



# BI-STATE NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF BI-STATE MOTOR CARRIERS

February 2017 Volume 4, Issue 2

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## Interested In Bi-State Membership?



Please Visit Our Website To Download An Application (or Click the Logo Above)

## President's Message



February may be the shortest month of the year, but it certainly presented its fair share of obstacles at the port: the effects of winter weather combined with construction delays and local traffic issues made conditions particularly challenging, but as usual, the carriers of NY & NJ rose to the occasion and kept things moving smoothly. The Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers will be meeting with several marine terminals over the next few weeks to discuss the difficulties that have been experienced, working together to find solutions to these problems and increase overall efficiency.

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to discuss the unique challenges faced by the NY/NJ intermodal industry with Federal Maritime Commissioner Daniel Maffei. We covered many areas that are of particular concern to our members, including the information contained in [the petition](#) that was filed with the FMC by the Coalition for Fair Port Practices (of which the Bi-State is a participant), requesting relief from unfair practices relating to the assessment of fees at the port. Commissioner Maffei pledged to keep the lines of communication open with the Bi-State and all those who serve the port of NY & NJ, and was receptive to our feedback. [The Public Comment Period on the Petition ends Feb. 28th; please see page 3 for details on how to voice your support for this effort.]



Executive Director Dick Jones and I meeting with Commissioner Dan Maffei and local FMC officials earlier this month



Peggy Mecca & Tom Heimgartner with Commissioner Dan Maffei

I'd like to take a moment to offer special thanks to the volunteers who serve as Bi-State Officers and on our Executive Board, donating their time and energy to supporting our membership and advocating for the intermodal industry. We recently honored our longtime Treasurer John Kruse, for his many years of service (see page 2), and appreciate all of the hard work that our members put in on a regular basis. Thank you, all.



Bi-State Board Members speaking with Commissioner Maffei

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

## Bi-State Treasurer John Kruse Recognized for Years of Service



Board Member John Kruse received a plaque from Executive Director Dick Jones in honor of his volunteer service

Longtime Treasurer John Kruse, CEO of JWay Transportation, was recently honored for his many years of service to the Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers.

John Kruse has volunteered countless hours of time and energy to ensuring the finances of the Bi-State are well monitored and maintained, including the filing of tax returns, state ELEC reports, and overseeing the day-to-day accounting needs of the Bi-State. His selfless service to our organization has been greatly appreciated, and was particularly valuable during the period of rapid growth in membership that occurred over the last several years.

John recently handed off his Treasurer duties to Peggy Mecca of Mecca & Son Trucking, but will continue donating his time as a member of the Bi-State Executive Board.

Thank you, John, for your ongoing dedication and service to our members!

## Bi-State Equipment Exchange Forum — Saving Time & \$\$\$

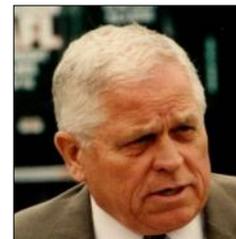
Participation in our online Equipment Exchange “Street Turn” Forum has grown significantly since last year, with more than 50 member companies posting their equipment needs and availability on a daily basis.

In just the first three weeks of this month, we had close to 350 containers posted as available or needed. That’s a potential reduction of 700 trips to the terminals and back thus far in February alone, as well as time and money saved by the motor carrier avoiding the lines and congestion in and around the port.

The Bi-State Equipment Exchange “Street Turn” Forum is a voluntary, proactive initiative that also reduces emissions, without the need for truck bans or other cumbersome regulations. If your company is not yet a member of our equipment exchange forum, please contact [LisaY@thebistate.com](mailto:LisaY@thebistate.com) for more information on how to participate.

## Scholarship Donations Sought—Applications Coming Soon

Applications and information on our [2017 Samuel L. Cunninghame Memorial Scholarship](#) will be posted and distributed in March. Donations to the fund are accepted year-round, in honor of our longtime, highly-respected Legislative Relations Director, Sam Cunninghame, who passed away in 2013. Your generous donations to the fund allow us to honor Sam’s memory by providing scholarships and mini-grants to deserving college-bound high school seniors and full-time undergraduate students who have a parent or guardian working, as either an employee or independent contractor with a Member Company.



Sam Cunninghame

To contribute to this year’s fund, please send a check, made payable to the Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers (write SCHOLARSHIP in the memo line) to: Scholarship Fund, Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers, 263-D Distribution Street, Newark NJ 07114.

Thank you for your support of this worthwhile program. The deadline for scholarship applications will be April 17, 2017. Good luck to all of our applicants!

## Call to Action: Support our Petition to the FMC—**DUE 2/28!**



The Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers recently joined a group of more than two dozen industry stakeholders to form the Coalition on Fair Port Practices, working together to seek relief over unfair practices relating to the assessment of detention, demurrage, and per diem fees. In December 2016, the Coalition [petitioned the FMC](#) to require container lines and terminals to extend free time when the ability to move containers is disrupted by forces beyond the control of shippers and truckers. The full text of the petition is available at [HERE](#).

