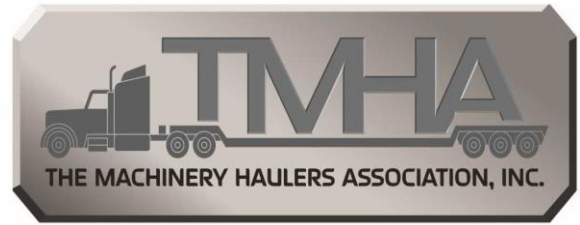


# TMHA's "News & Views"

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Edition - 2021



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## **Safety & Security Conference – September 8-10**

TMHA's 2021 Safety & Security Conference is coming up soon, to be held September 8-10 at the beautiful Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. This is a meeting you will want to be certain to attend. If you cannot attend yourself, how about someone from your Safety Team?

In addition to a line-up of top-drawer presenters (see below) there will also be, what have become traditions; a fun & enjoyable Golf Outing (sponsored by Quality Trailer Sales and with flag event prizes provided by Zurich North America Ins. Co.), an Excursion Boat Cruise / Social Event around gorgeous Geneva Lake (sponsored by HNI Risk Services), and another great way to relax, enjoy great conversation and a delicious dinner, the TMHA evening Banquet.

Check out this great speaker line-up!

David Heller - VP of Government Affairs | Truckload Carriers Association  
Kathryn Pobre - Manager of Government Affairs | Truckload Carriers Association

Tom Hiatt - Director of Sales | XL Specialized Trailers

Collin Mooney - Executive Director | Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance

Tim Norlin - VP of Driver Employment | Roehl Transport, Inc.

Ted Perryman - Managing Partner | Roberts Perryman PLC

John Simms' All-Star Panel of Safety Experts

Cory Staheli - Chief Information Officer | Trans-System

Dave Wittmer - Executive Vice President | Hays Companies

**Registration for the meeting and hotel room reservations are available right from this article. No need to go hunting for the website. Simply Click on the links below and get signed up!**

[Click HERE to Register for the Meeting](#)

(Each person, including attending spouses, must register separately)

[Click HERE to make your Room Reservation at the Grand Geneva Resort](#)

This is always our most popular and most well-attended meeting, so rooms will fill up quickly. The presentations, networking opportunities, and social events make this meeting a stand-out. Do not delay in doing your registration and reservation. In fact, why not do it **RIGHT NOW!**

We'll be planning to see YOU soon at the Grand Geneva!



## **TMHA announces 2022 Annual Meeting**

TMHA's 2022 Annual Meeting will be held April 6 & 7 in exciting Nashville, Tennessee. Prepare to soak up the great atmosphere in America's "Music City" when TMHA travels to Nashville where we'll be right in the thick of things on Nashville's famed Broadway Street!

As always, we will have a superior line-up of speakers and a great meeting experience planned for you. Mark your calendar NOW to block off those important dates so you can be sure to attend.



## **Truck Fleet Safety Contest deadline – July 19**

TMHA's Truck Fleet Safety Contest for year 2020 operations is open and entries are coming in. If your company has not yet entered, what are you waiting for? TMHA's contest showcases some of the premier safe-operating motor carriers in the U.S. and it's a great opportunity for our Motor Carrier members to promote their companies and to take home some impressive hardware for their display cases.

We are hoping for 100% motor carrier participation this year, but we cannot achieve that without YOUR entry. Shoot those entry forms into us soon, as **the deadline is rapidly approaching**. It's 5:00 pm CDT, **Monday, July 19!** There will be NO exceptions or extensions. Enter TODAY!

## **Bring a Potential New Member Guest to the Meeting**

We are working to grow our Association. It's important that we do. Adding more members allows us to do several things. It expands our resources, thus helping us present even bigger and better meetings. It expands our network of members with like concerns that we can learn from. It expands our sphere of influence, allowing us to have a positive impact on issues and matters that are of importance to our members. It strengthens our ability to attract additional quality members.

To that end, we encourage you to bring a potential new member to the upcoming Safety & Security Conference in September. Potential new members will be our guests; thus, their meeting registration fee will be waived. Not only that, but members that bring a guest that becomes a member will have one meeting registration fee refunded to them!

Help us grow TMHA to the benefit of our members. Talk us up and bring a potential new member. Let's have a room-busting turnout at the Grand Geneva in September!

