



GFX:

The Public Fleet Manager's Conference in Review

The 2014 Government Fleet Expo & Conference (GFX) was an educational and exciting event for many attendees. Taking place June 2-4 at the San Diego Convention Center in Southern California, the event included plenty of networking opportunities, a choice of 15 breakout educational sessions, and an expo floor packed with new technologies, vehicles, and products from service providers.

The unofficial theme of the conference was establishing a vision for the future, with a keynote speech from Kelly Reagan, fleet administrator from the City of Columbus, Ohio, speaking about

the topic. Brent Wahl from San Bernardino County, Calif., led a packed breakout session on this topic as well, breaking down the practical information that fleets needed to achieve their vision.

At educational sessions, fleet managers were able to learn about parts room management, effective communication across the generations, how to use data to control costs, real mistakes fleet managers have made and learned from, fleet greening strategies, what a consultant might say about even the best operations, and more.

During the show's Honors Celebration on June 4, *Government Fleet* announced and recognized this year's industry awards

The Leading Fleets award recipients posed for a group photo after the awards ceremony.



◀ Bill Griffiths, fleet director at Montgomery County, Md., led a session on how to effectively use data.



▲ At the "Biggest Challenges" roundtables, attendees were able to discuss and share solutions to their top concerns in small groups divided by areas of interest.



▲ Kelly Reagan from the City of Columbus, Ohio, presented a keynote on establishing vision.



▲ Baseball legend Steve Garvey presented the Wednesday morning keynote about teamwork.

PHOTOS BY VINCE TAROC, THI DAO



Attendees stream into the exhibit hall as it opens.



▲ GF Publisher Eric Bearly threw out the first pitch of the San Diego Padres vs. Pittsburgh Pirates game as part of a networking night.

recipients. These include the Public Sector Fleet Manager of the Year, the Leading Fleets with rankings, the new Hall of Fame inductees, and the Legendary Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

Additionally, pre- and post-conference sessions allowed attendees coming in early or leaving later more opportunities to learn. San Diego County hosted a fleet facility tour for more than 130 attendees, while the Municipal Equipment Maintenance Association (MEMA) held a general session detailing innovative ideas from fleet managers. Chrysler, Ford, and General Motors representatives were able to talk about their products before the

show, and AssetWorks and FASTER both held sessions about the new features on their fleet software after the show.

"I was so impressed by the organization, fun, and many opportunities to learn, network and have fun with fleet professionals," said first-time attendee Mary Joyce Ivers, PWLF, CFPF, fleet and facilities manager for the City of Ventura, Calif. "I especially appreciated the meals together so we can spend time meeting and sharing ideas with each other."

The next GFX will take place June 8-11, 2015, in Denver, Colo. Visit www.governmentfleetexpo.com for more information.



▲ The 10 inaugural inductees of the Public Fleet Hall of Fame are pictured after the awards ceremony. Pictured left to right are: Bob Stanton, Sam Lamerato, John McCorkhill, Bill DeRousse, Myrtle Mitchell accepting for Win Mitchell, Richard Battersby, Larry Campbell, Rick Longobart, John Hunt, and John Clements.



▲ Some managers of the Elite Fleets — Sam Lamerato from the City of Troy, Mich.; Paul Condran from the City of Culver City, Calif.; and John Hunt from the City of Portland, Ore. — are pictured here with Thi Dao, executive editor of *GF*.



▲ Pictured is Connie White-Arnold from the City of Tampa, Fla., with Roseanne and Greg Haglin from Public Fleet Summits during a networking event.



▲ An afternoon networking event allowed attendees to enjoy the view of San Diego while talking to their colleagues.



◀ Networking on the show floor.

▲ Fleetmatics representatives talked to attendees at their booth.



▲ General Motors' new Chevrolet Colorado was on display.



▲ Ford Transit Connect wagon



▲ Altec bucket truck



▲ Ram Promaster



▲ EcoCentre's electric cars



▲ A magician at the GPS Insight booth entertained attendees.



▲ MCI bus

◀ Attendees were able to talk to vendors about their products, including this refuse truck.



▼ Newport Coachworks bus



▲ FASTER representatives talk to attendees about their fleet management software's features.