

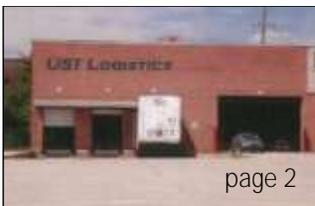


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# Bi-State News

Volume 1, Issue 10

November 2014

## A Message from the President



At our November Board Meeting, we discussed the outrageous new tariff being assessed by NY Terminal Conference. The tariff denies compensation for truck detention, and includes penalties for tendered billing which they feel is incorrect or improper. We feel that this tariff is egregious, and have contacted the Federal Maritime Commission to protest its issuance. We are researching the potential for taking further action, and will keep you apprised of our progress.

In an effort to advocate for the interests of our membership, I have attended several meetings with key players in the drayage industry over the past several weeks, including lengthy discussions with Global Terminal about their intentions to implement an appointment system in the new year. I will also be attending an important Public Information Session on December 2 with the Port Authority of NY/NJ to discuss several proposed Clean Air Strategy actions which may also lead to the push for an appointment system, and other new regulations that have the potential to be detrimental to our business. Your attendance at this meeting is strongly encouraged. If you are able to attend, call Dick Jones at 973-466-0014 or email [dj@thebistate.com](mailto:dj@thebistate.com) for details.

Last month, we were saddened by the sudden loss of longtime Association member Ed Halewicz. **Ed's dedication and contributions to our organization will be missed.**

I'd also like to acknowledge Executive Director Dick Jones and his Golf Outing and Award Luncheon committee for their extraordinary efforts on our event this year. It was our most successful outing to date, thanks to their hard work and dedication to the Association. Please **save the date for next year's outing: August 31, 2015.**

Please join me in welcoming member Gerry Coyle to the Bi-State Executive Board. As Vice President of Environmental and Sustainable Operations for Evans Delivery Company, Gerry serves as a representative with national and regional trade and environmental organizations, and on Federal and State regulatory and legislative matters. We look forward to his input and service to our membership.

Last but not least, on behalf of the Association, I wish you and your loved ones a very Happy Thanksgiving. We are thankful for your membership, and your ongoing support.

—Jeff Bader, President  
 Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers

## Upcoming Safety Seminars from CJS Violations

CJS is hosting two seminar sessions on "Ensuring Compliance with CSA." The first is for CSA Supervisors on Thursday, December 11 at Seamen's Church Institute from 8:30am-2pm. Cost is \$135 for Bi-State Members, \$150.00 for non-members.



On Saturday, December 13 from Noon to 4pm at the Hot Spot Diner in Newark, CJS will host a compliance seminar for Drivers and Owner Operators. CJS will also provide PSP reports for all attendees, so advance registration is required. Cost to attend is \$80. To register, call 800-457-7825 or call John Crisafulli directly at 973-568-4284 for more info.

## Member Spotlight: US 1 Logistics

Thomas Edison, the famous inventor and innovator, once said, “There is no substitute for hard work,” and the successful career of Bi-State member Ron Weeks is the embodiment of that motto. As the agent owner of US1 Logistics and owner of [Normandy Container Express](#), Ron Weeks is no stranger to the obstacles that can crop up along the road to success, but he credits his perseverance and hands-on approach for helping him survive the ups and downs that he and his trucking business have faced over the years.



Ron Weeks, US1 Logistics

Ron got his start in the trucking industry at a young age. After working for an importer in an office job, he impulsively decided to jump into the owner-operator business by purchasing a couple

***“I’ve dedicated myself to the Bi-State Association. It’s a commitment, and I take it seriously. Do I have all kinds of time for this stuff? No, but I make the time, because I believe what we do is important. It makes a difference.”***

of trucks while he was still in his early 20s, and hiring a friend to help handle local deliveries for a fastener company. “I was just a kid,” he says, “and I thought I knew everything. I really had no idea what I was doing.” After struggling for several years to make his small business work, he accepted a job at a local freight company, and dedicated himself to learning what it really took to run a business. “It was a rough time for me,” he admits, “I had made a lot of mistakes. I needed someone to show me the ropes, and I was finally ready to learn the right way to do things.”

