



New Members

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*Welcome
New Members!*



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President's Message

You all know what is coming from my column in January. Before I get to that though I would like to introduce our Legislative Consultant Ginger Steinmetz to the members and encourage you to read her Legislative Report later in this Mo Memo. Ginger is no stranger to the legislative process having worked in and around the Capitol for over two decades. As you can see from her report, Ginger is an excellent source of information on legislators, their assistants, legislative committees and the issues to be debated during the legislative process.

As I do every January, I am asking once again for you to make an effort to come to Jefferson City and visit with your legislators and other legislators who are making decisions about how you run your business. Recall that every two years is the start of a new General Assembly, and your legislative representation may have changed. If you are in business, you need to know your legislators.

Due to the failure of the of the sales tax increase last August, many are looking for ways to increase funding for highway infrastructure in Missouri. Please make note of a more detailed discussion on the funding shortfall by MoDOT in the Legislative Report.

I would be remiss if I did not add the discussion of tolling I-70 is back in the news, thanks to Governor Jay Nixon's request in late December 2014 for the Mo Highway and Transportation Commission to report on the feasibility of tolling I-70. Your help will be needed once again on the tolling issue, as it was in 2009, 2010, and 2012.

For those of you that have been to Jefferson City as part of the 24 Hour Program – THANK YOU! Please make plans to participate again between now and the middle of April. While we recommend a Tuesday-Wednesday schedule as in the past to coincide with the House and Senate Transportation Committee schedules, any time late Monday afternoon to Thursday at noon will work. Just give us a call and let us know you want to do a visit and we will work out the rest!

For those of you wanting to also help out on the Federal level, please pencil in March 23-25, 2015 on your calendar for Missouri Trucking Association's Call on Washington. Be on the lookout for more detailed information soon!

Thank you in advance for your support on these issues, and we look forward to seeing you in Jefferson City and Washington DC!

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2015

Missouri Trucking Association Events

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| February 4 & 5 | Safety & Maintenance Conference, Expo Hall, Awards Banquet & SuperTech Competition Hilton Branson Convention Center ~ Branson, MO |
| June 12 & 13 | Truck Driving Championships Holiday Inn ~ Joplin, MO |
| June 23 | Sitton-Babcock PAC Golf Tournament Old Kinderhook Golf Club ~ Camdenton, MO |
| October 7-9 | Annual Convention Chateau on the Lake ~ Branson, MO |

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- The Hazardous Materials Table
- Shipping Papers and Emergency Response Information
- Marking and Packaging
- Labels and Placards
- Loading and Segregation
- Transportation Safety
- Security Awareness

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Free, Hours of Service & ELD Seminar

J. J. Keller invites you to a FREE seminar on January 27, 2015 at the Marriott St. Louis Airport. Join J J Keller experts for an in-depth regulatory update, and see how these new changes will impact your organization. Get a chance to network with industry peers! Learn about the resources and technology J J Keller has to help manage your fleet operations, prepare for ELD and Hours of Service changes, as well as improve your compliance and safety rating.

J. J. Keller will provide an overview of the following:

- ✓ Latest updates on the Hours of Service & ELD changes
- ✓ CSA & Hours of Service Compliance
- ✓ Live SMS Demo of the Fatigue Driving Basic & Top Violations
- ✓ Recent updates on MAP-21 Transportation Bill & ELD Mandate
- ✓ Discussion about electronic logs & impact on your organization
- ✓ J J Keller's Encompass with E-logs Compliance System

To attend this FREE seminar, go to <http://www.cvent.com/events/hours-of-service-eld-update-st-louis-1-27-15-/event-summary-117aaabcbf4145e3b79f76303a2765bc.aspx> to register.

Date: January 27, 2015

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Marriott St. Louis Airport

10700 Pear Tree Lane

St. Louis, Missouri 63134

Driver Compensation Survey Shows Trucking Provides Competitive Pay, Benefits

According to new data released earlier this week by the American Trucking Associations, median pay for drivers was on par with the national median for all U.S. households, and the industry offers drivers "competitive" benefits.

"The data in our Driver Compensation Study, which covered 130 fleets and more than 130,000 drivers, shows that now more than ever, trucking is an excellent career path," said ATA Chief Economist Bob Costello. "Fleets are raising pay and offering generous benefit packages in order to attract and keep their drivers in the face of a growing driver shortage."

Among the study's key findings:

- Median pay for drivers ranged from just over \$46,000 for national, irregular route dry van truckload drivers to more than \$73,000 for private fleet van drivers.
- In seven of the nine categories of drivers covered by the survey, pay met or exceeded the U.S. median household income of just over \$53,000.
- While mileage-based pay was a common method, three out of four fleets used multiple methods to pay drivers including the most frequent approach, paying some drivers by the mile and some by the hour.
- Nearly 80% of truckload fleets offered drivers paid holidays.
- And 80% of private carriers not only offer a 401(k) retirement plan, but match employee contributions.

