



BI-STATE NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF BI-STATE MOTOR CARRIERS

February 2019 Volume 6, Issue 2

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“Drive With Us” : Bi-State Promotes Port Trucking

As part of our ongoing community outreach and workforce development efforts, the Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers recently created [a video](#) to promote intermodal trucking and encourage more drivers to join our industry.

“[Drive with Us](#)” highlights the record-breaking container volumes at the Port of NY & NJ over the past year, and the significant tax revenues and jobs that are generated by port-related industries. There's never been a better time for drivers to pursue a career in intermodal trucking, and the Bi-State is doing its part to spread the word.

The drivers featured in the video are not actors; their words were unscripted and from the heart. Three of the drivers shown are independent owner-operators, and one is a company driver, reflecting the actual demographic of truckers who call upon the port (75% of those registered are independent owner operators, 25% are company drivers). We hope you enjoy the video!



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Lt. Governor Expresses Support for Port Community

The New York Shipping Association held its annual luncheon on February 19 in Newark, providing an overview of the positive achievements and milestones reached by port stakeholders at the Port of NY & NJ over the past year.

The Keynote Speaker for the luncheon was Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver, who spoke about the positive contributions that the port industry has made to the economic well-being of the State of New Jersey.



Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver with NYSA President John Nardi

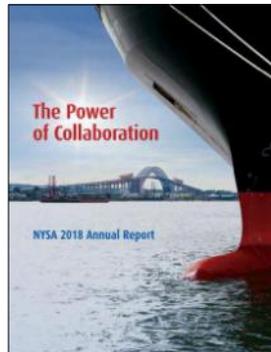
According to NYSA President John Nardi, “2018 was a year of continued evolution and achievement for members of the New York Shipping Association, and the port community of New York and New Jersey.”

The NYSA 2018 Annual Report, [The Power of Collaboration](#), is available online at the NYSA website (click photo at left to view and/or download the report).



Memorial Service

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Blitz Transportation Hosts Memorial Service at Port



**Larry "Fergie" Ferguson
July 1, 1957—Jan. 17, 2019**

A unique and moving memorial service was held recently for Lawrence "Fergie" Ferguson, an intermodal truck driver who worked for Blitz Transportation in Elizabeth, NJ. After calling in to his dispatcher to report he wasn't feeling well, Fergie passed away suddenly in his truck, while pulled over at the corner of Coastwise and Tyler Streets.

His untimely death was devastating for friends and co-workers at Blitz, so they requested permission from the Port Authority Police Department and PANYNJ to hold a Memorial Procession at the port on Sunday, January 27th. More than two dozen bobtail trucks and other vehicles queued up and formed a procession that drove through the local port area, stopping at the spot where Ferguson died. Memorial wreaths and white roses were placed alongside a photo of Ferguson, and a brief service was held.



Cantor Shmmy Miller, Ben Reichberg of Blitz Transportation, and Pastor Oscar Guerrero

Cantor Shmmy Miller sang a beautiful rendition of the national anthem, honoring Ferguson's service as a U.S. military veteran, and Pastor Oscar Guerrero read an invocation. Co-workers from Blitz Transportation came forward to eulogize Ferguson, recalling memories of his friendly, upbeat personality, and his reputation as someone who always had kind words of encouragement and support for his fellow drivers.

New Jersey State Senator Joseph Cryan also participated in the memorial service, offering words of comfort and condolence to Ferguson's friends and family that were gathered, acknowledging Fergie's sister Vicki, his niece Althreasa, and son Kyheem, who is also a truck driver. "Fergie was a man who loved his work. He loved what he did, it was his passion in life, a passion that he passed along to his son," said Cryan. "On behalf of the people of the 20th District, we are very sorry for your loss." Representatives from the port community also came to pay their respects at the memorial, including PANYNJ Assistant Port Director Bethann Rooney, Bi-State Executive Director Dick Jones, and Bi-State Communications Director Lisa Yakomin. The PAPD was also on hand to oversee traffic control and provide logistical support. The memorial procession honoring Ferguson was the first of its kind at the port.



