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MOVEFAX

September 24, 2010

Dear SMA Member:

The 93rd SMA Annual Conference has come to an end. I have to say this has been a wonderful and memorable week. If you were able to join us, you know that Lost Pines is a fabulous location. If you could not join us, there has been talk that we would return there again at some time. We've given you a brief overview of the meeting in this MoveFax, but will bring you more details next week.

Attendees: Please return your completed evaluation sheet for the conference as well as your committee preferences. Both are important to the staff and the improvement of the conference and operations of SMA. For those who could not attend, but would like to serve on a committee, please email me.

Move For Hunger left a number of their information packets with us. If any would like information on this great program of service to your community and the resulting positive publicity, or if you told Adam you would join this program but misplaced your information, let us know and we will provide you with a new packet. Thank you so much for participating in this program.

Lastly, thank you to our outgoing chairman Andy Crocker, Crocker Moving and Storage. Welcome to our new chairman Gary Hendley, EDC Moving Systems. We have had a great year and accomplished much under Andy's leadership. I know the future will continue to be bright with Gary at the helm.

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Again, we had excellent educational sessions, great participation and high attendance this year. We hope that you enjoyed SMA's inaugural stay at Lost Pines.

Dorothy Brooks
Director of Operations

Successful SMA Annual Conference Wraps Up in Lost Pines

Great meeting! The prayer breakfast on Wednesday had a good group of people join us to hear Hiram Sasser speak on "Religious Freedoms in the Workplace." "Power of the Internet, Search Engines and Websites" by Sean Burchell was a wake-up call that yellow pages are not the way to go ... social media and websites are. The dynamic duo, Bobby Albert and Jason Turner, presented "Going from Good to Great" and their presentation did just that. Scott Sullins joined us to bring movers up to date on CSA 2010, rounding out our first day of educational offerings. Thursday, Stevens Van Lines loaned us their vice president of government traffic, Peggy Wilken, who gave the sizeable crowd the latest scoop on "Moving Military and the DP3 Program". It was said to be the best selection of education programs ever offered at the SMA conference! SMA extends our great appreciation to the speakers for giving their time and sharing their knowledge on a variety of subjects. Wednesday was a good day to stay indoors with sudden and heavy downpours, so we enjoyed lunch by celebrating Richard Willis our SMA Heritage Award Recipient. The day ended with our SMA Foundation live and silent auctions, casino and ice cream social.

Thursday began with the Pinnacle Mover sponsored Associate Partner Appreciation Breakfast, followed by inspirational speaker and dynamic coach Bev Kearney. Then attendees enjoyed a day of golf or the non-golf program which included lunch at Green Pastures Restaurant in Austin where the peacocks strutted and the food was fabulous. Non golfers also participated in a Texas size tour of the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. The day ended with a well deserved tribute to outgoing Chairman Andy Crocker with a reception and dinner as well as entertainment by comedian Jan McInnis.

The conference concluded on Friday with special appearances by TxDMV Executive Director Ed Serna and Bill Harbeson, new chief of the enforcement division. Both spoke encouragingly of their commitment to enforcement; leveling the playing field so that those who are licensed can do their jobs and not be plagued by those who are not licensed.

Attendees also heard nominations and swore in the following officers: Gary Hendley, EDC San Antonio, Chairman; Debbie McKinley, Conlee-Garrett, Bryan, Vice Chairman; Ron Clair, All My Sons, Houston, Secretary-Treasurer; Chris Moucka, IMS Relocation, Carrollton, Rates and Rules; Chris Rullo, Budget Movers, San Antonio, Vice President at Large; and Traci McCullah, Westar Moving & Storage, Houston, Vice President at Large. Returning to serve on the board are Chuck Boydston, Queen Moving, Houston; Ben Breedlove, Roadrunner, Houston; Chad Miller, Half-Price Movers, San Antonio; Becky Mobley, Empire Warehouse, El Paso; and Garry Stehle, Del Rio Moving & Storage, Del Rio. New members elected to serve on the SMA Board: Jason Turner, Albert Moving & Storage, Wichita Falls; Doug Smith, Daryl Flood, Houston; and Larry

Adams, Adams Transfer & Storage, Conroe. All three of these new board members are Pinnacle Movers.

Next week, we will give you a full report of the Chairs and Vice Chairs and volunteers for the various SMA committees. All who wish to serve on a committee are asked to fax or email your volunteer notice to dorothy@tmta.com or fax 512/476-0940. If you did not pick up a committee volunteer form at the conference, just send an email request for the form, or simply email us naming the committee on which you would like to serve.

Conference attendees: Please send your evaluation of the conference. SMA continues to work hard to offer the best conference with the most valuable information possible. Please let us know your suggestions for next year! We would love to hear your feedback.

SMA Members Raise More Than \$13,000 for Foundation Scholarships

This week, at the 93rd Annual Conference, SMA members raised more than \$13,000 for the SMA Foundation Scholarship Fund. Attendees contributed to the fund through the silent and live auctions as well as at the 4th Annual Texas Hold 'Em Tournament. This is the largest amount raised by members for the foundation during an annual conference! We want to thank all of those attendees who participated! A special thank you to Andy Crocker, Bill Andis and Chris Rullo for their donations of the Live Auction items. A thank you to John Hart, Karin Hendley and Chris Rullo who won the three live auction prizes and to those who joined in the fun at the silent auction. Your monetary donations, donations of items, time and attendance have made a difference for the Foundation scholarship fund and will make a lasting impression on the lives of those students who benefit from this opportunity.

