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MOVEFAX

August 27, 2010

Dear SMA Member:

We hope you have noticed a few new updates on the SMA Web site. We added a direct link to the TxDMV database to check your registration status, the status of others or to confirm the expiration date or correctness of your registration.

There is also a picture of Richard Willis, the 2010 Heritage Award recipient, on our site.

A reminder to everyone that early registration for the conference ends September 7. Don't forget to register. The registration form for the SMA annual conference is online. We have also mailed the conference registration form so please start checking your mailboxes.

The hotel group rate for the conference ends September 7. Be sure to register with SMA when you reserve your room with the hotel.

Also, please note that the education seminars offered on the first day of the conference are free and you do not have to register for the entire conference to be able to attend the education sessions. Those sessions are: Power of the Internet, Search Engines and Web Sites; Going from Good to Great; and CSA 2010. All are on Wednesday, September 22.

If you come for the education and decide to spend the rest of the day with us for the Heritage Award Luncheon and the SMA Foundation activities that evening, we have

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individual event registrations available, where again, you do not have to commit to the entire conference.

There is a Prayer Breakfast scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning. SMA's programs do not start until 9:30. Because of the freedoms offered in our country, and many different religions now becoming a part of the work and social world in the U.S., this program will be of interest to the SMA members who are frequently hiring new employees. The speaker, Hiram Sasser is the director of litigation for Liberty Legal Institute and practices in the area of first amendment law, civil rights, and intersection of international law with U.S. constitutional law.

Liberty Legal Institute (LLI), www.libertylegal.org, is a 501(c)(3) organization that was founded in 1997 to protect religious freedoms and First Amendment rights for individuals, groups and churches.

Dorothy Brooks
Director of Operations

Reminder: Early Bird Registration Ends Sept. 7 for SMA's Annual Conference

On September 7, the fee to register to attend the annual conference in Lost Pines goes up significantly. Register with SMA and reserve your hotel room at Lost Pines before September 7. The registration form and hotel reservation information both are posted on the SMA web site: www.mytexasmover.com Don't wait. Do it now.

SMA Silent Auction

SMA members have the opportunity to support the Foundation. Please consider making a cash donation for the purchase of silent auction items. The auction will be held during the SMA annual conference. Checks in the amount of \$25 or more, should be made payable to SMA Foundation with a note on the subject line: "Silent Auction" and mailed c/o SMA, P.O. Box 684845, Austin, TX 78768-4845. Donations will be acknowledged for tax purposes.

In Memoriam

It is with much sadness that we report the passing of Betty Jo Conlee, wife of Jack Conlee, retired member of SMA. Betty Jo had been suffering from cancer, was moved into hospice last weekend and passed away on Monday, 8/23/10.

Arrangements:

Memorial Funeral Home, 1515 S. College Ave., Bryan 979-823-8125 is coordinating the services: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, September 1 - Graveside Service, Bryan City Cemetery, 1111 N. Texas Avenue, Bryan; 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service, First Baptist Church, 3100 Cambridge, Bryan.

Lunch will be provided following the memorial service at the First Baptist Church. For those of you who knew Jack and Betty Jo, and wish to contact the family, Jack's address is 3006 Gleneagles Ct., Bryan, TX 77802. 979/774-7619.

TxDMV's New Rights & Responsibilities Form

TxDMV has notified SMA that their new Rights and Responsibilities When You Move in Texas brochure, dated July 2010 which replaces the R & R brochure last updated August 2006, is now on their web site and available to download. They have also updated and posted a new checklist for consumers to use when selecting a mover.

SMA will be having the R & R brochure (SMA Form 188) printed and will have it available for ordering custom imprinted with company names, addresses and TxDMV number probably within two weeks. You may place orders now by emailing the company information you want imprinted and the number to print to Ida@tmta.com. Remember, custom imprinting is subject to a minimum order of 500. If you want to download, or review the R&R brochure for space limitations or the information and format, or the new TxDMV consumer check list, go to:

http://www.txdmv.gov/whatyouneed/publications/household_movers.htm

TxDMV is also posting a Spanish version of the R & R brochure on their web site which may be downloaded. At this time, SMA does not plan to offer the preprinted or customized Spanish version, but will do so if there is sufficient call for it.

Move for Hunger

SMA has invited Adam Lowry with Move For Hunger to join us for our annual conference in September. Adam has accepted our invitation and will have a table with information about the Move For Hunger program. SMA has reserved a booth at the Austin Board of Realtors trade show October 27. Move for Hunger is having a banner made with the logo of both SMA and Move for Hunger on it and we will have it on display at the ABOR booth. It will be good PR for SMA, for Move for Hunger and for movers participating in the program. There is generally media in attendance so this will be a great venue to garner some attention regarding the partnership.

State By State Moving Regulations from AMSA

Below is a link to the emovingstorage.com site that provides an interactive map of the U.S. that you may find useful. Click on any state on the map to view a very detailed listing of rules, regulations and governing agencies for each state. AMSA received many requests for a document containing this information and formerly maintained it. This new site is a much more detailed and current resource. Members are encouraged to check out the listings for Texas or any state to which your vehicle may be traveling to verify the regulations in that state. The site is managed by Dibble Moving & Storage in Lombard, IL, and the AMSA web team is working with them to create a link to the map from AMSA's site. <http://www.emovingstorage.com/states-moving-rules-and-regulations/>

TxDOT Adopts New Rules in Transportation Planning for

State

In a unanimous decision Thursday, the five-member Texas Transportation Commission voted to adopt new rules that, for the first time, enhance the role citizens and communities play in planning the state's transportation system, increasing transparency and accountability in the transportation planning process. The rules were written by an 11-member body called the Transportation Planning and Project Development Rulemaking Advisory Committee, comprised of members from the Texas Legislature, metropolitan planning organizations, local government, transit organizations, tolling authorities and the Federal Highway Administration, created by the Commission in mid-2009.