**The Bi-State strongly encourages its members to contact the FMC and voice their support for the petition.** The open comment period ends on Tuesday, February 28th, so all letters must be sent out by then. If mailing your letter, please send one original and five copies to: Assistant Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, 800 North Capitol Street, NW; Washington DC 20573-0001. You can also email a PDF of your support letter to [Secretary@fmc.gov](mailto:Secretary@fmc.gov), and our Executive Director Dick Jones ([dj@thebistate.com](mailto:dj@thebistate.com)). A copy should also be sent to the counsel for the Coalition: Karyn Booth, Thompson Hine LLP, 1919 M Street, NW, Washington DC 20036.

## Commissioner Michael Khouri Appointed FMC Chairman

President Donald Trump recently named Commissioner Michael Khouri to the post of Acting Chairman at the Federal Maritime Commission. He replaces Chairman Mario Cordero, who will remain as a Commissioner at the FMC, with his term expiring in 2019.

Chairman Khouri has served on the FMC since 2009, and has 45 years of experience in the maritime sector. The Bi-State congratulates Chairman Khouri on his new position, and looks forward to working with him on matters of interest to the port community.



Acting FMC Chairman Michael Khouri

## Legislative Update: The Latest News from Trenton



On Monday, February 27, the Senate Transportation Committee will hear **S548**, which requires the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Delaware River and Bay Authority, Delaware River Port Authority, and Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission to: provide advance written notice to the mayor and municipal emergency management coordinator in every municipality within five miles of the facility; provide advance notification of the project or operation to newspapers of general circulation in each county and municipality in which the transportation facility is located; and use variable message signs to inform motorists of any operation which is expected to impede the free flow of traffic.

**REMINDER:** 2017 is a big election year in the State of New Jersey, with all 120 legislative seats in the Senate and Assembly up for re-election, as well as the Governor and Lieutenant Governor/Secretary of State. Throughout the year, the Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers actively works to build strong relationships with our government officials, to ensure that our members have a strong voice on key policy issues facing the intermodal trucking industry in our state. To that end, the **Bi-State Political Action Committee (PAC) Fund** supports candidates who understand the unique needs and challenges facing the port community, and have demonstrated an ability to effectively represent our position on these issues. By contributing to the PAC fund, you help us provide support for the candidates whose ideals and policy positions most closely resemble that of our membership. Donations are accepted year-round; please send your check made payable to the BiState Motor Carriers PAC to 263-D Distribution Street, Newark NJ 07114. Thank you for your support.

## OVERVIEW: Driver Safety Enforcement at APM Terminals

As part of their ongoing commitment to driver safety, APM Terminals sent a representative to our February Bi-State Member Meeting to review the various Safety Rules and Driver Traffic Violations that are enforced while drivers are on-terminal. Members were advised that violations will be issued for drivers who: run a Stop sign; do not have on their safety vest and are outside of their cab; are speeding (excess of 25 mph on main roadways and 15 mph on yard blocks); use a cell phone (texting or talking) while driving; engage in reckless driving. Drivers who are issued a violation will be asked for their Sealink Card and Gate Ticket, and will receive a copy of the violation process.

Drivers who experience their first Safety Violation will be banned from the terminal until they have attended a Safety Training Education Program (STEP) class, which is held in the Main Building at APMT every Friday at 4pm. Drivers cannot bring their trucks to attend the class; they must drive their own car and park in a visitors spot or the general parking area.

After a second violation, the driver will be banned for two weeks and must attend another STEP class. A third violation will result in an automatic 30-day ban, or if warranted, an indefinite ban until the driver meets with the Health, Safety, Security & Environment (HSSE) Department to determine the length of the ban. A fourth violation is an automatic indefinite ban from APMT.



The Bi-State urges its members to review all terminal safety rules with their drivers. Safety Reminder flyers are available on the [Bi-State website](#) (in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#)) for printing and posting. Thank you for your cooperation. Safety first!

### DATES TO REMEMBER!

<b>Mar. 3</b>	<b>Scholarship Application Posted</b>
<b>Mar. 14</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>
<b>Mar. 17</b>	<b>Gleason's Birthday</b>
<b>Apr. 11</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>
<b>Apr. 14</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
<b>Apr. 17</b>	<b>Scholarship Forms Due</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>
<b>May 29</b>	<b>Memorial Day</b>
<b>June 13</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>
<b>July 4</b>	<b>Independence Day</b>
<b>Sept. 4</b>	<b>Labor Day</b>
<b>Sept. 18</b>	<b>Golf Outing &amp; Awards Luncheon</b>

**Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers, Inc.**  
263-D Distribution Street  
Port Newark, NJ 07114

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[www.bistatemotorcarriers.com](http://www.bistatemotorcarriers.com)



Join us for our next  
**General Member Meeting**  
**Tues. March 14 @ 1000 hours**

**NYSA Training Ctr. Auditorium**  
**1210 Corbin Street,**  
**Elizabeth, NJ**