Dear SMA Member:

Please enjoy this issue of MOVEFax; the voice of the Texas moving industry.

In my last MOVEFax letter, September 18, 2009, all members were urged to contact their congressional representatives in Washington to vote against the so-called "card check" bill. I sincerely hope you did that. It is not easy to become politically active when you've never done so before, but if you don't speak out for what you believe in, you are leaving the door open for someone else to speak out for you and their agenda will be their agenda, not yours. You are urged to watch for messages from SMA, and then act upon them according to your own convictions, but do act. Become politically active.

The annual meeting in Kerrville went well. There were excellent education sessions and the weather was gorgeous for the Fredericksburg outing, the golf. We definitely proved to our out-of-state attendees that Texas can be less than 105 degrees! Thanks to all of you who came and for those who could not come, we look forward to seeing you next year.

If you would like to serve on a committee this year, please fill in your volunteer sheets from the Kerrville meeting. If you want to serve, but didn't get a volunteer sheet, please call me and I'll send you one. Also, it is important for the staff to receive your evaluation sheets of the conference. We can only improve or maintain, if you let us know your opinion.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Brooks
Director of Operations

**Motor Carriers Need to Prepare for CSA 2010**

CSA 2010 is a stringent process that charts immediate and continuous observations of carrier and driver performance. As the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
(FMCSA) shifts from one regulation model towards a more efficient and effective model, it is pertinent that companies are prepared to adhere to this new compliance program and understand the regulations to which they are subject.

CSA 2010 focuses on three main elements - measurements, safety evaluation and intervention.
- Measurement: quantifying seven behavioral categories
- Safety Evaluation: determining the condition of the seven behavioral categories
- Intervention: ranging from warning letters, onsite comprehensive investigations, notices and out-of-service orders.

CSA 2010 uses a motor carrier's data from roadside inspections, including all safety-based violations, warning violations, overweight citations, state reported crashes, and the federal motor carrier census to quantify performance in the following Behavior Analysis Safety Improvement Categories (BASICs):
- Unsafe Driving: Example violations - speeding, reckless driving, improper lane change, and inattention.
- Fatigued Driving: Example violations - hours of service, logbook and operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) while ill or fatigued.
- Driver Fitness: Example violations - failure to have a valid and appropriate commercial driver's license and being medically unqualified to operate a CMV.
- Controlled Substances and Alcohol: Example violations - use or possession of controlled substances or alcohol.
- Vehicle Maintenance: Example violations - brakes, lights, and other mechanical defects as well as failure to make required repairs.
- Improper Loading/Cargo Securement: Example violations - improper load securement, cargo retention, size and weight, and hazardous material handling.
- Crash: Histories or patterns of high crash involvement including frequency and severity. This is based on information from state-reported crashes.


FMCSA representatives recently spoke to Texas Motor Transportation Association's Safety Maintenance Council regarding additional changes motor carriers would face with CSA 2010. Representatives commented that data is currently being collected on carriers and that data will be applicable in safety evaluations when CSA 2010 goes into effect this summer. Twenty-four months of captured information will be used to evaluate the carrier.

A carrier's score for each BASIC category depends on the number of adverse safety events and the severity of violations. All accident data goes into the CSA system, but carriers may have the opportunity to appeal accidents that aren't considered recordable. It is important to note, most recent events are weighted more heavily in the evaluation. If carriers currently have a high driver safety evaluation area (SEA) value, there is a strong probability that that company will be selected for an audit in the new system.

Texas carriers may be able to assess their information as soon as January and warning letters will begin being issued at this date as well. It was also mentioned that carriers rated as satisfactory under the current system may find themselves subject to an audit with the new performance based measurement system. Captured information can be viewed by carriers through the online resource Compass Portal at https://portal.fmcsa.dot.gov.
Ferro Questioned in Confirmation Hearing

Anne Ferro, the Obama administration's pick to head the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, faced tough questioning in a hearing from a key Senator over her trucking industry background, the Associated Press reported.

Facing questions from Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), who chairs the committee's surface transportation subcommittee, Ferro would not commit to revising controversial hours-of-service rules or mandating use of electronic onboard recorders to measure drivers' hours. Ferro, formerly president of the Maryland Trucking/Movers Association, had until Tuesday to respond in writing to questions, with committee and Senate floor votes on her nomination to follow. President Obama nominated Ferro for the FMCSA post in June. The trucking industry has supported the nomination, while some safety and labor groups have opposed it.

SMA Foundation Receives Grant of $50,000 from NAIT

The SMA Foundation is the recipient of a grant from the National Association of Independent Truckers (NAIT). SMA member, Sandra Yambor with Transguard General Insurance Agency, joined us for the Kerrville meeting. In the Foundation's meeting on Thursday, Sandra delivered a check in the amount of $50,000 on behalf of NAIT to Foundation Chairman Bill Andis to be used for the SMA scholarship program. It is proposed that the grant from NAIT will be made into an endowment from which funds will be drawn to add to the grant otherwise made by the Foundation to the top student applicant. Chairman Andis commented that this is "truly a significant boost to the SMA Foundation program and hopes it will encourage SMA members to help their employees and families to apply for the scholarships."

SMA Foundation Scholarship applications are available on the SMA website, www.southwestmovers.org. To assist students wishing to apply for a scholarship, the trustees voted to accept mid-semester as well as year-end transcripts. This change has been made due to the reported difficulty of obtaining a transcript from schools to meet the deadline set for the application for the fall semester. For more information, call Dorothy at SMA, or Chairman Andis at 972/234-6371.

The Bulletin Magazine

SMA's magazine "The Bulletin" was mailed to members on Monday, September 21. We hope you like the new look. Please note that it will be our intent to publish ads in color when those are provided and look forward to the new format offering more to our members' advertising efforts. Let us know how you like the new "Bulletin".

SMA Member Nancy Wesson's Book: Moving Your Aging Parents

Nancy Wesson was one of the education session speakers at the Kerrville annual meeting. If you are interested in learning more about the specialized area of moving seniors, her book is Moving Your Aging Parents: Fulfilling Their Needs and Yours Before, During and After the Move, ISBN: 978-1-932690-54-5, Price: $24.95, and is available through:

Nancy's website www.MovingYourAgingParents.com; Amazon; Book People (Austin); White Crane Book store (Austin); Book Woman (Austin), and can be ordered through any
bookstore with the above information.

**2009 AMSA Scale Directory**

This directory enables your drivers to quickly locate scales in the U.S. and Canada that are convenient and suited to your requirements. The directory is easy to use - scales are listed alphabetically by state (or province) and city. The nearest scale can also be located with the zip code index. Item #R144-09. AMSA members: $19; non-members $39.

**Staying Legal: Understanding and Complying with the Basic Federal Consumer Protection Regulations and Requirements for Interstate Movers**

If you move interstate shipments, we highly recommend this publication. Staying Legal fully explains and provides examples of shipment documentation, waivers and other documents to help you do your job by the book. Item #P100; AMSA members $25; non-members $50.

**Mark Your Calendars**

**October 7** - Board of Realtors Trade Show - Austin

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

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

[www.southwestmovers.org](http://www.southwestmovers.org)

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