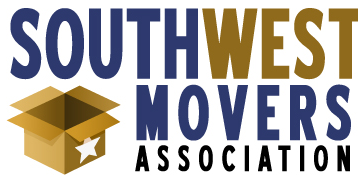


Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

You're receiving this email because of your relationship with SMA. Please [confirm](#) your continued interest in receiving email from us.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



MOVEFAX

February 26, 2010

Dear SMA Member:

April Meeting: Reminder: GHMA Charity Golf Tournament is April 14; the SMA member meetings and luncheon is April 15; and everything concludes before noon on April 16 with the committee chair reports and board of directors meeting. A registration form will be issued next week so you can let us know you are coming. We want to have your name badge made, your chair available at the meeting tables and your lunch reservation made.

Membership Directory and The Bulletin: The 2010 membership directory is printed. The spring issue of The Bulletin will go to press shortly and both will be mailed out together in March.

SMA's 2010 Calendar of Meetings: The SMA Calendar of meeting dates will be found at the end of the weekly MoveFax. The calendar is updated as meeting dates and places are finalized.

The MoveFax is a weekly bulletin of immediate information for SMA members. News from the members of acquisitions, promotions, awards, etc., are welcome and will be published as space is available.

Thanks,

Dorothy Brooks
Director of Operations

SMA Long Range Planning Committee Survey

The SMA Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) met in January and made many excellent recommendations. A survey enumerating those recommendations and asking for participation by all members went out yesterday, February 25. Return of those surveys on or before March 12 will facilitate additional committee appointments by Chairman Crocker and dictate agenda items for the April meeting, as well as meetings throughout the year. Your input is important - please let us know what you think! If you did not receive one, go on line to www.mytexasmover.com. The survey went out about 4:25 yesterday afternoon; we've already received 16 responses; we're anxiously looking for yours to arrive!

IN THIS ISSUE

[SMA Long Range Planning Committee Survey](#)

[Pinnacle Mover News](#)

[TMTA and SMA Call on Washington](#)

[Senate Passes Jobs Bill](#)

[Principal Place of Business as Defined by the U.S. Supreme Court](#)

[Texas House Select Committee on Transportation](#)

[Sample Bill Banning Texting While Driving](#)

[FMCSA Opens Driver Screening Website](#)

[SMA Foundation Scholarship Applications Due May 14](#)

[In Memoriam](#)

[SMA Event Calendar for 2010](#)

[SMA Member Advertisement: Trans Advantage](#)

Pinnacle Mover News

Along with certifying two new Pinnacle Movers last week, the number of calls from potential customers asking for information about: what the designation of Pinnacle Mover means; asking for verification of a mover's Pinnacle status; asking how often they are re-certified; and do we recommend using them - are increasing. We've also had an increase in the number of members requesting information as to how they can become a Pinnacle. Go to the SMA website, click on the Pinnacle Mover menu bar to get more information or call SMA staff for an application.

TMTA and SMA Call on Washington

The "Call on Washington" was held this week and can be counted as one of the most successful ventures to date in terms of attendance and congressional visits! From the large number of meetings and personal visits with members of the Texas delegation to the industry briefing with FMCSA Administrator Anne Ferro, attendees came away with a personal view of how our industry is fairing and what we can expect from our leaders.

We discussed issues such as the U.S. DOT National Drug Clearinghouse database which TMTA and SMA support and is modeled after the Texas law; as well as the Employee-Free Choice Act or "Card Check" which would waive the secret ballot and which both TMTA and SMA do not support. We also discussed the importance of efficient international freight movement. While federal fuel tax increases are not popular items for discussion even for Washington, TMTA and SMA recommended that they should only be considered if 100 percent of increases are returned to the states in which they are accrued. CSA 2010 and the hours of service were also part of legislative discussions.

For those who attended - Your support and involvement is invaluable to us as an association and to our industry. Without your voice, we will not be heard. So again, thank you for your participation! We applaud your hard work and dedication in our nation's capitol.

Senate Passes Jobs Bill

The Senate passed a \$15 billion jobs bill (H.R. 2847) that would also extend the federal highway program until the end of 2010. However, objections to several provisions by key members of the House of Representatives and some Senators could stall the legislation. Without an extension, some federal transportation programs would begin to shut down beginning on Monday, and highway projects throughout the country could be put on hold due to a lack of funding or budgetary uncertainties. In addition to extending the highway program, the Senate bill would transfer \$19.5 billion from the General Fund to the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) in order to keep the HTF solvent through 2011. The bill would also allow the HTF to collect interest for the first time in more than a decade, and it would prevent future loss of revenue due to subsidization of fuel taxes on government vehicles.

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar (D-Minn.) stated on Wednesday that there are not enough votes in the House to pass the Senate bill and has called for the Senate to amend its bill to address objections. However, there may not be enough time to deal with the necessary procedural issues before the program expires. One potential alternative is a 30-day extension of the highway program.

Principal Place of Business as Defined by the U.S. Supreme

Court

The U.S. Supreme Court held that a corporation's principal place of business is in the state where its headquarters is located rather than where the corporation does the most business. The question arose when the Hertz Corporation was sued in California state court by former employees under that state's wage and hour law.

