



# BI-STATE NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF BI-STATE MOTOR CARRIERS

March 2017 Volume 4, Issue 3

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**College Scholarships Available—Apply Now!**



**Deadline: April 21, 2017**  
See page 4

## Executive Director's Report



The March meeting of the Bi-State General Membership was not held this month, as it fell on the day that Winter Storm Stella made her arrival in the NY/NJ metro area. As usual, the motor carriers and other intermodal industry professionals who serve the Port of NY & NJ were well-prepared ahead of the storm, and operations resumed within 24 hours. You can read more about the storm, and the resiliency of our port in dealing with such challenges, in our Storm Recap on page 2.

Earlier this month, Bi-State President Jeff Bader and I took a representative group of members to Global Container Terminal in Bayonne to offer constructive feedback on the implementation of their Truck Management System. Our group met with members of GCT's management and operations team to exchange our thoughts on what works, what doesn't, and areas in need of improvement.

As a direct result of this discussion, the terminal began updating and distributing their Appointment Availability Dashboard more frequently during the course of the business day, allowing users to more easily take advantage of cancellations and open slots in a timely manner.

There was also discussion about the need for flexibility in the system, allowing for dispatchers to make booking changes using a wider time window. We thank the team at GCT-USA for their willingness to meet with such a large group, and their receptiveness to our suggestions. We look forward to meeting with them regularly on this and other topics of interest to the intermodal community.



The Bi-State is committed to maintaining an open dialogue with all of the marine terminals who operate at the Port of NY & NJ, ensuring that the concerns of our membership are addressed. This is just one of the many valuable benefits of membership that the Bi-State offers to its participants. If are experiencing issues or have feedback to offer at any time, please don't hesitate to contact me at [dj@thebistate.com](mailto:dj@thebistate.com).

Another added benefit of Bi-State membership: the annual scholarship program, given in honor of the late Samuel L. Cunninghame. The application window is now open, and details regarding eligibility criteria are available on our website. See page 4 of this newsletter for additional details. Applications must be received by April 21st. Donations to our scholarship fund are accepted year-round; simply make checks payable to the Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers, put "Scholarship" in the memo line, and mail to our office (see address on page 4).

Be advised that our next General Membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11 at 1000 hours. I look forward to seeing you there.

—Dick Jones, Executive Director  
Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers

# “Crippling” Snowstorm? Stella Proves No Match for PONYNJ

On March 13th, Governor Chris Christie declared a statewide State of Emergency in advance of Winter Storm Stella, citing a forecast that called for “significant snow accumulations, winds gusting up to 60 miles per hour, freezing temperatures, widespread coastal flooding and hazardous whiteout travel conditions.” Government offices were shut down and schools were closed across the state in preparation for what was described as a “crippling” late Winter nor’easter.

Although the track of the storm resulted in lower than expected snow totals in some areas, Stella proved to be an unpredictable storm for many, bringing high winds and a mix of dangerous precipitation as she made her way through the NY/NJ metro area on March 14th. Seven inches of heavy snow quickly became packed down by 1-2” of sleet and freezing rain on the streets of Newark, with accumulation totals of over a foot in parts of Union County, and totals of 16” or more falling across northern parts of the state.

***The Port of NY & NJ is the preferred choice for worldwide customers shipping goods along the Eastern seaboard. The ability to consistently and reliably bounce back from challenging conditions is a big reason why.***

Despite widespread school closings and difficult road conditions that persisted across much of the region throughout the day on March 15th, motor carriers, equipment providers, and marine terminals were open for business as usual. Several terminals also provided

extended hours on the day prior to the blizzard, and again on March 17, typically observed as an ILA holiday at the port, in order to facilitate additional moves. Motor carriers adjusted their schedules accordingly, and kept commerce moving smoothly along the corridor. “This is what we do,” said Jeff Bader, CEO of Golden Carriers and President of the Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers. “We move freight under all manner of conditions throughout the year, putting in whatever extra effort is needed to get the job done. The PONYNJ is the busiest port on the Eastern seaboard, and we take that responsibility seriously. Our customers rely on us to keep the containers moving, and we do not let them down.”

Aaron Sherburne, General Manager, New Jersey Marine Terminals for the Port Authority of NY & NJ, agreed. “Our ability to bounce back from major weather incidents, including snow storms, comes from year-round planning and preparation, close coordination with our industry partners, and the tireless efforts of the men and women in Port Authority maintenance as well as the contract staff who support them,” said Sherburne.



