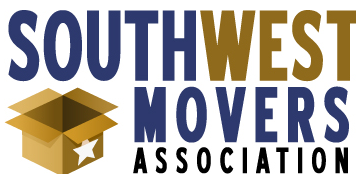


Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

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

March 19, 2010

Dear SMA Member:

April Meeting: Wednesday, April 14 GHMA golf; Thursday, April 15 SMA sponsored lunch, committee and member meetings; and Friday, April 16 Committee Reports to the Board and Board Action. A registration form has been issued 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. Help us do that.

Sincere thanks to everyone for your cards, plants, flowers and good wishes. I am feeling really well and my voice seems to be getting stronger every day, so I'm looking forward to bending everyone's ear at the April meeting. In the meantime, SMA has installed an enhanced speaker phone for me which helps as well.

SMA's 2010 Calendar of Meetings: The SMA Calendar of meeting dates will be found in the weekly MOVEFax. The calendar is updated as meeting dates and places are finalized. Please take note of those dates and reserve them on your calendar too.

SMA Foundation Scholarship Applications: Chairman Andis, as well as other Foundation Trustee members and I, are really excited about the grant of additional funds for the program and the rules have been adjusted to make it easier for students to get their applications in on a timely basis.

Your mid-term grades are acceptable; students don't have to wait until the year's semester is over. Get those mid-term transcripts now; download an application from the SMA website www.mytexasmover.com and file it with SMA before May 14. The Foundation would like to give you scholarship funding!

Thanks,

Dorothy Brooks
Director of Operations

IN THIS ISSUE

[SMA Event Calendar for 2010](#)

[President Signs Highway Bill Extension](#)

[Dallas-Fort Worth Economy Ranked Among Nation's Strongest](#)

[TxDOT Seeks Public Comment to Improve Transportation](#)

[ATA Calls Congress to Increase Safe Parking](#)

[HOS Survey](#)

[Reminder: March 26 FMCSA Listening Session](#)

[Revised Texas Safety Regulations Available](#)

[Save the Date: TMTA Metroplex Chapter Meeting](#)

[Save the Date for Second Safety Audit](#)

[Winter/Spring Member Meetings](#)

[SMA Foundation Scholarship Applications](#)

SMA Event Calendar for 2010

SMA/GHMA Combined Meeting and Golf Tournament: April 14-16, Marriott Town Square Hotel, Sugar Land, TX

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

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

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

President Signs Highway Bill Extension

President Obama yesterday approved legislation extending the federal highway program through Dec. 31. The program has been operating under several short-term extensions since the current highway bill, SAFETEA-LU, expired in October 2009. The bill also injects \$19.5 billion of General Fund money into the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) to temporarily keep the HTF solvent. In addition, the measure includes two changes that will provide a permanent increase in funding to the HTF. It allows the HTF to collect interest for the first time in more than a decade, and it shifts the burden of subsidizing government vehicles, which are exempt from the fuel tax, to the General Fund. Together, these changes will add more than \$1 billion to the HTF annually.

Dallas-Fort Worth Economy Ranked Among Nation's Strongest

The Dallas-Fort Worth area ranked among the strongest metropolitan economies in the nation during the last three months of 2009, according to a study to be released today by the Brookings Institution, a public policy think tank in Washington.

Austin, San Antonio, El Paso and McAllen also ranked in the top 20 in economic performance among the 100 largest U.S. metro areas, according to the institution's MetroMonitor barometer.

Also in the top fifth of American metro areas were Oklahoma City, Baton Rouge, La., and Washington, D.C. The weakest performers included Miami, Detroit, Las Vegas, Portland, Ore., and Riverside, Calif.

Rankings were based on employment and unemployment, economic output and housing prices.

Overall, Brookings found that economic output grew in all 100 metro areas during the last three months of 2009, but only one in five recorded job growth over the previous quarter. Employment in Dallas-Fort Worth was flat, according to MetroMonitor.

Employment is recovering more slowly in this recession than in the last three U.S. recessions, Wial said.

"The national data convey a real sense of fragility and uncertainty," he said. "There does seem to be a recovery under way. But it is weak, it is uncertain and it is jobless. The MetroMonitor basically reinforces that impression."

Separately, two economists with the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas said Tuesday that the worst of Texas' economic woes might be over after the painful decline of 2009.

TxDOT Seeks Public Comment to Improve Transportation

Planning

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is soliciting comment on revisions to department transportation planning and programming rules in Title 43 of the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 15. The request will be posted in the Texas Register on March 19.

On July 30, 2009, the Texas Transportation Commission created the Transportation Planning and Project Development Rulemaking Advisory Committee. The department and the advisory committee have been working on development of draft rules in order to establish a comprehensive transportation planning and project development program that is transparent, well-defined and understandable. Information gathered from public comments in response to the Texas Register Notice will assist in development of those rules.