## **Sponsors needed for Safety & Security Conference**

TMHA has long been blessed with very loyal and generous sponsors. We thank everyone who has provided sponsorships, thus lightening the load of meeting expense. We appreciate you very much.

We already have three sponsors who have stepped up for the upcoming meeting! When you have the opportunity, please join us in thanking these great companies for helping us provide the quality meeting events that we do.

**HNI Risk Services** – Platinum Sponsor: Geneva Lake Excursion boat cruise and the TMHA Truck Fleet Safety Contest

**Quality Trailer Sales** – Event Sponsor: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual TMHA Invitational Golf Tournament

**Zurich North America Insurance Company** – Supporting Sponsor: Golf outing Flag Event awards

There are still sponsorship opportunities available for the Safety & Security Conference. We have one just right for your marketing budget. Should you be interested, please drop us a note and we'll be happy to explain the opportunities available.

## **TMHA Welcomes New Member – EZ Truck Store**



TMHA is proud to announce that EZ Truck Store has become a new Allied Member.

Chris Mattison, EZ's President & CEO, attended the Annual Meeting in San Antonio, was impressed with our members and the roster of great speakers at the meeting, and decided he wanted his company to become a part of TMHA. We're happy to have them and we know you'll want to welcome Chris to the Association.

*Chris told us, "EZ Truck Store launched in 2011 on a mission to bring American made aftermarket safety products to the trucking industry. We distribute Oversize Load Signs, Banners, Safety Flags, Locking Fuel Caps, Roadside Signs, Truck Lighting, Chain Hangers and more.*

*Our first order was hand delivered to a stopped Oversize Load haul south of Burleson, TX. At the time, I was stationed at the base in Fort Worth. They had lost two banners in some crazy wind and had to pull over. We hooked them up and they made their delivery time. That pilot car driver still buys from us and distributes my card to everyone he runs with – it's awesome.*

*Currently we have an office just north of Dallas, TX and distribute all throughout North America. Our marketplace can be visited at [www.eztruckstore.com](http://www.eztruckstore.com) "*

Chris and EZ Truck Store can be reached at their marketplace, or at 855-866-4639.

Please join us in welcoming Chris Mattison and EZ Truck Store to TMHA. We look forward to their being a participating Allied Member.

## **TMHA Welcomes New Member Lake Michigan Carferry**



We are pleased to announce that Lake Michigan Carferry, out of Ludington, Michigan, has become TMHA's newest Allied Member. Representatives of the company attended one of our meetings and were impressed enough to want to become a member.

The S.S. Badger is the last coal-fired passenger steamship in operation in the United States. She has provided a fun, reliable, and affordable shortcut across beautiful Lake Michigan for more than 60 years and has transported millions of passengers since her re-birth in 1992.

The 410 ft. S.S. BADGER can accommodate over-size and super-loads saving time, money, fuel, and permitting by taking a shortcut across Lake Michigan. Loads with dimensions up to 16' 10" wide x 282' long x 18' 6" high, and almost unlimited weight, can be accommodated. There are certain items we can accommodate up to 19' width depending on length. Originally designed to transport primarily railroad cars, the S.S. Badger can handle over 1 million pounds of cargo.

Since 1926, U.S. Highway 10 has been broken into two segments by Lake Michigan between the port cities of Ludington MI, and Manitowoc WI. In July of 2015, The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) notified Lake Michigan Carferry that the route traveled by the Historic S.S. BADGER was being designated as the continuance route of U.S. 10. In 2016 she received the nation's highest historic honor when the Department of Interior officially designated the Badger as a National Historic Landmark. Additionally, the Badger is extremely unique in that she is a non-stationary National Historic Landmark.

From mid-May to mid-October the Badger sails daily between Manitowoc, WI and Ludington, MI. For additional information, call (231) 843-1004 or email [trucking@ssbadger.com](mailto:trucking@ssbadger.com)

Please join us in welcoming Lake Michigan Carferry as a member of TMHA. We look forward to their participation in the Association.

Website: <https://www.ssbadger.com/>

## **News from Allied Member XL Specialized Trailers**



XL Specialized Trailers features the Low-Profile Hydraulic Detachable Gooseneck (HDG) trailer in its lineup. While this

trailer can transport a multitude of machines, it is specifically designed to haul paving equipment.