The heart of the rules change requires TxDOT to codify its planning program rules in such a way that enables TxDOT and empowers Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to develop long-range, mid range and short range plans, each with specified, measurable criteria. Also new to the process is the use of an extended cash forecast, which will provide greater flexibility for TxDOT and MPOs as they react to fluctuating financial resources by advancing or delaying projects, and to ensure that planning documents are appropriately fiscally constrained.

Texas Department of Transportation staff and the advisory committee worked for nearly a year on development of rules to establish a comprehensive transportation planning and project development program that is transparent, well-defined and understandable. Public comment was accepted in the spring, and was incorporated into the adopted rules. The rules will go into effect January 1, 2011.

FMCSA Drug and Alcohol Strike Force Removes Unsafe Commercial Drivers and Carriers from the Road

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced that 109 commercial bus and truck drivers were removed from the roads and more than 175 carriers face enforcement actions as a result of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's annual drug and alcohol strike force sweep that occurred from June 21 through July 2.

The 109 commercial drivers identified in the sweep face the prospect of a monetary fine and being barred from operating a commercial motor vehicle for failing to adhere to federal drug and alcohol regulations. Additionally, 175 commercial carriers face pending enforcement actions for violations, such as using a driver who has tested positive for illegal drugs and for not instituting a drug and alcohol testing program. Both drivers and carriers will have an opportunity to contest the alleged violations and the amount of the civil penalties.

Background Checks and Alcohol and Drug Testing

If any SMA member is interested in finding a new resource for background checks, alcohol and drug testing consortium, workers comp fraudulent claims, etc., TMTA has had an endorsed member provider for more than 10 years. You may contact: HireRight, Justin Reed, @ 800/331-9175 X4230, or justin.reed@hireright.com. Also, for those of you who want to obtain only a driver's record (DVI) from TX DPS, in one to two days, TMTA offers that service. Call Jason Deanda at TMTA for an application, 800-727-7135.

Warning - Fraudulent DOT Letters Being Circulated Again

There has been another round of fraudulent letters issued to current U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) contractors and potential contractors purporting to be issued by DOT. These fraudulent letters request that current or potential contractors submit banking account information in order to be eligible for participation in contract offerings.

Please be aware that DOT does not require any confidential information to be submitted to verify registration and that all companies should verify personally that they are sending information to an authorized DOT official before submitting confidential company information.

The point of contact concerning these fraudulent letters is the Department of Transportation Office of the Inspector General Hotline at 800-424-9071.

Webinar - Pilot States CSA 2010 Experience

SMA and TMTA are offering members and nonmembers an opportunity to hear from motor carriers in CSA 2010 pilot states and learn from their unique experience and perspective. This is a live webinar with a question and answer period at the end of the session. You won't want to miss the insight and discussion on real experiences with CSA 2010.

September 8, 2010
1:00 - 4:00 pm CST
\$125 member (TMTA & SMA)
\$225 nonmember

Register online today at www.csa-exp.com

Agenda for 93rd Annual Conference

Wednesday, September 22

7:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.	SMA Registration
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast/Education Session #1: Religious Freedoms in the Workplace
	- Hiram Sasser, Liberty Legal Institute
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Associate Table Top Move-In
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Education Session #2: Power of the Internet, Search Engines and Websites
	- Sean Burchell, Comsite International, Inc.
10:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Morning Refreshment Break
10:45 - 11:45 a.m.	Education Session #3: Going from Good to Great
	- Bobby Albert and Jason Turner, Albert Moving & Storage
Noon - 1:00 p.m.	Heritage Award Luncheon Honoring Richard Willis
1:15 - 2:45 p.m.	Education Session #4: CSA 2010 - Scott Sullins, Great West Casualty Company

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Associate Table Top Move-In
3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting
5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Welcome Reception
5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Dinner on Your Own
8:00 - 11:00 p.m. SMA Foundation Casino Night, 4th Annual Texas Hold 'Em
Tourney
SMA Foundation Silent and Live Auctions

Thursday, September 23

7:30 - 11:30 a.m. SMA Registration
7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Associate Appreciation Breakfast
8:45 - 10:00 a.m. General Session featuring Speaker Bev Kearney
9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Morning Refreshment Break
10:15 - 11:30 a.m. Education Session #5: Moving for the Military and the DP3
Program
- Peggy Wilkens, Stevens Worldwide Van Lines
Noon - 5:00 p.m. Golf Tournament (Box Lunches Included)
Noon - 5:00 p.m. Non-Golfer Lunch and Program
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. SMA Registration
7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Chairman's Reception
7:30 - 10:00 p.m. Chairman's Dinner and Entertainment featuring Jan McInnis

Friday, September 24

7:30 a.m. - Noon SMA Registration
7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
8:30 - 9:15 a.m. SMA Foundation Meeting
8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Morning Refreshment Break
9:15 - 10:30 a.m. Membership & Board of Directors Meeting
10:30 - 11:00 a.m. Associate Table Top Tear Down

2011 Moving and Trucking Day at the Capitol

Moving and Trucking Day at the Texas State Capitol has been set for Feb. 16, 2011. SMA committees and board will meet on the 15. 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 - 2011

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

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