"As the economy grows, we are seeing an ever more competitive driver market," Costello said. "The data in this report will be critical for fleets looking to recruit and retain the best drivers."

To order the full report, visit www.atabusinesssolutions.com or call 1-866-821-3468. ▲

Member Cancellations January 2015

| Name of Company | Class | Dues |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| Barnes & Lakey Trucking LLC | For Hire | \$570.00 |
| Central National Bank | Allied | \$350.00 |

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Congress Passes Federal Tax Extenders

On December 16, the U.S. Senate passed the tax extenders bill that the House of Representatives passed last week. The President is expected to sign the bill into law. (The legislation is H.R. 5771, the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014.) In general, the Act extends through the end of calendar 2014 some fifty provisions of the Tax Code that expired at the end of 2013 or during 2014. Congress has extended many of the same provisions before, year by year. This bill does not make any of the provisions permanent, as had been proposed earlier. The extensions include provisions that affect both corporate and individual income taxes and the federal excise taxes on fuels. A summary of the legislation may be found here: <http://rules.house.gov/bill/113/hr-5771>. The provisions of the Act most likely to affect at least some motor carriers are these (the section numbers are those of the Act):

Sec. 125. Extension of Bonus Depreciation. This provision extends the 50 percent bonus depreciation option for nearly all business equipment – including motor carrier rolling stock – placed into service during calendar 2014. (The section also extends taxpayers' option to accelerate the use of alternative minimum tax credits in lieu of bonus depreciation.) Given that many motor carriers have replaced older equipment during 2014, or are engaged in expanding their fleets, this section is likely to be the single most important extender for the industry.

Sec. 127. Extension of Increased Expensing. This section extends the full expensing of property placed into service by small businesses, subject to the limitations in effect during 2010 through 2013. That is, the provision allows the write-off of up to \$500,000 of the expense of a single item of such property, with a progressive phase-out of the tax break for companies whose total purchases of such property exceed \$2 million. (Without the extension, these limits would have reverted to \$25,000 and \$200,000, respectively.)

Sec. 160. Extension of Fuel Tax Credit for Propane. This provision extends the \$.50 per gallon credit for the business use of propane and other alternative fuels and fuel mixtures. The use of propane in forklifts qualifies for the credit. ▲

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FMCSA Seeking Fleets and Drivers to Participate in Hours of Service Restart Study

FMCSA is seeking motor carrier volunteers to participate in a congressionally mandated study of the efficacy of the 34-hour restart restrictions imposed on the trucking industry between July 1, 2013 and December 16, 2014. FMCSA is looking for a diverse group of 200 to 300 drivers from fleets of various sizes, operational types, and industry sectors who regularly work between 60 and 70 hours per week. Researchers will be monitoring drivers using electronic logging device data and safety monitoring technology over a five month study period. Drivers will also be required to complete tests designed to evaluate fatigue, and log their sleep, caffeine use and subjective sleepiness daily. More information can be found at: <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety/research-and-analysis/commercial-motor-vehicle-driver-restart-study>. ▲

IRS Issues Mileage Rates for 2015

The federal Internal Revenue Service has published the standard mileage rates it will accept for business travel deductions during 2015. The rate for travel by car will rise from the current 56 cents a mile to 57.5 cents. The use of a car for charitable purposes remains at 14 cents a mile, and travel for medical care at 23 cents a mile. IRS adds that these rates need not be used if a taxpayer maintains records that document a different amount. ▲

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US Department of Transportation Announces Implementation of NAFTA Trucking

On Jan. 9, USDOT submitted a report to Congress stating its intent to implement NAFTA's trucking provisions for cross-border access. Although the three year congressionally mandated NAFTA pilot program that ended last October did not garner sufficient participation by Mexican carriers to develop statistically significant data to analyze the potential for Mexican carriers to comply with U.S. regulatory requirements, DOT included data collected from other trucking operations controlled by Mexican carriers in its final analysis. These operations included hundreds of Mexican-owned U.S. carriers ("enterprise authority") as well as Mexican carriers that already had operations in the U.S. prior to the NAFTA agreement ("grandfathered" authority). ATA continues to advocate that any foreign motor carrier operating in the U.S. must comply with all regulations and requirements that apply to U.S. motor carriers. Because trucks transport nearly 70 percent of the value of U.S.-Mexico surface trade, ATA supports improved operational efficiencies at U.S. international land borders through improved inspections, automation, and security processes, as well as efforts that alleviate congestion and enhance the utilization of border infrastructure. ATA will continue to closely monitor these issues. For more information, contact Martin Rojas at mrojas@trucking.org. ▲

Be Ready. Be Buckled. Kids' Art Contest

The "Be Ready. Be Buckled." art contest focuses on urging truck, bus and all drivers to buckle up to save lives and reduce injuries. Children with a relationship to individuals or organizations in the trucking and bus industries can participate as per entry requirements. Artwork that best illustrates "the importance of commercial motor vehicle drivers buckling up" with the overarching message "Safety Belts Save Lives" will win the grand prizes in each of the two age categories.