The XL Low-Profile HDG has tapered front beams, offering an extremely low load angle of only four degrees. Additionally, 42-inch flip ramps provide extra loading assistance, making it an ideal solution for the paving industry.

“Operators will be able to load paving machines, rollers and much more with ease,” said Tom Hiatt, director of sales at XL Specialized Trailers. “At XL, we pride ourselves on coming up with solutions for customers to help simplify the transportation process, and this is certainly a solution for anyone working with paving equipment, which can be challenging to load onto a trailer.”

The 13-foot gooseneck has a swing clearance of 110 inches, and the relief cut out in the gooseneck provides additional space between the truck and trailer. The sloped nose of the gooseneck protects the air and electric connections from damage. The neck also offers a five-position ride height. Based on neck position and load, the deck can be leveled as needed with the adjustable wheel area ride height.

With a capacity of 110,000 pounds in 12 feet, the trailer has an overall length of 53 feet and overall width of 8.5 feet. With Apitong decking for increased durability, the 26-foot-long main deck features a loaded deck height of 24 inches and an 8-inch ground clearance. The trailer also offers a 14-foot-long rear deck that has a 40-inch loaded deck height.

The Low-Profile HDG offers many features from tie-down points to lighting. For starters, the main deck offers seven pairs of bent d-rings along the outer beams, 13 chain drops per side on the outer rails, four chain drops around the toolbox and swing out outriggers on 24-inch centers.

The toolbox, located at the front of the main deck, provides a storage area for chains and other items, while the deep bucket well in the rear provides an area for an excavator bucket to ride safely without detaching the lower boom section.

The standard lighting kit includes a work light in the upper deck to increase visibility when monitoring the load at night.

For more information on the XL Low-Profile HDG trailer and other trailers in its fleet, visit <https://www.xlspecializedtrailer.com/>.

XL Specialized Trailers contact:

Erin Reiff

Director of Marketing

319.361.3803 [ereiff@xlspecializedtrailer.com](mailto:ereiff@xlspecializedtrailer.com)

## **News from Motor Carrier Member Landstar Transportation Logistics**

### **Landstar Awards Matt Miller with Outstanding Management Achievement Award**



Matt Miller, Landstar's Vice President of Trailer Management, was honored with the company's Outstanding Management Achievement Award. Traditionally presented

during Landstar's annual agent convention, this year Landstar President and CEO Jim Gattoni surprised Miller with the award during a presentation to independent Landstar agents via a Cisco WebEx® conference call.

"Matt Miller has played a critical role in developing the digital framework to enhance and automate company-controlled trailer assignment, utilization, tracking and maintenance processes," said Gattoni. "At the beginning of Matt's tenure, many of the trailer processes were manual. As the Landstar trailer count continued to grow, he proactively identified opportunities to build efficiencies to manage the growing fleet."

Since assuming his role in 2015, Miller has led the effort to increase the Landstar trailer fleet from 9,800 trailers to more than 13,000 company-controlled trailers. Under his direction and leadership, Landstar's trailer request process was digitized and includes a trailer yard management system at Landstar's U.S.-Mexico Logistics Center in Laredo, Texas. Most recently, Miller and his staff launched a trailer pool management system, designed and developed in 2020 for independent Landstar agents to provide timely and accurate information on trailer locations and specifications.

The Landstar Outstanding Management Achievement Award honors a Landstar employee who places the successes of Landstar's independent agents and business capacity owners (BCOs)\* above all else. Award candidates are nominated by Landstar senior management based on their effective leadership, managerial skills, contributions to efficiency and productivity, and innovative and practical contributions toward Landstar's mission. Nominees for the award must have at least five years of continuous employment at a managerial level.

\*Business capacity owner (BCO) is the term Landstar uses for independent owner-operators under exclusive lease agreements.

### **Landstar Announces 2021 All-Star Truck Giveaway Finalists**

Landstar has announced the date of the 2021 Landstar All-Star Truck Giveaway, along with the names of the four Landstar owner-operators in the running to win a 2022 Volvo® VNL64T truck. The truck giveaway will take place virtually via Zoom video conferencing on Tuesday, July 13.

"Landstar is pleased to continue the tradition of awarding a new truck to one of our Roadstar or Million Mile Safe Drivers as a way to recognize the safety and service excellence of these elite owner-operators," said Landstar President and CEO Jim Gattoni. The giveaway truck, a 2022 Volvo VNL64T, is dark garnet red metallic in color and has features including a 455-horsepower Volvo D13 engine, Volvo 12-speed I-Shift transmission and Volvo Active Driver Assist 2.0 collision avoidance system.

