



## “NEWS & VIEWS”

A publication of The Machinery Haulers Association, Inc.

[tmha@machineryhaulers.org](mailto:tmha@machineryhaulers.org) [www.machineryhaulers.org](http://www.machineryhaulers.org) [@TMHAINC](https://twitter.com/TMHAINC)

### In this Edition ..... July 15, 2019

- **Only 9 Days until TMHA's 2019 Safety & Security Meeting!**
- **Meet TMHA's 2nd Vice Chairman**
- **Diamond Transportation System Driver Named a “Highway Angel”**
- **Reliance Partners Opens New Offices**
- **Still a Few Sponsor Slots Available**
- **Calendar of Upcoming Events and Board of Directors**

### **Only 9 Days until TMHA's 2019 Safety & Security Meeting!**

After waiting so long, the TMHA's annual summer Safety & Security meeting is only 9 days from today, scheduled for July 24 – 26!

Those of you who are registered, be watching your Inbox later this week for a list of meeting registrants as well as the schedule of events to help you plan your activities next week. Golfers, a special bulletin will be sent to you toward the end of the week specifying important details regarding the golf outing. Watch for those important emails.

If you have not registered yet, information and online registration are still available on our website at [www.machineryhaulers.org](http://www.machineryhaulers.org). You may still register for the meeting and we'd love to have you join us, but know that The Abbey Resort is full. You never know though, there could be last minute vacationer reservation cancellations. There are other fine accommodations in the area not terribly far from The Abbey as well.

You can still get in on the TMHA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual TMHA Invitational (you ARE invited!) Golf Classic (sponsored again by our great friends at Quality Trailer Sales) which will be held on the afternoon of Wednesday, July 24 at the Abbey Springs Golf Course. We do need to know by this Wednesday though if you want to play. Craftsmen Utility Trailer will again be providing the flag event prizes for the event. Whether you're a scratch golfer, or a duffer, this event's for you. Again, let us know by Wednesday that you want in so we can have the right number of tee times reserved!

Thursday morning, July 25, the meeting kicks off and we've got a line-up of speakers for you that is second to none.

**All-Star Panel Discussion** – “What Makes Us the Best”

**Mark Barlar** – Master Inspector with Wisconsin State Patrol. – Hot Button issues you need to know!

**Steve Bryan** – Exec VP & GM of SambaSafety - Don't know what IRT is? You need to hear this!

**David Heller** - VP of Government Affairs at TCA – Will give regulatory / legislative update

**Cary Kronebusch** – Sr. Product Manager at Peerless Industrial Group – Tie down & securement overview

**Jack Roberts** – Sr. Editor at HDT - Will discuss technology in trucking, specifically safety technology

**Jack Van Steenburg** – Chief Safety Officer & Acting Associate Administrator of FMCSA - Will fill us in on what's going on at the Administration

In addition to the information-packed speaker presentations, we'll also be honoring the winners of this year's TMHA Truck Fleet Safety Contest. There will be a new wrinkle this year that you'll like. The competition is great again with so many excellent submissions. Be there to see who wins.

Thanks to Platinum TMHA Sponsor, HNI Risk Services, we'll once again get to enjoy our very popular excursion boat cruise around beautiful Geneva Lake on Thursday evening, July 25. We don't know if we can duplicate last year's drop-dead gorgeous weather, but we've got our order in. In any case, this will be a rare opportunity to kick back, relax, and socialize with other members, sponsors, speakers, and guests over great drinks and light fare before dinner. Don't miss this event!

The fresh summer air and the relaxed atmosphere on the boat is sure to work up an appetite. After the boat cruise we'll be dining at The Abbey, giving us another opportunity to socialize with old friends and to meet new ones. You can count on good food too!

Be certain to come join us. We'd like to have at least one representative in attendance from every member and sponsor company. Is your company represented yet? Register today!

### **Meet TMHA's 2nd Vice Chairman**



In this, the third in a series, we'd like to let you know a little about our recently elected 2nd Vice Chairman, John German.

John's family has always had ties to the trucking industry with his great grandfather, grandfather, father, brother, sister and a niece, all driving trucks at one time or another. John takes great pride in that. In the photo, John is holding framed photos of his great-grandfather on the left, his dad on the right, and himself in the middle. His dad let him "take the wheel" at the age of 13 and he was hooked. He knew I wanted to get paid to travel the US and driving a truck was a great way to do it. John logged an impressive more than 1.5 million accident-free miles as an Owner Operator, before selling his truck, getting married, and getting off the road.

