## 2016

## Special 80th Anniversary Commemorative Issue



#### TRAILWAYS 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

#### **INSIDE:**

- CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE
- EVA HOTARD: NEW TRAILWAYS PRESIDENT & CEO
- NC'S ROSE TRAILWAYS JOINS BRAND
- TRAILWAYS CELEBRATIONS: 80 YEARS STRONG
- FLEET SAFETY, DRIVER & SPIRIT AWARD WINNERS
- NEW SAFETY PARTNERSHIP WITH CSS-DYNAMAC
- PROGRAM NEWS: BUSINESS COUNCIL, STRATEGIC PLAN, INTERNATIONAL
- BOARD LIST & NEWS
- ROSTERS—MEMBERS & AFFILIATED PARTNERS
- 2017 CONFERENCE GOES WEST
- AND MORE...



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### **Dear Colleagues, Affiliates and Friends;**



Ron Moore Trailways Chairman

s of May 16th, two well-known names in the passenger transportation industry—Hotard and Trailways—have come together as Eva M. Hotard takes the helm as president and chief executive officer of Trailways. Read about her vision and plans herein and please welcome her to the Trailways family! She will be traveling to many state bus association meetings and trade shows over the summer and fall.

Ms. Hotard succeeds Gale C. Ellsworth, who is retiring after serving nearly two decades as president/CEO. Gale did an excellent job. Looking forward, Eva ran a very successful bus company and has a wonderful reputation as a talented business leader. We selected her because of her experience and her leadership skills. Like Gale, Eva is also passionate about the industry!

As you are no doubt aware, 2016 is the 80th anniversary of Trailways! We kicked off this special milestone at our annual meeting this past February at the Westin Cape Coral in Florida. Inside this issue you'll be able to remember it through all the photographs. It was a wonderful event. Please note that the 80th anniversary logo is available for you to use on your website.

As a look back, Trailways was founded in Chicago in 1936. Trailways—and the bus industry overall—has come a LONG way over the last 80 years! I want to personally thank each and every one of you for being a part of Trailways. We all play a part in keeping our legacy alive.

Sincerely, Ron

### Ron Moore

Burlington Trailways (IA) Trailways Chairman

appy Trailways 80th anniversary! 2016 is our anniversary year. Please add the special logo to your website and other marketing tools. Thank you!



Also, please help promote the Trailways brand overall. On YOUR website, please add a link to the brand website http://www.trailways.com. (The brand web page links to your company now with a direct link as well)

WINNING 80th LOGO DESIGNED BY MCI. THANK YOU! Thank you to all the companies for participating in the contest.

#### Table of Contents

Chairman's Greeting: Dear Colleagues, Affiliates and Friends	1
Message from the President & CEO, Eva Hotard	2
Trailways Promotes to Group Market	2
Rose Transportation Joins Trailways Global Brand	4
2015 "Outstanding Driver of the Year" Award	6
Trailways 80th Meeting Photo Overview and Roll Call	8
Trailways 80th Celebrations	10
Trailways Conference Business Networking	11
2015 Spirit Awards	12
Trailways Announces Safety Partnership with CSS-Dynamac	16
Fleet Service Safety Awards	18
Trailways' New Business Council	20
Trailways Strategic Plan Update: 2016 – 2018	21
Trailways Calendar Notes	21
International Trailways News	22
Conversation with Trailways' New President/CEO Eva Hotard	26
Trailways Board New Members	30
Trailways Board of Directors and Advisors	31
Trailways Transportation System	32
Trailways Affiliated Partners	34
Trailways 2017 Annual Meeting Agenda	36

### **Trailways**

The Trailways Transportation System (Trailways), founded in 1936, is comprised of 65+ independently owned or operated motorcoach companies based throughout North America and Europe. Each company adheres to the highest safety standards as required by the United States Department of Defense (DOD) or its country's equivalent.

Published annually by the Trailways Transportation System for its Member Companies.

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www.Trailways.com









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## Trailways® Appoints New President/CEO Transportation Industry Leader Eva Hotard

In May of this year, 2016, two well-known names in the passenger transportation industry—Hotard and Trailways—came together as Eva M. Hotard took the helm as president and chief executive officer of Trailways. Ms. Hotard succeeds Gale C. Ellsworth, who is retiring after serving nearly two decades as the organization's president/CEO.



