



TMHA “NEWS & VIEWS”

Produced by The Machinery Haulers Association, Inc.

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In this Edition

- **TMHA Thanks its Generous Sponsors!**
- **TMHA is Excited About Presenting its Annual Meeting**
- **TMHA’s 2018 Meetings Nearly Set**
- **Diamond Truck Operator Kocmich a Finalist for Driver of the Year**
- **Let’s See YOUR Company in Print in TMHA “News & Views”**
- **How Can TMHA Better Serve You ...the Valued TMHA Member or Sponsor?**
- **Articles of Interest**

TMHA Thanks its Generous Sponsors!

We want to give priority this month to thanking our loyal sponsors for stepping up and very generously contributing to the success of TMHA by providing needed financial support of our organization. TMHA provides speakers and presentations that truly are second to none. You will not find better speakers at any other meetings. Yet, TMHA never charges a fee for attending one of our meetings. Our sponsors give of both their time, personnel, and money to help us provide the quality meetings and speakers that have become a hallmark of TMHA. We want to offer our very sincere thank you to PLATINUM sponsor, **HNI Risk Advisors**; GOLD Sponsor, **Great West Casualty Co.**, and Supporting sponsor, **Transport Permits, Inc.** **THANK YOU!**



TMHA is Excited About Presenting its Annual Meeting

We are excited and are very much looking forward to our upcoming Annual Meeting to take place at 11:00 am on March 24 at the beautiful Gaylord Palms Resort in Kissimmee, FL. We’ve got a truly stellar line-up of speakers for you that we feel is without a doubt one of the best we’ve ever had. The Board has worked hard to provide you with a program that will more than make your attendance worthwhile. Just look at this line-up!

Well-known and highly-respected safety expert, John Simms, Vice President of HNI Truck Group, one of the nation's leading truck insurance brokers, will moderate a diverse panel that will address technology in the trucking industry. Steve Bryan, President of Vigillo, a SambaSafety company, will be one of the esteemed panelists, as will Tom Cuthbertson, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs at Omnitracs and Tim Hinds, CEO of Stay Metrics. David Heller, VP of Governmental Affairs at TCA will bring his dynamic style of presentation to bring us up-to-the-minute regarding events in the world of compliance, enforcement, and legislation. Sarah Arteaga, Regional Economic Information Network Director and coordinator of the Trade and Transportation Council of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta will share her insights to help us make sense out of some of the economic issues that will play an important role in how successful we'll be in 2018 and beyond. Come hear Salem Elnahwy, Chief Technology Officer of Pegasus Transtech tell us all about blockchain and how this cutting-edge technology may affect the trucking industry.

We hope to see YOU at this great meeting. You can still register to attend. Simply go to the website at www.machineryhaulers.org and click for the Registration form.

TMHA's 2018 Meetings Nearly Set

While we don't want to get the cart before the horse, we do want to let you know that we've nearly got our Summer and Winter 2018 meetings all set for you already. The venues are locked in and most of the speakers are already confirmed and we've got some great things lined up for you this year. Again, just go to the website at www.machineryhaulers.org and take a look. Be sure to put those dates on your calendars and plan your schedule now so you can attend! More details, and even registration information for the Summer meeting will be coming out no too long after the Annual meeting has concluded.

Diamond Truck Operator Kocmich a Finalist for Driver of the Year

We ran this article last month, but we think it is worth running again. This is a big deal! When a member carrier has one of its operators up for a prestigious award such as this, all of us in TMHA want to see them do well and, don't forget, but you'll have the opportunity to meet and visit with Kevin and his wife Joy at the Annual Meeting. Good luck Kevin & Joy and Diamond Transportation!



We're very pleased to announce that member carrier Diamond Transportation System, Inc.'s independent contractor, Kevin Kocmich, is a finalist in the owner operator division in this year's Driver of the Year contest (TCA).