John's first stint in the office was as the Orientation Coordinator for Hill Bros Trucking (Omaha, NE), from 2004 to 2006. In 2006, John went to Hunt Transportation as their Brokerage Manager. Two years later, a position opened in Sales and he's been in Sales ever since. John says he'll have thirteen great years in this October, and he doesn't plan on going anywhere else. "This has been a great company to work for," said German.

John and his wife, Laurie, have two sons, Henry (18) and Wes (13). They love to travel (21 countries, so far) and SCUBA dive whenever they can. John said, "We're always up for an adventure. We've paraglided off the highest mountain in Germany and we've conquered one of the toughest hikes in the world...the 4-day hike on the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, Peru. The crazier it sounds, the more intrigued we are to try it! We plan to semi-retire in 4-5 years and travel the world together."

John's a valued member of our Board and we're glad to have him as our 2nd Vice Chairman here at TMHA. When at the July meeting, be sure to take time to visit with him and Laurie there.

### **Diamond Transportation System Driver Named a "Highway Angel"**



Doron "D" Doravi of Phoenix, AZ, a professional truck driver owner/operator with Diamond Transportation System of Racine, WI has been named a Highway Angel by the Truckload Carriers Association. He is being recognized for his willingness to stop and rescue a fellow truck driver after a rollover accident.

On May 3, Doravi was hauling a load from North Dakota to Texas, southbound on Hwy. 81, near York, NE when he noticed something in the northbound lanes. It took a moment to register what he was seeing: An overturned tractor-trailer lying on the cab's passenger side, stretched across the two northbound lanes and the grass center median. Part of the trailer's roof was sheared open and its contents, salt blocks used for livestock, had spilled out on the pavement.

Doravi pulled to the shoulder and ran over to help. A driver of a flatbed truck had stopped just ahead of him to assist. As Doravi looked around the rolled-over tractor-trailer, he noticed fluid leaking from the truck and asked the flatbed driver to get his fire extinguisher. Another motorist was calling 911 as the first driver then helped Doravi climb up the driver's side of the overturned cab. The driver was alert, talking, and didn't indicate any injuries or any passengers with him, but he was badly shaken. He was still strapped into his seatbelt and couldn't reach to unhook it. Doravi used a knife to cut the seatbelt. He and the other driver helped pull the man out of the cab. A short while later, emergency services arrived securing the accident scene.

"This is something to learn from," Doravi says. "I don't know what happened (that day). But if you're carrying a heavy load you go slower. If you're tired you need to find a safe spot to take a nap."

Doravi is a former reserve fire fighter and EMT and is in the habit of carrying a knife which can be used in an emergency to cut a seatbelt or to cut clothing to check for injuries. He also carries a backpack with medical supplies. "You don't know what you're gonna find out on the road," he says.

Highway Angels are nominated by their employers, fellow professional truck drivers, or the motorists they've assisted. Once nominated, TCA investigates and verifies the details involved before recognizing the driver as a Highway Angel.

Congratulations to "D" Doravi and to Diamond Transportation System on this well-deserved recognition.

### **Reliance Partners Opens New Offices**

Last month, TMHA Allied member, Reliance Partners, a leading commercial insurance agency focused on transportation and logistics, expanded its operations in several locations across the U.S. The new offices

located in Milwaukee, WI; Birmingham, AL; and Sacramento, CA will join existing locations in Austin, TX; Chicago, IL; Vero Beach, FL; Victoria, TX; and Chattanooga, TN.



John Seidl

Reliance strategically selected the new Milwaukee location to accommodate the increase in market demands in one of the most valuable trade corridors in the nation. Through its office in Milwaukee, Reliance will have the ability to satisfy the risk management needs of a region that transports over 30 million tons of goods, worth over \$2.4 billion, according to a recent Brookings publication. John Seidl, Vice President of Risk Services, will lead of the new location. A native of Racine, Seidl was formerly a state patrol trooper/ inspector in the Racine and Kenosha area, an investigator for the federal government and later a HAZMAT agent with the Federal Aviation Administration in Chicago and Milwaukee.

