



“TMHA News & Views”

February 2024

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2024 Annual Meeting & Management Conference Less than 2 Months Away!

TMHA’s 2024 Annual Meeting and Management Conference begins less than two months from now in Scottsdale, Arizona at the Scottsdale Marriott Old Town Suites Hotel April 14-16, 2024! As always, we’ve got an excellent meeting lined up for you that we know you are going to enjoy. Do not miss this meeting event.

In addition to timely and informative speaker presentations, we’ll have a strong turn-out with great opportunities to network with your peers and to make new acquaintances; enjoyable social opportunities and great meals; and an attractive and comfortable venue. In addition to the meals provided during the meetings, you will be able to enjoy two evening receptions and a delicious evening dinner event.

We’re pleased to once again bring you a strong line-up of speakers to bring you up-to-date and insightful information on topics that we know are important to you and which will be of great interest.

Rachelle Baker, Director of Culture & Driver Services – Searcy Trucking, Ltd.

Tony Bradley, President & CEO – Arizona Trucking Association

David Heller, Sr. VP of Safety & Government Affairs – Truckload Carriers Association

Prof. Jason Miller, Interim Chairperson, Eli Broad Professor of Supply Chain Management –
Michigan State University

Henry E. Seaton, Esq., Partner – Seaton & Husk, L.P.

Click [HERE](#) to see an overview Conference schedule, to Register for the conference, and to reserve your Hotel Room. We will plan to see YOU in Scottsdale April 14-16!



TMHA Thanks Its Generous Conference Sponsors

Our organization is blessed to have the best and most generous members anywhere. We want to take just a moment to thank those companies who are sponsoring the upcoming 2024 TMHA [Annual Meeting & Management Conference](#) April 14-16 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Sunday evening Welcome Reception: **Roberts Perryman P.C.**
Monday Breakfast: **Brown & Brown Insurance**
Monday AM Break: **Landstar Transportation Logistics, Inc.**
Monday PM Break: **ProMiles Software Development Corporation**
Monday evening Cocktail Hour: **XL Specialized Trailers, Inc.**
Monday evening Dinner: **XL Specialized Trailers, Inc.**
Electronic Meeting Booklet: **West Chester Permit LLC**

We also want to thank **Great West Casualty Company** for renewing their GOLD Sponsorship of TMHA!

We have a few remaining sponsorship opportunities for TMHA Scottsdale 2024. If you are interested in a sponsorship and would like more information, please contact us at tmha@machineryhaulers.org

Searcy Trucking Ltd. Honors Key Personnel



Searcy Trucking, Ltd. recently honored company president, **Norm Blagden**, by presenting him with a Searcy 10-year Service Award in recognition of his decade-long commitment and contribution to the company. During Blagden's tenure with the company, he has consistently demonstrated and exemplified dedication, hard work, and valuable expertise, making significant contributions to the organization's success. Searcy Trucking is lucky to have a leader like Norm as their guiding star. (Photo: Ron Lotocki, Vice President Finance and Administration; Norm Blagden, President; Howie Hildebrand, Vice President Operations.)

In addition, **Rachelle Baker**, Searcy's Director of Culture & Driver Services, was honored with the Gerry Searcy Leadership award for her outstanding leadership qualities and exceptional contributions to the team. Rachelle has exhibited exemplary leadership skills, inspiring and guiding her colleagues to achieve their best while driving positive change within the organization. (Photo: Hildebrand, Blagden, Rachelle Baker, Lotocki)



TMHA is fortunate that Norm is willing to share Rachelle's knowledge and expertise with us at the upcoming Annual Meeting & Management Conference in Scottsdale when Rachelle will help us understand how to market using social media.

TMHA congratulates Norm and Rachelle on these fine achievement awards.

XL Specialized Trailers Named Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce's "Business of the Year"

Heavy Haul Industry Leader Proud of Prestigious Honor, Grateful for Manchester Community



MANCHESTER, Iowa (January 31, 2024) — XL Specialized Trailers, a market-leading manufacturer of heavy haul and specialized trailers, has been named the 2023 Business of the Year by the Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce (Iowa).

Over 29 years, the manufacturing company has grown into a leader in the heavy haul industry. XL specializes in several industries, including agriculture, construction, oil and gas, and wind energy. Produced in Iowa, XL's highly engineered and customized trailers are sold and distributed nationwide.