An awards ceremony will be held in conjunction with the American Society of Safety Engineers' (ASSE) North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (May 3-9, 2015) celebrations aimed at increasing awareness about work safety - being safe on the job.

The entry form is available at <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety/safety-belt/2015-art-contest-rules-entry-form>. The contest runs through February 28, 2015. ▲



ATRI Releases List of Top Truck Freight Congestion Locations

The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) today released the findings of its 2014 Congestion Impact Analysis of Freight-Significant Highway Locations. The research, which assesses the level of truck-oriented congestion at 250 locations on the national highway system, uses several customized software applications and analysis methods, along with terabytes of data from trucking operations to produce a congestion impact ranking for each location. The data is also used in conjunction with the FHWA-sponsored Freight Performance Measures (FPM) initiative. The locations detailed in this latest ATRI report represent the top 100 congested locations.

The number one spot on the ATRI list this year is the George Washington Bridge which connects New York and New Jersey. It surpassed the perennial first-place holder, Chicago's Circle Interchange (#2 on the list). ATRI's analysis points to construction on the top deck of the George Washington Bridge which created significant delays for trucks in 2013. The top ten on ATRI's list are, in rank order:

- FORT LEE, NJ: I-95 AT SR 4
- CHICAGO, IL: I-290 AT I-90/I-94
- ATLANTA, GA: I-285 AT I-85 (NORTH)
- CINCINNATI, OH: I-71 AT I-75
- HOUSTON, TX: I-45 AT US 59
- HOUSTON, TX: I-610 AT US 290
- ST. LOUIS, MO: I-70 AT I-64 (WEST)
- LOS ANGELES, CA: SR 60 AT SR 57
- LOUISVILLE, KY: I-65 AT I-64/I-71
- AUSTIN, TX: I-35

"ATRI's identification of congestion impacts at freight-significant locations is a critical tool in the transportation planning toolbox. Better-informed decisions mean more targeted infrastructure investment at critical freight nodes," remarked Matt Hart, President of the Illinois Trucking Association and a member of ATRI's Research Advisory Committee. "Here in Illinois we're seeing first-hand how ATRI's identification of the Circle Interchange as the number one freight bottleneck in previous studies led to a significant state investment to fix the chokepoint."

For access to the full report, including detailed information on each of the 100 top congested locations, visit www.atri-online.org. ▲



IL to Reduce Speed Differential

The Illinois legislature has overridden Governor Quinn's veto of a bill (S.B. 930) that reduces an unsafe 15 mile-per-hour speed differential between cars and trucks on certain rural roads in the northeastern part of the state. Before this year, the speed limit on rural roads in most of Illinois was 65. In some counties around Chicago, however, it was 65 for cars and 55 for trucks. As of the first of this year, 2013 legislation raised the speed limit for cars to 70 on all rural roads, and for trucks as well, except where the 55 mph limit prevailed. That resulted, for some roads near Chicago, in a 15-mph differential, a recognized safety hazard. In its effort to eliminate this safety problem, the Illinois Trucking Association determined that lowering the limit for cars -- its preferred solution -- would not be possible politically, so ITA went for an increase of 5 mph for trucks in the affected area. The responsible state agencies did not oppose the bill, nor did anyone in the legislature. The increase takes effect January 1, 2015. Our congratulations to ITA. ▲

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Daily Driver-Vehicle Inspection Reports Still Required in Canada

This is a reminder for those carriers that operate in Canada. Despite FMCSA's change to their driver-vehicle inspection report rules which no longer requires a "no defects" report, all Canadian provinces continue to require this report and it must be present with the vehicle. For more information, contact Ted Scott at tscott@trucking.org. ▲

Mandatory On-Line IFTA Filing in MI

The Michigan Department of Treasury has implemented a new electronic filing system for motor carriers and others filing returns under the International Fuel Tax Agreement. Effective with the fourth-quarter IFTA return for 2014 -- the one that's due at the end of this month -- all Michigan IFTA returns must be filed on-line. The state won't be accepting any more paper IFTA returns. Many Michigan-based carriers will already have experience with at least a part of the new system, since Michigan also required applications for its 2015 IFTA licenses to be submitted on-line. The department will be holding training sessions for carriers on the new system throughout the state on several days this month. For more information, see www.michigan.gov/ifta. ▲

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MoTA Photo Album

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you could be in
our next album!*