His new employer acted as a mentor for Ron, quickly turning what could have been a difficult adjustment into a valuable, positive experience. Ron methodically worked his way through the ranks, typically putting in days starting at 4:30am and not stopping until 7pm. “I learned all the ins and outs there,” he says, “and the correct way to dispatch. I found that there’s no substitute for calling the shots and being involved if you want things done right.”

Ron’s willingness to work long hours and take an active role in day-to-day operations led him to take the chance once again to open his own business--only this time, he had the benefit of more than two decades of knowledge under his belt. His hard-earned wisdom paid off, and within a short time, Normandy Container Express grew so large, they were accepted as an affiliate for transportation giant US1 Logistics.

Over the years, Ron has faced his share of challenges, but his determination and hands-on approach--even checking in while on vacation--has allowed him to ride out the storms that might have proved insurmountable to other businesses.



He also takes pride in his long-standing involvement with the Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers, and feels it’s important to take an active role in advocating for the interests of those who make a living in intermodal commerce. His service as a Board member does involve additional work above and beyond running his own business, but it’s a way of giving back that he feels is well worth the effort. “I’ve dedicated myself to the Bi-State Association,” says Ron. “It’s a commitment, and I take it seriously. Do I have all kinds of time for this stuff? No, but I *make* the time, because I believe that what we do is important. It makes a difference.”

As for the current state of the drayage industry at Port Newark, Ron Weeks doesn’t mince words: “It is the worst it’s ever been,” he says. He cites ongoing issues such as demurrage fees, slow turnarounds, and chronic chassis shortages as just some of the issues that have made it so difficult for intermodal carriers to do business. And yet, he continues to face these challenges head-on, and remains optimistic for the future. “I’ve got a great crew right now,” he says of his employees, “and I see us growing in the future, along with the Port. We’re getting stronger every week, still learning something new every day, and we’re ready for whatever comes next.”

***“We’re ready for whatever comes next.”***

US1 Logistics offers transloading and cross-docking solutions in the New York/New Jersey area. Learn more at [www.normandycontainerexpress.com](http://www.normandycontainerexpress.com).

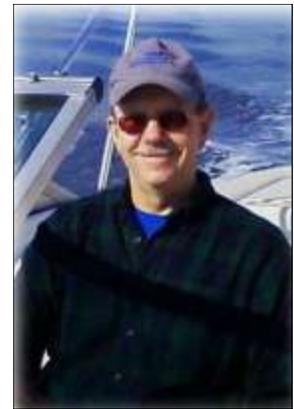
## In Memoriam: A Tribute to Ed Halewicz

It is with deep sadness that we report the loss of one of our Executive Board members: on Wednesday, October 22nd, [Ed Halewicz](#) died unexpectedly at his home in Wayne, New Jersey.

Ed enjoyed a long and successful trucking industry career, working with Hemingway Trucking, Consolidated Freight, US Lines, American Intermodal Services, and H&M International.

**Ed's service to the Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers** is just one example of his lifelong dedication to giving back and helping others. At the age of 17, Ed enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves, serving his country proudly for many years. He was also a longtime baseball coach for the Wayne PAL, selflessly giving back to his community.

**The Association extends its heartfelt condolences to Ed's wife Linda, his sons Dan, Tim and Ben, his parents Edwin and Johanna Halewicz, and his extended family.** The Association made a **memorial donation in Ed's name to the [Wayne PAL](#)** on behalf of our membership.