**The Calm Before the Storm:  
Afternoon of March 13, 2017**



**Blizzard Underway:  
March 14, 2017**



**Open for Business:  
March 15, 2017**



These photos, courtesy of GCT USA, were taken before, during, and after Winter Storm Stella. Top photos show the road leading to GCT New York, the bottom photos show GCT Bayonne.



## FMCSA Withdraws Proposed Safety Fitness Rule



The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration recently reversed its decision to change their procedures for rating motor carriers and determining their fitness to operate a motor vehicle. Known as the Safety Fitness Determination Rule, first proposed in January 2016, the plan faced resistance because of its reliance on the controversial Safety Measurement System BASIC ratings, which were widely-seen as flawed and inaccurate by members of the trucking industry.

Faced with ongoing opposition and concerns expressed since the proposal was introduced, the FMCSA agreed to pull the measure and make revisions. A new proposal will be issued after the Compliance Safety Accountability's SMS rating system has been reviewed, revised, and implemented.

## Annual CVSA Road Check Scheduled for June 6-8, 2017



The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's [30th Annual International Roadcheck](#) will take place June 6 through June 8 this year. During this 72-hour period, an estimated 10,000 CVSA-certified local, state, provincial, territorial and federal inspectors across North America will perform safety inspections on large trucks and buses.

Each year, the CVSA Roadcheck enforcement program focuses on a specific category of violations. The special emphasis for this year's safety inspections will be on Cargo Securement.

According to the CVSA announcement, inspectors will be conducting the [North American Standard Level I Inspection](#), a 37-step procedure that includes "an examination of both driver operating requirements and vehicle mechanical fitness. Drivers are required to provide items such as their driver's license, hours-of-service documentation, motor carrier registration and shipping documentation, and inspectors will be checking drivers for seat belt usage and the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. The vehicle inspection includes checking items such as the brake systems, cargo securement, coupling devices, driveline/driveshaft, exhaust systems, frames, fuel systems, lighting devices (required lamps), steering mechanisms, suspensions, tires, van and open-top trailer bodies, wheels, rims and hubs, windshield wipers, and emergency exits (on buses)."

The goal of this annual event is to increase compliance, enforcement and education in the motor carrier community, highlighting initiatives that seek to ensure both vehicle and driver safety.



## Legislative Update



**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 notice to inform motorists of projects that may adversely affect traffic conditions, was passed unanimously by the NJ Senate on March 13th. The bill has now been referred to the Assembly Transportation Committee for further discussion.

**S3059/A4701**, introduced this month, would require the State of NJ to fully participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) program, the 2005 program that seeks to reduce emissions. In May 2011, Governor Christie pulled NJ's participation from RGGI, citing it as ineffective and a burden to taxpayers. The bills have been referred to their respective legislative Environmental Committees and await a hearing.

## Electronic Insurance ID Cards Now Accepted in NJ

Current law requires all New Jersey motorists to have a registration certificate and an insurance identification card when operating a motor vehicle in the state. On March 21st, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission announced that electronic versions of Insurance Identification Cards “may now be displayed or provided in either paper or electronic form.” Electronic form has been defined by the MVC as “the display of images on an electronic device, such as a cellular telephone, tablet or computer.” The announcement also cited current law that “the use of a cellular telephone, tablet, computer or any other electronic device to display proof of insurance does not constitute consent for a police officer or judge to access any other contents on the device.”



## Scholarship Applications Available Now—Deadline April 21st!



Applications and information on our [2017 Samuel L. Cunninghame Memorial Scholarship](#) have been posted on our website. The annual scholarship is named in honor of our highly-respected Legislative Relations Director, Sam Cunninghame, who passed away in 2013. Each year, the Bi-State honors 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.

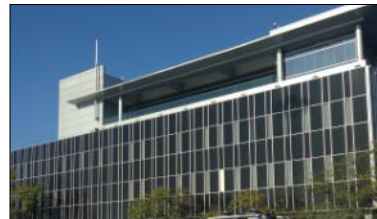
Please note: all scholarship applications must be received by April 21, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Communications Director Lisa Yakomin at [LisaY@thebistate.com](mailto:LisaY@thebistate.com). Best of luck to all of our applicants!

### DATES TO REMEMBER!

Apr. 11	General Meeting
Apr. 14	Good Friday
Apr. 21	Scholarship Forms Due
May 9	General Meeting
May 29	Memorial Day
June 13	General Meeting
July 4	Independence Day
Aug. 15	General Meeting
Sept. 4	Labor Day
Sept. 18	Golf Outing & Awards Luncheon

Join us for our next

**General Member Meeting**  
**Tues. April 11 @ 1000 hours**



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

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