less appealing to car thieves, but an etched vehicle may also qualify for a discount on the comprehensive portion of auto insurance premiums. Vehicles etched in this program over a six-year period total over 24,000.

Auto Theft Forum

The ATPA co-hosted an executive-level auto theft forum with the HEAT Tip Program on September 12, 2001. In spite of the tragedy that week, the forum had lively panel discussions, excellent presentations, and enlightening critiques. The issues developed that day are available on our website: www.miatpa.org/programs/forumissues.