*Memorial donations  
may be sent to:  
[Wayne PAL](#)  
1 PAL Drive  
Wayne, NJ 07470.*

## NJ Legislative Update

Here's the very latest on bills of interest making their way through the [New Jersey Legislature](#):

S2181/A3417 seeks to overhaul and modernize the operation of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, including its Board of Commissioners, in an effort to increase transparency and accountability at the agency. The bill passed the Senate unanimously in late September. *Status:* S2181/A3417 passed the NJ Assembly on November 13 and was sent to Governor Christie for final passage into law.

S2183/A3350 which requires the PANYNJ to be subject to the public record disclosure laws of both states, was unanimously approved by the New Jersey Senate (40-0). Like S2181, the bill aims to increase transparency and accountability. *Status:* S2183/A3350 passed the NJ Assembly on November 13, and was sent to Governor Christie for final passage into law.

S2277/A3506 calls for the State of New Jersey to withdraw from the Waterfront Commission. A3506 was released from the Assembly Law & Public Safety Committee on October 23rd with amendments; S2277 was released from the Senate Appropriations Committee on October 9 with amendments. *Status:* A3506 was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for further review. On November 5th, the Office of Legislative Services released a Fiscal Note for S2277. While their anticipated state revenue analysis for this bill was in agreement with Executive Office estimates (ranging from \$9.6 million in Year 1 to \$10 million by Year 3) their estimates on overall costs differed. OLS cited differences in the estimated impact of staffing, leasing and vehicle costs, assessing the overall cost at **"more than \$9.6 million" but less than the estimates provided by the Executive Office** (\$20.6 million in Year 1, \$17.3 million in Year 2, \$15.9 million in Year 3). **It's expected this cost estimate differential will be further debated when A3506 is heard in committee.**



### UPCOMING VOTING SESSIONS:

December 1	Senate, 2pm
December 11	Assembly, 1pm
December 15	Senate, 2pm
December 18	Assembly, 1pm Senate, 2pm

A3886 calls for an increase to the gas tax in New Jersey in order to fund the ailing Transportation Trust Fund. The tax on gross receipts for petroleum products would increase from four cents per gallon to nine percent of the average retail price of unleaded regular gasoline. The bill requires that the tax be converted to a cents-per-gallon rate and adjusted semiannually by the Director of the Division of Taxation. The bill was referred to the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee on November 13, where it awaits a public hearing. There is currently no Senate version of the bill.



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Serving the Businesses That Serve the Port

## News Briefs

A round-up of some recent headlines and issues affecting the intermodal trucking industry:

-- The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration announced its intention to require that states submit plans to address deficiencies identified in a recent federal audit of their commercial driver license programs. (*Transport Topics*, Nov. 13)

-- REMINDER: the new medical self-certification requirements for NJ CDL holders go into effect on February 1, 2015. All drivers with expiring certifications must submit updated information to the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission in advance of the January 31, 2015 deadline. The Association is working closely with the MVC to create a cross-check system for owner-operators who wish to confirm the current status of their drivers. More info to follow in December.

-- Ongoing troubles at US West Coast ports are being cited as a reason for the dramatic increase in volume at some East Coast ports: export containers at Virginia rose 10% in October, while Savannah saw an increase of 6.46% in exports, and a record-setting 22.4% increase in imports for the same month. (*World Cargo News*, Nov. 18)



Construction Update from the NJ Turnpike Authority  
Road improvements to NJ Turnpike Exit 14A are scheduled to begin in early 2015. The interchange will be reconfigured to accommodate existing traffic volumes and the future growth in traffic volume resulting from port expansion and nearby residential/commercial development. We are monitoring the project and its potential impact, and will provide additional updates as they become available.



PANYNJ Public Info Session  
on Clean Air Strategies  
Tuesday, December 2  
Attendance is strongly encouraged  
Contact [dj@thebistate.com](mailto:dj@thebistate.com) for details  
973-466-0014

Next General Member Meeting  
Tuesday December 9 at 10am  
1210 Corbin Street, Elizabeth, NJ

