



## **TMHA NEWS & VIEWS**

**Produced by The Machinery Haulers Association, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 338    Dysart, IA 52224    319-214-7323**

**[tmha@machineryhaulers.org](mailto:tmha@machineryhaulers.org)    [www.machineryhaulers.org](http://www.machineryhaulers.org)**

**January 2018**

**Follow Us on Twitter**

---

### **In this Edition .....**

- **TMHA engages a new Chief Operating Officer**
- **A word from the new COO**
- **TMHA Annual Meeting set for March 24 in Kissimmee, FL**
- **Sponsors Asked to Help Support TMHA Activities**
- **Warren President Donnelly retires after 52 years at Warren**
- **Schommer named new Warren president**
- **A new direction for the TMHA newsletter**
- **TMHA is now on Twitter**

---

### **New Administrator at TMHA**

The Machinery Haulers Association, Inc. has announced that as of January 1, Clayton Fisk has been engaged as TMHA's chief operating officer. Fisk will be responsible for all facets of TMHA's administrative operation to include financial management, meeting planning, and communications, to name several.

Fisk is no stranger to TMHA having served two terms as TMHA's president in the mid-2000's and having been member carrier Warren Transport, Inc.'s most senior vice president and their representative to TMHA for many years. Fisk brings more than forty-four years of experience in the trucking industry to TMHA having worked at Warren in billing and pricing, traffic management, safety, and having served most recently as Warren's vice president of risk management, insurance, and safety up until his retirement from Warren on December 31. Fisk has served on the boards of directors at Warren Transport, the Truckload Carriers Association, and the Iowa Motor Truck Association.

We welcome Clay to TMHA in his new capacity and we look forward to his leadership.

---

### **A Word from the New COO**

When I decided in 2016 that I would retire from Warren Transport at the end of 2017, I knew I would want to do *something* in retirement in addition to the normal things that people usually do when they retire such as cleaning out the basement and garage and doing some traveling. I knew that sitting on the porch in the rocking chair was definitely not for me. When the TMHA board approached me and asked me to consider taking over TMHA's administrative duties, I thought, "we might be onto something here." I want to thank the board for placing their confidence in me and for offering me this opportunity. I also want to thank Brenda Neville, Don Egli, and their fine staff for handling TMHA's administrative duties for the last several years. They did a fine job for us, but over time changes in their priorities indicated to them and to TMHA that we both needed to go in

different directions. I want to publicly thank them for their willing assistance over the last few months as we've worked together to make the transition.

I have a very fond feeling and a passion for TMHA that began many years ago in the middle '70's when Warren Transport president and industry icon, Bob Molinaro, first started taking me to TMHA meetings to "learn the ropes," and learn I did. I had the privilege of watching in action, and learning from, some of the pioneers and movers and shakers in the specialized open-deck segment of our industry ... people such as Bob; Buck and Harvey Jenkins of Diamond Transportation; Ed Hamil of International Transport, Sid Tennant of Tennant Truck Lines, and many others. TMHA was, at that time, a well-known and well-respected tariff bureau based out of the Twin Cities. Over the decades many things changed, not the least of which were so-called "deregulation" of the trucking industry, the sunseting of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and the demise of tariff bureaus' Section 5(a) immunity to the anti-trust laws. TMHA was forced to evolve and adapt, and so it did.

Today, TMHA has emerged as a solid trade association that is dedicated to providing educational and networking opportunities to carriers engaged in motor carrier transportation by specialized open-deck equipment. We have an opportunity to further carve out this niche, grow the Association, and become a stronger organization for our carrier members and for our loyal and supportive allied members. It is my goal, working with you, to achieve those very things, and more. This is your organization. To be successful, it requires your dedication and participation. That means attending as many meetings as you can work in, contributing your thoughts and ideas, and helping us recruit new members.

I invite and encourage you to communicate freely with me. Share your ideas about how we can make TMHA a better organization to better serve you, our members. If you have some thoughts, fire off an email to me or just pick up the phone and give me a call. I want all our members to be just as proud to be associated with TMHA as I am. I look forward to working with all of you.