"It's wonderful to receive this award because it's been such a journey at XL and the employees there have gone through a lot. I couldn't be prouder of our team," said Stuart Sleper, XL's President and CEO. "I think that the best is yet to come for our company and also Manchester. We're going to grow together, and we're excited to be a partner with the community."

XL proudly employs hundreds of local workers at their Manchester, Iowa, facility — which completed its first phase of an expansion in 2023 in the form of a 50,000-square-foot addition. The company also stays involved in the Manchester community in the form of events and donations.

"Being a community partner was something that we wanted to include in our mission statement several years ago," Sleper said. "Our team members have participated and volunteered and served on committees that have donated money to community events and it's been great to be a part of that and watch that happen."

For more information, visit www.xlspecializedtrailer.com.

Landstar Breaks Ground on New Facility in Crawfordsville, Indiana



Jacksonville, Fla. (Jan. 19, 2024) - Landstar System, Inc. (NASDAQ:LSTR), a technology-enabled, asset-light provider of integrated transportation management solutions delivering safe,

specialized transportation services, has announced the groundbreaking of its new field operations center in Crawfordsville, Indiana.



The center is being built on a 14-acre site west of Interstate 74 in Crawfordsville with Landstar's nearly 10,000 independent leased owner-operators in mind. The new 7,000 square foot building will include classrooms, a conference room and several convenient amenities for owner-operators leased to a Landstar motor carrier, such as a business center with free Wi-Fi, laundry facilities, showers and a breakroom.

"Landstar maintains facilities focused on its leased owner-operators across the United States and in Canada," said Rocco Davanzo, Landstar Transportation Logistics executive vice president of capacity development. "They serve as domicile locations and designated places for Landstar

independent owner-operators to connect and network with each other, and to participate in continuous professional education to keep their businesses running smoothly.”

The Crawfordsville location is convenient for Landstar owner-operators headed to or from Indianapolis, and it has easy truck access from the main road. Landstar owner-operators who visit the new center also will have access to the facility’s secured parking lot, which has spaces for more than 100 trucks and 70 additional passenger vehicles.

Richard Minotti to serve as XL Specialized Trailers’ Canadian Sales Manager



MANCHESTER, Iowa (February 16, 2024) – XL Specialized Trailers, a market-leading manufacturer of heavy haul and specialized trailers, is excited to announce the appointment of Richard Minotti as their new Regional Sales Manager for Canada. Minotti’s comprehensive background in heavy haul trailer sales will continue to propel the company forward, specializing in the Canadian market.

Minotti has served an integral role in sales within the heavy haul industry for 14 years. Since 2013, he has worked for Trail King Industries as a District Sales Manager. Throughout Eastern Canada, he has developed, maintained, and supported a dealer network, while expanding a market presence.

In his new role at XL, Minotti will grow the company’s presence in Canada, expanding and supporting a robust network of dealers. Minotti’s expertise will be key in capturing new accounts and business opportunities. He will also adapt product offerings based on the different legal and cultural requirements for each province in the Canadian market, helping broaden XL’s product portfolio.

Minotti holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Concordia University and a certificate in strategic business planning from the Business Development Bank of Canada. He has also performed technical studies in electronics and robotics through IST Montreal.

“I’m really looking forward to working with a dynamic and tight-knit management team that promotes transparency and communication while fully engaging in the development of the Canadian market,” Minotti said.

Shane Michelson, XL’s Director of Sales, sees a great opportunity with Minotti joining the team. “Although XL Specialized Trailers is one of the most respected specialized trailer manufacturers in the United States, XL’s market presence and notoriety in Canada has room to grow,” said Michelson. “Our plan is to strengthen our position in this territory by offering tailored transport solutions with the best dealer network in the country.” Minotti resides in Sainte-Adele, Quebec, in the Laurentian Mountains north of Montreal with his wife, Valerie, son, Anthony and daughter, Bianca. He enjoys traveling, hiking and mountain biking.

Our Editor Needs Your Interesting & Informational Articles

We’re always looking for good articles to run in “TMHA News & Views.” What’s a good article? Articles about things going on at your company that you’d like to share with your fellow TMHA members are always great. Articles that contain information and insights that may be of benefit to our members, both Motor Carrier and Allied, are great too. Remember, photos always spice up an article and give the newsletter extra interest and color. Don’t worry about deadlines, etc. Whenever you have an article, fire it off to us and we’ll get it in the next issue of “TMHA News & Views.”

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