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National Wireless Safety Alliance Announces Tower Technician Board of Governor Selections

Ed Owens and Kevin Schmidt to Serve on Inaugural NWSA Board of Governors

(Overland Park, Kansas) – The National Wireless Safety Alliance (NWSA) announced today that Ed Owens from Broken Arrow Communications in Sacramento, California and Kevin Schmidt from Sioux Falls Tower and Communications in Sioux Falls, South Dakota have been selected to fill the Tower Technician seats on the organization’s inaugural Board of Governors.



Owens and Schmidt were selected from a competitive applicant pool of 22 candidates who possessed years of tower climbing and field operations experience. In order to be eligible for consideration, applicants had to meet established criteria requirements including: completion of training at the Competent Climber/Rescue level or higher; having a minimum of 4 years of climbing experience; a commitment to serve a 2 year term; and providing demonstrated employer support regarding their ability to participate as a Governor.

The NWSA is a national non-profit assessment and certification organization that is under development to provide thorough, independent assessments of knowledge and skills and provide verifiable worker certification in order to enhance safety, reduce workplace risk, improve quality, encourage training, and recognize the skilled professionals who work on towers and other non-standard structures.

“Being selected to serve on the NWSA Board of Governors is a complete honor. My motivation for wanting to serve on the NWSA Board solely relies on maintaining a safe working environment and making sure that the industry’s workers are following the safety requirements required for this line of work,” stated Ed Owens.

“As an active climber, I bring a wealth of knowledge from the field to the Board and a perspective of what needs be provided to allow every tower technician to make it home at the end of the day, every day,” exclaimed Kevin Schmidt.

“Ed and Kevin clearly demonstrated during the vetting and interview process that they have a passion for safety and are actively engaged in tower climbing and field operations on a daily basis,” stated NWSA consultant Chuck Slagle, a former Sprint Environmental Health and Safety Executive who was tasked with leading the selection process. “The Tower Technician seats are an integral part of the NWSA’s Board of Governors and both Ed and Kevin will bring an invaluable voice to the Board based on their experiences in the field,” added Slagle.

The NWSA Board of Governors will consist of representatives from a broad cross-section of the industry and will be tasked with developing policy and overseeing the activities of the various Committees that will serve under the NWSA Board of Governors. The entire slate of inaugural NWSA Board of Governors will be unveiled to the industry in the near future.

The NWSA organization is the result of collaborative efforts between a broad coalition of the industry's leading subject matter experts, companies and stakeholders representing wireless carriers, tower owners, OEM's, turnkey management firms, small contractors, tower technicians and industry associations. Industry leaders have pledged to provide timely and relevant updates to the industry as key benchmarks are achieved in the establishment of the NWSA national assessment and certification program.

Wireless industry workers, companies and organizations are encouraged to view the NWSA website today by visiting www.nws-a.org to learn more about the organization.

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About National Wireless Safety Alliance

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