- Clayton Fisk

---

### **TMHA Sets Date & Location for Annual Meeting**

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 24, at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Kissimmee, Florida. We'll meet from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., followed that evening by a group dinner event at one of the Gaylord's excellent restaurants on property.

We urge everyone to mark their calendar now and to plan to attend this, what promises to be a great and enjoyable event. Information regarding the details for meeting registration and room reservations will be sent to you in the very near future.

The TMHA team is working doubly hard this year to bring you the best possible slate of presenters for this meeting. We know that your time is valuable and that travel is expensive, so we want to bring you a program that will leave you with no doubt in your mind that you made the right decision when you decided to attend.

Stay tuned for more information and we'll plan to see YOU in sunny Florida on March 24!

## **Sponsors Asked to Help Support TMHA Activities**

It's that time of year when we need to reach out to our Allied Members to ask them for their financial support of the Association through their generous sponsorships. We've had some very supportive sponsors in the past which including 2017 Gold Sponsors, Great West Casualty Co. and HNI Truck Group and Bronze Sponsors, Hightower Advertising Agency and Omnitracs. Thank you again, 2017 sponsors!

This year we'll be revamping the sponsorship program a bit so those generous folks who go above and beyond to support TMHA through their sponsorships will receive more recognition and "bang for the buck" from their generous sponsorship dollars. We'll be reaching out soon to each of our Allied members to explain how this year's sponsorship program will work. We look forward to their generosity and continuing to work with them throughout the year.

---

## **Warren President Donnelly retires after 52 years at Warren**

After nearly fifty-two years of service to member carrier Warren Transport, Inc., Richard Donnelly has announced that he is retiring and has stepped down as president of the familiar farm and agricultural equipment hauler. Donnelly started with Warren in 1966 after earning a degree from the University of Northern Iowa. He worked his way up through the organization, always taking pride in being an "operations guy," but later also taking pride in and often telling Warren's independent truck operators that he's also a "safety guy" and that safety must always come first. Donnelly has been a champion of the independent contractor owner/operator and has always been admired and deeply respected by Warren's operators. Many company executives say they have an open-door policy, but Donnelly really meant it.

We want to thank Dick for his participation at TMHA meetings and for his avid support of the Association over many years. Dick's keen knowledge of the trucking industry, his insight, quick wit, and infectious laughter have always enriched any event that Dick has attended. Dick, we wish you and Debi the best of luck in retirement and we encourage you to stay in touch and to attend any TMHA meetings you can get to. You will always be welcome.

---

## **Schommer Named New Warren President**

Warren Transport, Inc. has announced James Schommer as new company President, effective January 8, 2018. Warren said Schommer has nearly thirty years of experience in the trucking industry, including over eighteen years in operations and customer service and more than twelve years of executive management. Prior to joining Warren, Schommer was with CRST and Heartland Express. Schommer has a bachelor's degree in Economics & Business Administration from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa.

Congratulations, James Schommer! We hope we'll see you at a TMHA meeting very soon. We look forward to meeting you.

---

## **A New Direction for the TMHA Newsletter**

While we at TMHA want to continue providing you with vital trucking industry news as it comes up, to the extent we are able, the board feels we can best serve our members by taking the newsletter in somewhat of a different direction. We want the "TMHA News & Views" to be a vehicle to be used by our members to get out news and information about their companies that they want to share with the rest of our members and with non-members to whom we provide the newsletter. If you have a big announcement you want to share, shoot it off to

[tmha@machineryhaulers.org](mailto:tmha@machineryhaulers.org) so we can help you get the word out. If your company has achieved a safety milestone, opened a new facility, or some other similar good news, let us know. Let's share good news with each other! If you've got some other ideas how the newsletter can better serve you and our other members, share them with us.

---

### **TMHA is now on Twitter!**

TMHA is now on Twitter @TMHAINC. Don't forget to follow us. The more followers we get, the more traction we'll get and that can help us attract more members and sponsors. Also, if you have anything you'd like us to tweet, be certain to email it to us and we'll get it out to all our followers too!

*"America's Premiere Specialized Open-deck Motor Carrier Trade Association"*