We also want to congratulate Chad Miller, Half Price Movers, who won the 4th Annual Texas Hold 'Em tournament. Congratulations Chad!

San Antonio Chapter Meeting - Thursday

A reminder that the TMTA San Antonio Chapter Meeting is Thursday, Sept. 30. Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon will speak to members during the luncheon which will begin at 11:30 a.m. The event will be held at the Petroleum Club. The cost of lunch is \$25. SMA members are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting to hear from the Representative. If you plan to attend the meeting, please RSVP to Les at les@tmta.com

Reminder: National Truck Driver Appreciation Week Ends Saturday

National Truck Driver Appreciation Week 2010 runs Sept. 19 to 25. Show your appreciation today. Remember: You name it, a truck brought it!

Texting Ban Published as Final Rule

The final rule prohibiting commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers from texting was

published in the Federal Register this week and will take effect 30 days after publication. The prohibition prevents CMV drivers from typing, reading and sending text while operating in interstate commerce. It also imposes civil penalties and disqualifications from operating CMVs for drivers who fail to comply with the rule. Motor carriers are prohibited from requiring their drivers to engage in texting while driving.

President Obama Proposes \$50 Billion as Part of Infrastructure Plan

President Obama has proposed a transportation infrastructure plan, including a call for a one-time \$50 billion federal investment and the creation of an infrastructure bank. Besides the infrastructure plan, Obama also called for a series of tax incentives and tax cuts aimed at boosting job creation in the face of high unemployment. The plan, according to the White House, calls for \$50 billion to immediately fund programs and creation of a long-term framework for future transportation investment. Obama said it "will be fully paid for," and will cut bureaucracy, "reform a haphazard, patchwork way of doing business," and set up an infrastructure bank to fund large projects. An aide to Rep. James Oberstar (D-Minn.), chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said the announcement is the first step toward a long-term highway bill. (Source: Transport Topics)

GATS Increases Attendance in 2010; Rave Reviews

The 2010 Great American Trucking in Dallas was a success this year with increased attendance and exhibits. A new event this year was the inaugural Commercial Vehicle Outlook Conference. The conference attracted more than 350 industry leaders. Other events attracting qualified fleet attendees included the 2010 Truckload Carriers Association Independent Contractor Meeting, the newly formed TCA Open Deck Division, Texas Motor Transportation Association's Sand and Gravel Committee as well as the Flatbed/Heavy Haul Committee. The show floor was up nearly 20% percent over 2009 with almost 450 exhibiting companies in attendance. Show management reported overall visitor registrations grew from 45,987 in 2009, to 46,732, an increase of 1.62 percent. Next year's Great American Trucking Show will be held August 25, 26 and 27 at the Dallas Convention Center.

OSHA Issues Interim Rule

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued an interim final rule in early September establishing whistleblower procedures and time frames for handling employee complaints under sections of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act. The interim rule is effective immediately, although OSHA plans to take comments and issue a subsequent final rule. The new regulations also address the handling of retaliation complaints under the Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA). It provides a few advantages to employers, such as increasing the burdens of proof for substantiating driver complaints. Under the new interim rule, a complaint will be dismissed and no investigation will be conducted unless the complainant includes facts showing that a protected activity was a contributing factor in the retaliation. However, the new regulations also offer covered drivers an easier means of advancing their cases, such as the ability to file a complaint by phone as well as in writing. To qualify for the

whistleblower protections, a driver (including an owner-operator), mechanic or freight handler must be involved in activities directly affecting commercial motor vehicle safety or security. Of particular concern to motor carriers is that a complainant may ask a U.S. district court to review whistleblower claims filed under STAA if the Secretary of Labor has not issued a final decision within 210 days after the filing of a complaint. Public comments on the interim final rule are due to OSHA by Nov 1.

New Texas Vehicle Registration Sticker

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles unveiled a new TxDMV vehicle registration sticker that allows drivers to see the expiration date through the back side of the sticker, much to the relief of Texans who found the sticker's blue back distracting and those who say seeing the date from inside their car or truck helps them to remember when to renew their registration. The TxDMV began mailing the new registration stickers last week to county tax offices. To avoid waste and save taxpayer money, the state's 254 county tax assessor-collectors will exhaust their existing sticker stock before issuing the new version.

One More Week for ATRI Survey

The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI), the trucking industry's not-for-profit research organization, still needs your participation on the 2010 Top Industry Issues Survey!

Surveys will be collected till the end of this month. We ask that if you have not yet done so, please complete the survey online at www.atri-online.org

Please let us hear from you.

North Central Texas COG Accepting Grants

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is now accepting grant applications for projects that reduce idling from heavy-duty diesel vehicles through the Diesel Idling Reduction Program 2010 Call for Projects. Eligible project types include both on-board projects, such as auxiliary power units, and on-site projects, such as truck stop electrification. Eligible applicants include public and private sector entities, including commercial fleets, public fleets, owner-operators, and entities wishing to install and/or maintain on-site idle-reduction systems.

The application deadline is 5 p.m. on Friday, October 22, 2010. See www.nctcog.org/dirp for more information.

SMA Event Calendar for 2010 - 2011

October 27 - Austin Board of Realtors Trade Show, Austin, TX
February 16, 2011 - Moving & Trucking Day at the Texas Capitol

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