In alphabetical order, the four finalists eligible to win this year are: • 1 Million Mile Safe Driver Dennis Bramblett from Hannibal, Missouri • 2 Million Mile Safe Driver and Landstar Roadstar® Bill Higgins from Catawba, South Carolina • 1 Million Mile Safe Driver and Landstar Roadstar® Lisa Ringelstetter from Plain, Wisconsin • 1 Million Mile Safe Driver Randy Willson from Abernathy, Texas

This year's All-Star Truck Giveaway finalists were randomly drawn from a pool of Landstar's 1,102 active 1 Million Mile, 2 Million Mile and 3 Million Mile Safe Drivers and Roadstars. The Roadstar designation is the company's highest honor for truck owner-operators awarded to the "best of the best" based on their high levels of safety, productivity, and excellence in customer service.

The truck winner will be determined by each of the four finalists selecting a single box among four boxes, one of which contains the key to the new truck. Whoever guesses the correct box will win the life-changing prize! A recording of the 2021 Landstar All-Star Truck Giveaway will be available on Landstar's social media channels immediately afterwards on Tuesday, July 13, 2021.

Follow Landstar System's official social media pages to catch the excitement of the first Landstar truck giveaway of the year, including interviews with the four owner-operators waiting to find out if they've won a new truck!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LandstarSystem>

LinkedIn: [www.Linkedin.com/company/Landstar](http://www.Linkedin.com/company/Landstar)

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/landstar>

## **TMHA Joins Coalition to fight Nuclear Verdicts**

Recently, your Association joined with many other well-known associations and companies in supporting the "Keep Texas Trucking" coalition. Texas Trucking Association President & Chief Executive Officer, John Esparza, spoke to attendees at this year's TMHA Annual Meeting in San Antonio about the coalition and its goals, among other important issues. The purpose of the coalition was to promote the passage of legislation in the State of Texas that would enact regulations resulting in more fair treatment of defendants involved in litigation in Texas, a state known to be the site of some of what are often known as "nuclear verdicts" against trucking companies.

The legislation was passed by the Texas Legislature and was recently signed into law by Texas Governor Greg Abbott. Of course, the best defense against a large trial verdict is to not have the accident in the first place, but it is hoped the new legislation will provide a fairer and more level playing field when litigation does occur.

## **TMHA Joins Coalition to Oppose the PRO Act**

Recently, TMHA supported a coalition of interested parties, including other associations and trucking companies, to voice opposition to what is known as the PRO (Protecting the Right to Organize) Act. Below appears a press release from the coalition that offers explanation of the matter and the coalition's goals. The coalition's primary focus is on protecting the independent contractor business model, but the act also contains other provisions that are potentially detrimental to the trucking industry as a whole. Your company may want to independently express its position regarding these important issues. See press release below.

### **PRESS RELEASE: ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR MODEL FOR OWNER-OPERATORS IN TRUCKING**

On June 3, 2021, a group of 21 organizations, including trade associations and other interested parties, submitted to U.S. senators a letter voicing their support for continuation of the independent contractor model for owner-operators in trucking. The supporters of the independent contractor owner-operator model include a broad range of carriers, shippers, intermediaries, and small business advocates across industries.

The group unanimously supports independent contractor treatment for small businesspersons who lease equipment with drivers to motor carriers in compliance with federal regulations and established precedent. The letter and accompanying statements point out that the independent contractor model is an entrepreneurial choice and that adoption of the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act and its provisions adopting a federal "ABC test" for worker classification could have a devastating effect on truckload capacity.

The U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed the PRO Act (H.R. 842) in a highly partisan vote on March 9. The bill's ABC test is essentially the same as the controversial test for worker classification that is included in California's AB 5 law.

A copy of the letter with attachments can be found at

<http://transportationlaw.net/articles/2021.06.03SenatorLetterSupportOOICModel%26Appendices.pdf>

Contact: Henry E. Seaton  
Company: Law Office of Seaton & Husk, L.P.  
Telephone: 703-573-0700  
Email: [henryseaton@transportationlaw.net](mailto:henryseaton@transportationlaw.net)



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