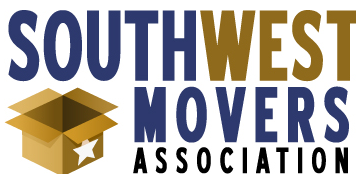


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MOVEFAX

July 9, 2010

Dear SMA Member:

IN THIS ISSUE

The SMA Foundation has just granted \$11,000 in scholarships to deserving students of SMA member companies. To make these generous grants, SMA holds a fundraiser during the September annual meeting. The fundraiser this year, with all proceeds going to the Foundation, is a silent auction. Your \$ donations to purchase items for the auction will be much appreciated and it will show your appreciation for this SMA membership benefit. Your donations may be filed for tax deductions with the IRS. See article below.

[SMA Foundation Donations Requested-Silent Auction](#)

[Consumers Lose Thousands on Phony Advance-Fee Loan Offers](#)

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The annual meeting and trade show is September 22-24, Lost Pines Resort, Lost Pines, TX. The Winter-Spring Moving and Trucking Day at the Texas Capitol is February 16, 2011. The Legislature is reconvening in 2011. Please mark your calendars now.

[2011 Moving and Trucking Day at the Capitol](#)

[SMA Event Calendar for 2010](#)

John Esparza, Jesse Dominguez, Glenna Bruun and I will leave for the SMA summer meeting tomorrow, returning to the office on Wednesday, July 14. In our absence, Ida Simon and Tammy Gomez will be able to assist you very well. They can be in touch with us very quickly as well if additional assistance is needed.

Dorothy Brooks
Director of Operations

SMA Foundation Donations Requested- Silent Auction

SMA members have the opportunity to support and show their appreciation for the Foundation by making cash donations for the purchase of items to go into the silent auction being held during the SMA annual conference in September. Checks should be made payable to SMA Foundation, with a note on the subject line: "Silent Auction". The SMA Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Contributions to the SMA Foundation may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor.

Four unique items have been donated: Andy Crocker, Crocker Transfer & Storage, Corpus, Chairman of SMA, is donating one of his signed paintings; Texas Moving Company, Bill

Andis, Chairman of the SMA Foundation is donating a tandem bicycle. Ms. Lynn Dumais, Vice President, Met Life, Tampa, Florida, is donating a Giant Snoopy Dog complete with Beach Towel. Traci McCullah, Westar Moving & Storage is donating a dinner for four at Grady's, Fort Worth, along with the Chef's autographed cookbook.

Consumers Lose Thousands on Phony Advance-Fee Loan Offers

According to the Consumer Sentinel Report, over 2,500 Texans were victims of advance-fee loan fraud in 2009. These scams target desperate consumers and small business owners and often take them for thousands of dollars. With lending standards remaining tight at most banks, many consumers are drawn to lenders who promise loans regardless of credit history.

Most consumers stumble upon loan scams online or learn about the offers from ads in local newspapers. Often the website for an advance-fee loan scam will be created and taken down within a few weeks. The websites look professional and may require victims to fill out a loan application form requesting bank account and Social Security numbers.

Eventually, victims are told they are approved for the loan and need to pay thousands of dollars upfront by money order or wire transfer for insurance or collateral. Those that pay never receive the promised loan. BBB has recently received complaints about advance fee loan scammers operating under more than 75 different names including Capital Alliance Financial Group, Harford Financial Services, Howard and Clark Financial and Lending Hand Financial, among others.

Recognize the Red Flags:

- The lender's track record is poor. Consumers should review the BBB Reliability Report™ for any business before a transaction. A history of unanswered complaints, advertising issues or government action will let consumers know the company should be avoided.
- The lender has little contact information. Companies unwilling to provide an address or phone number should be treated with caution.
- The lender asks for a money order or wire transfer. These payment methods are especially risky because it is extremely difficult to obtain a refund.
- The lender uses high pressure sales tactics. Advance-fee loans can carry extremely high interest rates and have detailed information in the contract. Consumers should never feel forced to make a decision on the spot and should take time to get everything in writing before agreeing to the terms of the loan.

To check the reliability of a company and find trustworthy businesses, visit BBB.

Houston-Galveston Region Survey; SMA Member Participation Invited

The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI), in partnership with TMTA and SMA, is working to identify freight movement impediments and potential solutions for the Houston-Galveston region. As a first step, ATRI is soliciting carrier input through an online survey to identify the most congested areas of highway within the region. As stakeholders, it is imperative that we record your input.

ATRI's analysis of the survey results will be available to TMTA and SMA members and presented to the Houston-Galveston Area Council to assist in the prioritization of critical

infrastructure and operational improvements designed to enhance freight productivity throughout the region. If your fleet has operations in or through the Houston-Galveston area, please take a few minutes to complete this short survey ([click here](#)). A reminder that your responses are confidential and will be reported in the aggregate only.

