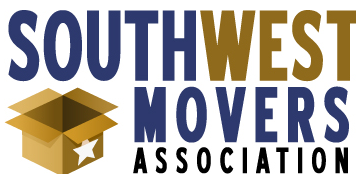


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MOVEFAX

January 29, 2010

Dear SMA Member:

The MOVEFax is a bulletin of immediate information for SMA members. To the extent possible, staff finds meaningful news and ideas to provide to the membership, however, news from the members of acquisitions, promotions, awards, etc., are welcome and they will be published as space is available.

Thanks,

Dorothy Brooks
Director of Operations

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AMSA Direction Magazine Features George Gilbert

George Gilbert, founder, president of EDC Moving Systems, Houston, TX is featured in AMSA's January-February 2010 issue of Direction Magazine. In the article, George is quoted "When you are not honest with your employees and do not stand by your word, you will lose good people. That is a lesson that I have carried with me throughout the history of EDC." The article mentions that George was recognized as TMTA's Leader of the Year, however, SMA would like to add that George was an SMA Heritage Award recipient in 2000, and EDC was one of the first members to become and maintain the status of Pinnacle Mover. Congratulations George - you deserve the recognition.

TxDMV Issues Letter on Citations for Out-of-State Trailers

The Department of Motor Vehicles issued a letter late last week to the Department of Public Safety regarding citations that were being issued for out-of-state trailers operated by Texas based businesses. The letter sought to clarify the relevant laws and administrative rules involving Texas apportioned-plated and combination-plated power units. In addition, the TxDMV intends to seek guidance from the Dispute Resolution Committee of the International Registration Plan regarding the issue and in the interim supports the suspension of the enforcement of Transportation Code, Sec. 502.002. On January 21, 2010 DPS suspended its enforcement action on properly registered plates as defined in the TxDMV letter. DPS, TxDMV, TMTA and SMA are committed to continue to work on a permanent resolution by developing a streamlined trailer registration process intended to

remove any barriers for motor carriers to register their trailers in Texas. You can review the TxDMV letter at www.tmta.com.

Texting is Banned by U.S.DOT for all Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers

U.S Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced federal guidance to expressly prohibit texting by drivers of commercial vehicles such as large trucks and buses. The prohibition is effective immediately and is the latest in a series of actions taken by the Department to combat distracted driving. The action is the result of the Department's interpretation of standing rules. Truck and bus drivers who text while driving commercial vehicles may be subject to civil or criminal penalties of up to \$2,750.

SMA/TMTA Responds to Ban on Texting

Southwest Movers Association Executive Director and Texas Motor Transportation Association President and CEO John D. Esparza released a statement following the Department of Transportation and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's announcement regarding the ban on texting by commercial motor vehicle drivers.

"The trucking industry is the safest it has ever been on the roads today and that is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of the drivers we have moving Texas' freight," said Esparza.

According to figures released by the Federal Highway Administration last week, the truck-involved fatality rate in 2008 declined 12.3 percent from 2007. Most impressive is the substantial decline by 66 percent since 1975 when the U.S. Department of Transportation began keeping those records.

"This will enhance the policies that many transportation companies already have in place and support the safety movement that we see across the nation for all drivers."

Nineteen states, along with the District of Columbia, have banned texting for all drivers, not just commercial motor vehicles. This is in addition to the President's executive order directing federal employees not to engage in text messaging while driving government-owned vehicles or with government-owned equipment starting December 30, 2009.

TxDMV Cancels Listening Sessions

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) is suspending its statewide Listening Tour sessions. Small crowds at the first four evening sessions have officials re-evaluating how best to reach the motoring public and industry. The TxDMV still wants your input. Ideas and suggestions can be e-mailed to: TxDMVListens@dmv.state.tx.us

SMA Foundation to Accept Mid-Term Transcripts

The SMA Foundation application for scholarships is posted on the SMA website. The SMA Trustees voted at their September meeting to accept mid-term transcripts with applications. By accepting mid-term transcripts, students will have more time to obtain their letters of recommendation, draft their letters of intent and SMA trustees will have more time to review applications so that funds can be forwarded more timely for the fall registrations. Members who have students (family, employees and employee families) who will be headed for colleges and universities at the end of the current school year are urged

to encourage their students to file their application for SMA Scholarships. Download an application at www.mytexasmover.com. The new deadline reply date for submitting scholarship applications is May 14, 2010, so ask your school for a sealed copy of your mid-term transcript now to send with your application.

GHMA and SMA Plan Joint Meeting for April in Sugar Land

The Greater Houston Movers Association (GHMA) and Southwest Movers Association (SMA) are teaming up to offer the GHMA annual fund-raising golf tournament and monthly meeting in conjunction with the April Spring Membership Meeting of SMA. Members are encouraged to attend; it is not just a meeting of committees or a board meeting - it is a member meeting. There is no charge to attend; this is an excellent opportunity to network with other members and really find out how SMA works. Find out how you can direct and support your association in ways that better serve members by simply attending the meetings. More details of time, dates, agenda and registration will be forthcoming in the MOVEFax. Staff and other members look forward to seeing you there.

SMA Event Calendar for 2010

AMSA Education Conference & Expo - Feb. 21-24 - Phoenix, AZ

SMA/GHMA combined meeting and golf tournament - the week of April 12-16 - Marriott Town Square Hotel in Sugar Land, TX (Watch for specific details in future MOVEFaxes)

National Council of Moving Associations - June 8-10 - St. Louis, MO

Summer Membership Meeting - July 11-13 - Embassy Suites in Hot Springs, AR

Annual Membership Conference - Sept. 22-24 - Lost Pines Resort and Spa in Bastrop, TX

SMA Member Advertisement: Trans Advantage



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*Ronald J. Greensides, Vice President
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