

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



AACF Welcomes Two New Board Members: Ben Brucato of MEMA and Anthony Sarlanis of Advance Auto Parts

Sacramento, Calif. – November 18, 2025- [The Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation \(AACF\)](#), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit supporting individuals and families in the automotive aftermarket during times of hardship, is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members to its Board of Trustees: Ben Brucato, Vice President of Membership & Engagement at MEMA Aftermarket Suppliers, and Anthony Sarlanis, Senior Vice President – Professional Sales at Advance Auto Parts.



With over 20 years in the automotive aftermarket, Brucato's experience ranges from hands-on technician roles to leading national sales teams and now guiding membership and engagement at MEMA Aftermarket Suppliers. His background in service, manufacturing, and industry leadership brings valuable insight to the AACF Board.

"Joining the AACF board on behalf of MEMA Aftermarket Suppliers is both a privilege and an opportunity to help strengthen the safety net that so many in our industry rely on," Brucato said. "AACF's dedication to lifting people up during their most challenging moments motivates me deeply, and I'm excited to serve alongside such passionate and wise leaders to grow awareness of this incredible organization."

Brucato joins the AACF Board as he steps into the role previously held by John Chalifoux, who is retiring from MEMA. AACF extends its sincere thanks to Chalifoux for his leadership, advocacy, and strong support of AACF throughout his tenure in the industry.



Sarlanis brings 25 years of automotive industry experience and a strong operational, sales, and people-first leadership approach. From running his family's repair shop to now serving as Senior Vice President – Professional Sales at Advance Auto Parts, he offers deep expertise in team development, commercial excellence, and industry growth.

"I'm honored to join the AACF Board and have an opportunity to help make a difference in people's lives," Sarlanis said. "AACF's work directly and positively impacts individuals and families within our industry at a time when they need help the most. Working alongside my fellow board members, I'm excited to give back by helping further their mission."

AACF Executive Director John Kairys added, "Ben and Anthony bring tremendous experience and a genuine commitment to serving the aftermarket community. Their perspective and passion will help strengthen our mission and expand our support for families facing hardship."

Board leadership is essential to AACF's success. Trustees serve as advocates, strategists, fundraisers, and ambassadors—building partnerships that expand AACF's reach and helping secure resources for families facing medical emergencies, natural disasters, unexpected loss of income, or other hardships. Their guidance ensures AACF can continue responding quickly, compassionately, and effectively to those who need help most.

For more information about the AACF visit www.aftermarketcharity.org.

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About Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation (AACF)

The AACF was founded in 1959 to assist automotive aftermarket members and their families who, due to catastrophic illness or terrible accident, have exhausted all other available resources in maintaining a reasonable existence. AACF provides essential financial assistance, access to resources, and a support network to ensure that no one in the industry faces hardship alone. With the support of generous donors, AACF continues to make a positive impact on the lives of automotive aftermarket professionals across the nation. For more information visit www.aftermarketcharity.org