State News

Sumter Judge wins SC Supreme Court Post
Judge George “Buck” James, 56, of Sumter, became South Carolina’s newest Supreme Court justice last week. James was elected by acclamation Wednesday in a joint session of the Legislature. His opponent Diane Goodstein dropped out of the race prior to Wednesday’s vote in acknowledgement that James, who has been a judge 11 years, had already gathered a decided majority of firm commitments. The business community is happy to welcome Justice James.

Public Meeting February 9 in Jasper County Concerning Proposed I-95 Safety Improvements
The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has scheduled a public information meeting Thursday, Feb. 9, 2017, in Jasper County concerning proposed safety improvements along a portion of Interstate 95. The meeting will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Ridgeland Baptist Church, 1448 Grays Highway, Ridgeland. More information is available on SCDOT’s website.

Federal News

Trump Administration Issues Executive Order On Regulations
On Jan. 30, 2017, the Trump administration issued an executive order requiring federal agencies to repeal two regulations for each new one they propose. The order also imposes a regulatory budget in FY 2018 that limits the regulatory costs agencies can impose on individuals and businesses each year. One rule that may be affected by the executive order is FMCSA’s proposed rule on speed limiters.

FMCSA Delays Rule for New CMV Drivers
On Feb. 1, 2017, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) published a notice delaying the effective date for a final rule creating minimum entry-level driver training standards. The final rule falls within the 60-day window of the presidential memorandum placing a regulatory freeze on rules that have been
published in the Federal Register but had not yet taken effect. The effective date of the rule is delayed until March 21, 2017.

**Chao Confirmed as DOT Secretary**  
The Senate has confirmed Elaine Chao as the next Secretary of Transportation. With broad bipartisan support, the Senate voted 93-6 to confirm President Trump’s nominee to head the Department of Transportation.

Following Chao’s confirmation, ATA President & CEO Chris Spear congratulated the Secretary, noting that “Secretary Chao has a long and distinguished track record, from her time as Secretary of Labor where I got to know her best and her service as Deputy Transportation Secretary as well as with the United Way and Peace Corps.” Spear also stated that “wherever she has gone, Secretary Chao has demonstrated the kind of leadership and vision we need to address our nation’s pressing transportation issues and we look forward to quickly getting to work with her.”

**ATA Signs onto Infrastructure Funding Letters**  
ATA signed onto two coalition letters addressing infrastructure funding. The first coalition letter was sent to President Trump from a broad coalition representing a vast cross section of our economy, stressed the need for the new Administration’s commitment to strengthening our nation’s economy and improving America’s competitiveness through significant investment in our nation’s infrastructure.

The second letter, sent by the Alliance for Toll Free Interstates (ATFI) to the House T&I Committee in advance of the committee’s first hearing, urged the panel to reject tolling of existing interstates as a financing method as lawmakers work on an infrastructure package in the coming months. The letter further stressed that ATFI members have serious reservations about the potential for over-reliance on private investment to fund improvements to our highway infrastructure; such scenarios invariably lead to functional monopolies that subject users to exorbitant, regressive tolling rates.

**SCTA Safety Awards Contests Now Open for Entries**

The entry forms included are for the South Carolina Truck Safety, Industrial Safety, and the SC Safety Professional of the Year. The deadline for submitting entries to SCTA is March 1, 2017. The Safety Awards Banquet will be held on March 30. Click here to download your submission forms!

**Industry News**

**ATRI Updates Online Idling Regulations Compendium**  
The American Transportation Research Institute continues to update and maintain a listing of state and local idling regulations on its website, www.atri-online.org. Two new idling regulations were added to the compendium in this latest update. The listing is provided in two forms, an online compendium which provides detailed information and Internet links to each of the 60 state and local regulations which have been identified; and a cab card which provides a consolidated listing of the state and local limits, the cab card is designed to be downloaded and carried in the glove box of a truck. ATRI provides the compendium and cab card as a free service to help trucking companies and truck drivers comply with the myriad of state and local idling regulations.
Trucking Gives!
ATA has commissioned the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) to survey the industry to quantify how much trucking gives to charity each year, and to identify what types of charities the industry supports. This will help ATA identify - through a newly established industry foundation - the top charities that best reflect our industry's charitable giving priorities.

Please take a few minutes to complete the confidential survey below to add your charitable giving to the trucking industry’s total for 2016. ATA is collecting not just corporate giving of the industry, but also individual giving, so please encourage your employees to also participate. Click here to take the Survey.

Other States’ News
GA: New I-75 Express Lanes NOT for Trucks
There has been a lot of press recently about Georgia DOT (GDOT) and its plan to create special "truck only" express lanes south of Atlanta. There are new express lanes open south of Atlanta. The desire to connect the two seems obvious. But it is wrong. The express lanes recently opened are not the truck lanes being discussed -- in fact, trucks are banned!

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) have asked GMTA to pass along this important information to all commercial truck drivers who travel along GA interstates.

On January 28 Georgia opened the new I-75 South Metro Express Lanes, 12 miles of new construction, reversible toll lanes along I-75 in Henry and Clayton Counties just south of Atlanta. Along with the existing I-85 Express Lanes north of Atlanta, the state now has two toll road systems, with more under construction. GDOT and SRTA would like to make sure all commercial drivers are aware that no vehicles or trucks equipped with more than two (2) axles or six (6) wheels are allowed in the Georgia Express Lanes.

This includes semi-trucks, motor coaches, and tractor-trailers, all of which are prohibited from using the Georgia Express Lanes. This rule may be different from rules regarding use of toll roads in other states, so please be aware when driving on Georgia’s interstates. Please contact GDOT or SRTA if you have any questions.

Your Input Is Needed to Help Develop and Recruit Our Next Generation's Workforce
The Richland County Career & Technology Education (CATE) program is currently working to develop trucking industry specific curriculum for students; however, they need input from our members regarding the types of skills and knowledge necessary to gain employment in the industry.

Please take a moment to take this very short 5 question survey to better assess the needs of the industry.
$7.50

Clear the Shelf Sale on these Hazmat Handbooks!
This Complete Guide for CMV Drivers provides a vital on-the-road reference for truck drivers involved in hazmat transportation. SCTA currently has 14 in stock. Please contact Sarah Burch if you are interested in purchasing!

Optional Public Affairs/Advocacy Contribution for 2017
“NOT TRUCKPAC”

You will notice a new line item on your 2017 dues invoice. This is for an optional contribution to support SCTA’s public affairs, image, advocacy, and outreach efforts in 2017. We ask that you go above and beyond your dues so SCTA can go above and beyond general member services. (This contribution does not go to TruckPAC.)

We plan to increase our overall advocacy efforts in the promotion of “Trucking” in 2017 including education & outreach initiatives to cultivate a new generation of truck drivers and technicians. Your additional support will not only help us with this new endeavor, but it will also help us maintain the professional staff necessary to carry out our mission; Foster relationships with elected officials/state government agencies and keep them abreast of our issues and positions; Cultivate Grassroots; and maintain memberships and support other coalitions and organizations that helps us develop unified alliances.

We look forward to serving you in 2017 and appreciate your continued investment in SCTA.

TruckLine
Trucking: It’s Everybody’s Business
Truckline is SCTA’s monthly newsletter that is distributed to members of the General Assembly. Click here to read the latest edition.