Kevin has distinguished himself by operating over 2.1 million miles without any violations or incidents and more than 3 million miles without an accident. He has been honored for achieving 26 years of safe and professional operation and is particularly proud of having safely transported more than 300 "super loads!" Kevin has earned three consecutive "Top Gun" awards from Diamond, their award to their safest operators. Kevin is also proud of doing his part to protect the environment by achieving an idle percentage of a mere 5.2%. Way to be "green," Kevin!

Kevin is proud to have "earned the respect and confidence of my fleet manager, safety director and the rest of the Diamond team, by making sure I arrive and deliver each load on time and provide each customer with the same level of excellent and on time service to be expected." Judging from Kevin's impressive record, we have no doubt those things are true.

We will be honored to have Kevin, and his lovely wife Joy, attend our Annual Meeting and dinner in Kissimmee, FL on March 24. We hope you'll take the opportunity to greet and congratulate Kevin and Joy. This will be Kevin's second time on the big stage as he was a finalist in last year's contest as well. Congratulations to Kevin and Diamond Transportation. We hope that this year, Kevin will bring home that top honor. We're rooting for you, Kevin!

Let's See YOUR Company in Print in TMHA "News & Views." Send in Your Company Announcements, Articles, Op Ed's, etc.!

Come on, TMHA members! You're not going to let Diamond get all the glory are you? We know there are a LOT of good things happening at all our member's companies that are worthy of sharing with our members and putting out on our website. Let's show that company pride and share those good events, awards, and ideas with the rest of us. Got an opinion you'd like to share about a vital trucking industry issue? Everyone's got an opinion. Share yours. Be the first to have an OpEd appear in "News & Views."

How Can TMHA Better Serve You ... the Valued TMHA Member or Sponsor?

At TMHA, we truly do highly value each and every one of our members and sponsors. Without you, of course, there would be no Association. We're trying hard to make you feel, more so than ever before, that your membership in TMHA is worth your time and money. We think it is, but we want to solicit your ideas about how we can better serve you and make TMHA an even better organization. If you have ideas about locations that would help us get the best possible meeting turnout (our goal is to have the highest percentage of our members possible present at every meeting) or speakers or programs that you feel would be beneficial to you, please let us know. Believe it or not, we're already working on meeting locations and events for 2019, let us hear from you.

Articles of Interest Here are just a few articles we thought would be interest to you.

[Driver Assist Tech Can Increase Distraction](#)

Drivers with access to semi-autonomous features such as automatic braking or a lane keeping system say that they're significantly more distracted while driving than drivers without the technology, according to a new study.

Attribution: Automotive-Fleet.com

[Drivers Skeptical of Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane Keeping Systems: IIHS](#)

Drivers who participated in an Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (IIHS) study said they are somewhat cautious about adaptive cruise control and active lane keeping features and prefer systems they believe make smooth, gradual movements.

Attribution: Automotive-Fleet.com

[Trucking Companies Seek Higher Margins, Pinching Corporate America](#)

The drive for cost cuts and higher margins at U.S. trucking and railroad operators is pinching their biggest customers, forcing the likes of General Mills and Hormel Foods to spend more on deliveries and consider raising their own prices as a way to pass along the costs.

Interviews with executives at 10 companies across the food, consumer goods and commodities sectors reveal that many are grappling with how to defend their profit margins as transportation costs climb at nearly double the inflation rate.

Attribution: Newsmax-Finance

[Trump's Steel and Aluminum Trade Threat Hangs Over NAFTA Talks](#)

President Donald Trump's latest trade salvo over steel and aluminum landed squarely in the middle of NAFTA talks, overshadowing efforts by his own negotiators and those from his biggest export markets to update America's most important free-trade agreement.

Attribution: Transport Topics

Raymond Martinez officially assumes job as FMCSA boss

Martinez was selected last fall by President Trump to head FMCSA. He was confirmed by the Senate in February. He told a panel of Senators in October he intends to uphold the agency's electronic logging device mandate and to implement data-driven reforms to how the agency regulates safety.

[READ MORE](#)

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