Top row: The memorial procession; Kyheem Ferguson with Senator Cryan. Bottom row: Ferguson's friends and co-workers from Blitz Transportation gathered for the service; Senator Cryan speaking near the white roses placed by Ferguson's friends & loved ones.

2019 Cunninghame Memorial Scholarship Applications Now Available!

Applications and information on our [2019 Samuel L. Cunninghame Memorial Scholarship](#) have been posted on our website. **Deadline for submission is April 26, 2019.**



The annual scholarship is named in honor of our longtime Legislative Relations Director, Sam Cunninghame. 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. Eligibility details and requirements are listed on the Application instructions. The main scholarship award this year will be \$1,500.

At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded this year.

All [applications](#) must be received no later than April 26, 2019. Recipients will be notified the first week in May. Please contact Communications Director Lisa Yakomin at LisaY@thebistate.com with any questions.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**The Annual Bi-State Golf Outing & Awards Luncheon will be held on Monday, September 9, 2019
Sponsorship opportunities available soon!**



U.S.—China Trade Tariff Deadline Extended as Agreement Nears

After months of tense negotiations between the U.S. and China, a trade agreement between the two countries appears to be close to completion. President Trump announced last week that he would delay the implementation of tariffs on goods imported from China, in advance of a trade agreement that was expected to be reached within the next few weeks. The move would put a halt to the escalating tariffs the two countries have assessed on one another since last summer.

On July 6, 2018, in response to what was determined to be unfair trade practices on the part of the Chinese government, the U.S. placed 25% tariffs on approximately \$50 billion worth of Chinese goods, affecting \$34 billion worth of imports, with additional tariffs put in place on August 23, 2018, affecting another \$16 billion worth of goods. The Chinese government retaliated by assessing its own trade penalties on U.S. exports, placing 25% tariffs on agriculture and food products originating in the U.S.

At the end of September 2018, the U.S. announced a new list of tariffs on approximately \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports, starting at a rate of 10%, and set to automatically increase to 25% on January 1, 2019 if the Chinese government did not take action to reverse their trade practices. China responded with additional tariffs of their own, affecting \$60 billion worth of U.S. exports. President Trump hit back by threatening to assess higher tariffs on another \$267 billion worth of Chinese goods that had not yet appeared on the previous lists.

On December 1, President Trump and President Jinping met at the G-20 summit in Buenos Aires, and agreed to suspend any further escalation of the trade war for a period 90 days. The terms of the truce allowed for the two countries to negotiate with one another, moving the deadline for an automatic increase to March 1. With negotiations reportedly making progress, the deadline has now been extended past this Friday, in anticipation that President Trump and President Jinping will soon announce an agreement has been reached.



Reminder: ELD Requirements Take Full Effect December 17, 2019



A reminder for those carriers who fall within the rule requirements mandating the use of Electronic Logging Devices, full ELD rules will take effect on Dec. 17, 2019.

According to Chris Rotondo, Division Administrator for the FMCSA-New Jersey, “the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is working closely with the states

to instruct roadside enforcement personnel, as well as the federal staff, for the expectations of full ELD use.”

For more information on the requirements and regulations surrounding ELDs, the FMCSA has released a Fact Sheet: [CLICK HERE](#) or on the graphic at right to read and download the flyer.





Daylight Savings Time Begins March 10, 2019 at 2am

Remember to Turn Clocks *AHEAD* One Hour!

Join us for our next
General Member Meeting
Tuesday, March 12 @ 1000 hours

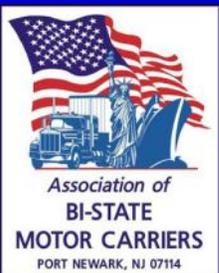


NYSA Training Ctr. Auditorium
1210 Corbin Street, Elizabeth, NJ



Dates to Remember

March 10	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 12	Monthly Member Meeting
March 18	Gleason's Birthday
April 9	Monthly Member Meeting
April 19	Good Friday
April 21	Easter
April 26	Scholarship Applications Due



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