The new expansion in the Magic City (AL) nearly quadruples the office footprint in the area, and positions Reliance to leverage the area’s strong talent with an aim to expand its insurance, client support and data technology departments, as well as service current and future markets. Eddie Claridy will continue to lead the Birmingham location. He joined Reliance in early 2016 when he was charged with leading the company’s first branch.

Expanding operations into California. Acquisition in the Sacramento market. The combination is a company first on the West Coast and further bolsters Reliance’s position as a tech-enabled, high-growth industry leader for the transportation and logistics space. David Hicks, formerly of CTS, will lead the new office in Sacramento. Hick’s key market access and transportation focus together with Reliance’s scale, risk management support, and dedicated 3PL expertise strengthens the company’s position as a top-10 insurance agency and extends an innovative, full-service insurance agency offering for the freight marketplace.



Chad Eichelberger

In summary, Reliance Partners President Chad Eichelberger said, “We are focused on pioneering the industry standard and we’re bringing next generation, data-driven solutions to our customers. As an industry leader in the 3PL and trucking insurance space, we recognize the value of collaboration among other industry leaders in developing solutions that will benefit the entire industry in the years ahead.”

For more information, please visit: [www.reliancepartners.com](http://www.reliancepartners.com)

### **Still a Few Sponsor Slots Available**

Sponsoring TMHA events gives the sponsoring company the opportunity to get their company out in front of TMHA’s members. We believe in recognizing our sponsors, and their names and logos will be prominently displayed at the event and in various ways over the ensuing twelve months.

This year’s Safety & Security meeting sponsors, thus far, are **HNI Risk Services** (boat cruise & safety awards program), **Quality Trailers** (golf outing), **EFS, Inc.** (meeting booklet), **Hunt Transportation** (Thursday breakfast), **Omnitracs** (Thursday luncheon), and **Craftsmen Trailers** (flag event prizes). TMHA thanks these generous sponsors.

We’ve still got several sponsorship slots available for the upcoming Safety & Security meeting and we’d be happy to discuss the opportunities with you. *We’d especially like someone to take the opportunity to sponsor Social Hour between the boat cruise and dinner.* Shoot us an email or give us a call if you’d like to explore these opportunities. Thank you.

## **Calendar of Upcoming 2019 Events**

**July 24 – 26, 2019**

**TMHA Safety & Security Meeting  
Excursion Boat Cruise around Geneva Lake  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual TMHA Invitational Golf Classic  
The Abbey Resort @ Fontana-on-Geneva Lake, WI**

**December 4 & 5, 2019**

**TMHA Regulatory, Economic & Political Symposium  
Jumers's Casino & Hotel @ Rock Island, IL**

**February 28 & 29, 2020**

**TMHA 2020 Annual Meeting  
Gaylord Resort & Convention Center @ Kissimmee, FL**



**We look forward to seeing you at the summer Safety & Security Meeting at the beautiful Abbey Resort in Fontana-on-the-Lake, WI on the shores of famous blue water Geneva Lake. In addition to the must-attend, informative meeting, join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual TMHA Invitational Golf Tourney (sponsored by Quality Trailer Sales), the always popular boat excursion around the Lake (sponsored by HNI Risk Services), and a delicious Social/Dinner Event.**

To discontinue receiving TMHA mailings, e-mail [tmha@machineryhaulers.org](mailto:tmha@machineryhaulers.org) with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

## **TMHA Board of Directors & Officers**

### **Chairman**

**Heather Johnson**  
*Landstar Transportation  
Logistics*

### **First Vice Chairman**

**Lance Votroubek**  
*Warren Transport, Inc.*

### **Second Vice Chairman**

**John German**  
*Hunt Transportation, Inc.*

### **Treasurer**

**Jon Coca**  
*Diamond Transportation  
System, Inc.*

### **Immediate Past Chairman**

**Dave Gallano**  
*Gallano Trucking, Inc.*

### **Directors at Large**

**Randy Amhof**  
*Amhof Trucking, Inc.*

### **Wayne Hilburn**

*Hilburn Trucking, Inc.*

### **The Machinery Haulers Association, Inc.**

**Clayton Fisk - President**  
*P.O. Box 338  
Dysart, Iowa 52224*

*Phone: (319) 214-7323*



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

*Follow us - Twitter  
@TMHAINC*