Following this pre-review comment period, TxDOT and the advisory committee will present draft rules to the Texas Transportation Commission for its consideration, with final approval likely later this year.

The latest version of the draft planning and programming rules may be viewed on the TxDOT website. Comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. on April 19.

ATA Calls Congress to Increase Safe Parking for Commercial Motor Vehicles

This week, the American Trucking Associations (ATA) strongly encourages Congress to pass "Jason's Law" to address shortages in safe parking for commercial motor vehicles on the National Highway System. Named after slain New York truck driver Jason Rivenburg, the legislation allows the Secretary of Transportation, in cooperation with appropriate State, regional, and local governments, to allocate funds for new safety rest areas and the expansion and improvement of existing safety rest areas that serve the highway system.

The press conference, held by U.S. Reps. Erik Paulsen, R-Minn., Paul Tonko, D-N.Y., and Jason's wife, Hope Rivenburg, comes one year after Jason was shot to death during a robbery at an abandoned gas station in South Carolina. He parked there, waiting to deliver a load of milk, because of a lack of adequate parking for commercial motor vehicles. The robber got away with \$7.

There have been recent efforts by some states to balance their budgets by cutting funds for safety rest areas. Not only are safety rest area closings an inconvenience for all motorists, but they also jeopardize highway safety.

The creation of more long-term truck parking has been a longstanding issue within the trucking industry. By 2020 the trucking industry will need to put over 1.8 million additional trucks on the road to meet our nation's freight demand.

Don't Forget: Your Participation Needed in HOS Survey

The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) is collecting and analyzing motor carrier safety and operational data to help inform the upcoming hours-of-service (HOS) rulemaking process. ATRI has developed an online survey which can be found on the ATRI website www.atri-online.org

The results will be used to continue to educate the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) on driver and carrier operational practices and safety experience under the current rule. The data collected by ATRI from this effort will be cleansed of identifying information.

Please complete this short survey by March 24, 2010.

Reminder: March 26 FMCSA Listening Session

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) will hold its fifth public listening session to receive public comment on revisions to the Hours of Service (HOS) rules on Friday, March 26, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., at the Mid-America Trucking Show in Louisville, Kentucky. South Wing, Room B 101. The specific questions are listed in the Federal Register notice.

Order Today: Revised Texas Safety Regulations Available

Revised Texas Motor Carrier Safety Regulations are now available. Revisions are 39.95. If you would like a complete, bound set, the cost is 59.95. To place your order, contact TMTA at 512.478.2541 or jason@tmta.com.

Save the Date: TMTA Metroplex Chapter Meeting

SMA members are invited to join the TMTA Metroplex Chapter for a meeting on April 22 at Cacharel Restaurant in Arlington. Attendees will hear from honored guests representing the Dallas and Fort Worth areas.

Special Guests:

Chairman John Carona, Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee (Dallas)

Senator Wendy Davis, Senate Transportation Committee member (Fort Worth)

The meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. Attendees should register for the event by visiting:

www.tmta.com

Save the Date for Second Safety Audit - April 13

The March 24 Audit/CSA 2010 Overview is SOLD OUT

SMA members are invited to join us on April 13 for the second seminar!

Register today - spots are going fast.

How to Prepare for a Safety Audit/CSA 2010 Overview

April 13, 2010

TMTA Weller Training Institute

Austin, Texas

The TMTA Training Institute in cooperation with Leon Feazell, the former state director of Texas U.S. Department of Transportation, will be conducting a seminar concerning the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and CSA 2010.

This course will take place at the TMTA Weller Training Institute located at 700 E. 11th Street in Austin, Texas (TMTA Offices) 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on April 13.

The cost is \$150 for SMA/TMTA members and \$190 for non-members.

Attendees will receive information on FMCSA current and future audit procedures:

- * What items trigger a safety audit
- * What questions will be asked
- * What records will be checked
- * How records are selected
- * Differences in acute and critical violations
- * How penalties are determined
- * How your carrier rating is determined
- * How to prepare for CSA 2010

For more information, contact Lance Shillingburg at 800-727-7135, lance@tmta.com
Registration help, contact Tammy at 800-727-7135, tammy@tmta.com

To register, visit: www.tmta.com

Winter/Spring Member Meetings - April 14-16

Don't forget to register for the Winter/Spring Member Meetings in Sugar Land, Texas. The GHMA Golf Tournament will kick off the gathering on April 14. Meetings will follow on April 15 and 16. The meetings are open to all SMA members. Please register today at: www.southwestmovers.org

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 asked 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.

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