Texas House Select Committee on Transportation

Speaker Joe Straus announced the formation of the House Select Committee on Transportation Funding to highlight the need for increased transparency and accountability in Texas transportation and to analyze current and future transportation funding requirements. The House Select Committee on Transportation Funding will develop transportation proposals for the next legislative session. The committee's analysis will include a study of ways to increase accountability in transportation planning and a review of the effectiveness and efficiency of current funding options.

Straus has appointed Representative Larry Phillips (Sherman) and Representative Eddie Rodriguez (Austin) to serve as chair and vice chair respectively of the full committee. The House Select Committee on Transportation Funding will operate as a full committee and will also conduct business in two subcommittees. Members of the full committee who will serve on the Subcommittee on Funding are Representative Drew Darby (San Angelo), chair of the subcommittee, Representatives Patricia Harless (Spring), Todd Hunter (Corpus Christi), Ruth McClendon (San Antonio), Joe Pickett (El Paso), Eddie Rodriguez (Austin) and Vicki Truitt (Keller).

Members of the full committee who will serve on the Subcommittee on Planning & Accountability are Representative Ryan Guillen (Rio Grande City), chair of the subcommittee, Representatives Roberto Alonzo (Dallas), Bill Callegari (Katy), Edmund Kuempel (Seguin), Armando "Mando" Martinez (Weslaco), Wayne Smith (Baytown) and Senfronia Thompson (Houston).

Sample Bill Banning Texting While Driving

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood unveiled sample legislation to be used as a starting point for states crafting new laws to prohibit texting while behind-the-wheel, the latest step in the campaign against distracted driving. The sample state law, prepared by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and a cross-section of safety and industry organizations, would authorize law enforcement officers to stop a vehicle and issue a citation to drivers who are texting while driving. According to NHTSA research, nearly 6,000 people died in 2008 in crashes involving a distracted or inattentive driver, and more than half a million were injured. Research also shows that the most frequent offenders are the youngest and least-experienced drivers, men and women under 20 years of age. Currently, nineteen States and the District of Columbia have texting laws covering all drivers. In 2009, more than 200 distracted driving bills were considered by State legislatures and legislative activity is expected to remain strong in 2010.

FMCSA Opens Driver Screening Website

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has launched their website where carriers can register to access a safety database that will be set up for screening applicants for driving jobs. Data won't be immediately available, carriers and third-party driver service providers can register for the Pre-Employment Screening Program FMCSA is developing at

www.psp.fmcsa.dot.gov/Pages/default.aspx.

The program will give carriers access to five years of an applicant's accident history and three years of inspection history, with the driver's permission. The data will come from the Motor Carrier Management Information System and include the same information used by agency staff and state police for enforcement. Drivers also will have access to the information, and can include the report as part of their application.

SMA Foundation Scholarship Applications Due May 14

The SMA Foundation application for scholarships is posted on the SMA website. 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 schools should be asked now for a sealed copy of the mid-term transcript to send with your application.

In Memoriam

Jean Boatright passed away February 1, 2010. Jean was the wife of Jim Boatright, former owner of Empire Warehouse, El Paso, TX, who served several terms on the SMA Board of Directors. Jean had been ill for a very long time. Our condolences to husband Jim, family members and friends. For the many people who called asking for contact information for Jim: James E. Boatright, 1509 Dennis Circle, El Paso TX 79925; c#915-549-6737, h#915-778-7356. I was advised he would like to hear from any SMA member.

SMA Event Calendar for 2010

SMA/GHMA Combined Meeting and Golf Tournament: April 12-16 - Marriott Town Square Hotel, Sugar Land, TX (Watch for MoveFax to provide specific details)
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



Our Customers Agree
We Are Your Best Source For Financing

"Over the past several years, our company has leased dozens of tractors, trailers and bobtrails through Trans Advantage. They even worked with me to order a chassis for one of my existing bodies, which saved us big. I would have a hard time finding anyone else as cooperative and as easy to work with. I appreciate greatly the service I receive from the staff at Trans Advantage. They are always willing to work within our timeframes. They are thorough, and we have benefited greatly from their service."

*Ronald J. Greensides, Vice President
Sugar House Moving & Storage
Salt Lake City, Utah*

Read what others are saying about us and learn more about our company at www.transadvantage.com.

Call your sales representative today at 800-325-3863.

West & South Region Dan Green, Ext. 8234	Midwest Region Bruce Anthony, Ext. 4899 Steve West, Ext. 6856	East Region Terry Moffitt, Ext. 4898 Beth Gockel, Ext. 8714
---	---	---



Southwest Movers Association * 700 E. 11TH St. * Austin TX 78701

Phone: 512/476-0107 * Fax 512/476-0940

www.southwestmovers.org

Articles herein do not constitute, and should not be construed or relied upon as, a legal opinion or legal advice. Although such articles are deemed from reliable sources, they should not be substituted for the advice and guidance of your own legal and/or tax counsel.

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to glenna@tmta.com by dorothy@tmta.com.

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Southwest Movers Association | 700 East 11th Street | Austin | TX | 78701