Prayer Breakfast

SMA is hosting a Prayer Breakfast, sponsored by Movers for Christ, that is planned to take place the morning of September 22 at 8:00 a.m., just prior to the beginning of the SMA annual conference at Lost Pines. Since there are no SMA functions planned before 9:00 a.m. on the 22, those arriving the night before, or early that morning will have the opportunity to participate in this breakfast program. Speaker Hiram Sasser will discuss the legal ramifications involving religious freedom in the workplace in the U.S. This program by Movers for Christ blends well with the overall SMA theme of emphasizing education programs/seminars as its first day of the annual meeting. Hiram Sasser is Director of Litigation for Liberty Legal Institute, www.LibertyLegal.org

Annual Conference Education/Seminar Topics

The following subjects have been suggested as topics for the annual conference. Do you have a suggestion? Let us hear it.

Topics:

CSA 2010

Texas Workforce Commission

BBB - mediation and arbitration programs

OSHA - See the article next below

OSHA Considers Tightening Rules on Vehicle Fall Protection

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has published a notice of proposed rulemaking to revise its walking working surfaces and fall protection standards. Specifically, OSHA is seeking comments on whether to establish regulations to cover falls from commercial motor vehicles at heights greater than four feet. OSHA is considering whether to include requirements specifying that when an employee is exposed to falls from commercial motor vehicles at heights greater than four feet, protective work practices, methods or systems must be instituted. OSHA is also seeking comment on how it should define "motor vehicles." According to the American Trucking Associations, OSHA may issue a separate proposed rule on this subject following the comment period. Comments are due by August 23. A public hearing on the revised changes will be held after the public comment period.

Be Aware of Two New Scams

Automobile PickUp and Storage Scam - The mover receives an email requesting a price quote to pick up 4 cars from the airport and store them for 7 days. Mover responds with a price quote and receives an immediate response that he has been awarded the move. However, the shipper requests a "favor", that the mover should add money to the bill to cover the "upfront charges" and he would reimburse him with payment by western union.

Box Scam - This second scam has been around for a while, but it has recently resurfaced. There is a request to purchase a large quantity of boxes and pay by credit card. The customer arranges to have the boxes picked up by a carrier, but the credit card will bounce

shortly thereafter. If the offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Usually the story is accompanied with a tale of hardship, misspellings and use of lower case letters.

FMCSA Pre-Employment Screening Program

A FMCSA screening tool to make driver data available to potential employers was recently announced. This program is a voluntary tool and it includes: 5 years of crash data; 3 years of inspection data. It will not include conviction history. Motor carriers will be required to consent in writing that they will only use the records for pre-employment screening purposes. Written consent by all applicants whose records they purchase must be obtained and they will be required to abide by regulations provided under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

The Pre-Employment Screening Program (PSP) will charge a \$10 fee for each driver's history a carrier requests. An annual subscription fee of \$100 will also apply. Carriers with fewer than 100 power units will qualify for a discounted annual fee of \$25 per year. Individuals will be able to request a personal driving history for a fee of \$10. No subscription is necessary for individual drivers. For information visit: www.psp.fmcsa.dot.gov/Pages/default.aspx

FMCSA Notice for Timely Reporting of Convictions of CDL Holder

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration announces guidance to State driver licensing agencies (SDLAs) to support their efforts at achieving compliance with the Federal Commercial Driver's license (CDL) rules concerning timely reporting and posting of convictions for traffic offenses. This action is in response to the Department of Transportation Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) 2009 report Audit of the Data Integrity of the Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS).

UCR Registration Enforcement

The Texas Department of Public Safety is scheduled to begin enforcement of Unified Carrier Registration on July 15, 2010.

2011 Moving and Trucking Day at the Capitol

Moving and Trucking Day at the Texas State Capitol has been set for Feb. 16, 2011. We want all SMA members to be able to join us for this special event with our legislators. This is a great opportunity to visit with your elected official during the 2011 Legislative Session. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

SMA Event Calendar for 2010

September 22-24 - Annual Conference & Trade Show, Lost Pines Resort, Lost Pines, TX
October 27 - Austin Board of Realtors Trade Show, Austin, TX
February 16, 2011 - Moving & Trucking Day at the Texas Capitol

TMTA local chapter location addresses are posted on www.tmta.com

July 13 - Tyler Local Chapter Meeting
July 21 - Houston Local Chapter Meeting
July 28 - Amarillo Local Chapter Meeting
July 27 - 29 TMTA Annual Conference

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