Eva Hotard Trailways President and CEO

## I am so thrilled to be your new president & CEO. It is truly an honor and I'm very excited to be on board.

I believe that the 80-year-old Trailways brand is very powerful. It's a tremendous strength. So, building on the brand and leveraging resources are what I want to concentrate on. A strong brand helps everyone on the Trailways Team.

Safety will be a critical area of my focus for Trailways. I have a passion about safety! My goal is to position Trailways as this industry's leader in safety.

I also believe in combining an emphasis on safety with driver management. At Trailways, I anticipate implementing elements of an online, modular, computer-based learning program for drivers. I have been collaborating with the Alliance Safety Council to introduce the program to the motorcoach industry to improve driver performance and to support company owners in risk mitigation.

Corporate cultures that embrace learning and growing always end-up leading the pack. So, raising the standard of performance to become the model of great service to customers will be a top priority; and being able to work with companies in the industry that I grew up with is very exciting to me.

Eva Hotard

**Trailways President and CEO** 

(Read the full interview with Eva Hotard on page 26)

## **Trailways Promotes to Group Market**

International Pow Wow (IPW) to market the brand to charter groups. This year, IPW was held in New Orleans in mid-June (20-22) and Trailways was prominently featured with a double booth. All Trailways companies are invited to attend IPW and other trade shows on a cost-share basis. Three prominent Trailways companies attended and all secured new clients from the event: Fullington Trailways (PA), VIA Trailways (AZ/CA) and Burlington Trailways (IO). Meeting with a prospective international charter client are Fullington Trailways, Mike Dull (PA), front right; VIA Trailways, Denise Demery (left), (AZ/CA) and Burlington Trailways, Randy Kester, (IO), second right.





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## Rose Transportation Joins Trailways Global Brand

his spring, Trailways welcomed Charlotte-based Rose Chauffeured Transportation (Rose Trailways) as its newest team member and its only operator in the state of North Carolina. The addition of Rose Trailways brings the number of companies in the Trailways brand to 65 as of press time.



Rose Trailways (from left) Vice President Andy Thompson, Human Resources Director Toni Martin, and President HA Thompson

#### **About Rose Trailways**

Rose was founded in 1985 by the Thompson family as a limousine company. It started with only three employees, specializing in transportation for weddings. Since then, Rose Trailways has grown to over 100 employees and a fleet of 50 vehicles that includes full-size motorcoaches, minibuses, vans, SUVs and sedans. The company's major service markets now include corporations, schools and professional sports teams.

"We've gone from being a Rolls limousine company in the 80's that specialized in weddings to a full-service provider with an array of vehicle services for our varied customer base," said Tom Holden general manager. "We still do personal events but they are no longer exclusive in our operations." Holden said Rose's Team Trailways affiliation joins two important brands in the motorcoach industry.

Rose has been a leading ground transportation provider in the Carolinas and "We are most pleased to add this Carolina star to our team..."

— Ron Moore, Trailways Chairman and President of Burlington Trailways

ranks regularly among the South's top 100 small businesses.

## Trailways Makes Great Business Sense for Us

"Trailways is a brand with 80 years of success behind it, and Rose is a leading brand in the Carolinas with recognition as one of the South's top 100 small businesses and 31 years in the business," Holden said. "We are the largest in our region, so it made great business sense to bring these two powerful brands together with this partnership.

"We believe Team Trailways can assist us in expanding business outside our region," Holden continued, "and we think we have expertise we'd like to contribute to the team. A long and productive relationship is what we want; the kind that has brought Trailways its unique reputation. We're ready to be actively involved; we know this will happen because Trailways is a comradeship of operators who have worked well together for eight decades."

"We are most pleased to add this Carolina star to our team," said Ron Moore, Trailways chairman and president of Burlington Trailways of IA. "The company's 30-plus years of award-winning operating experience in the transportation industry and impressive fleet of vehicles will enhance our ability to serve customers from an important region on the east coast."



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## Coach Drivers' Exemplary Skills & Service Recognized: 2015 "Outstanding Driver of the Year" Award

railways revealed the names of two motorcoach drivers who were awarded Trailways' 2015
Outstanding Driver of the Year Award. The two were selected in recognition of their exemplary safe-driving skills and dedication to customer service. The two recipients are among approximately 3,000 full-time drivers in the Trailways Network. *The award was sponsored by Lancer Insurance.* 

"The award is a great way to recognize two of our best drivers. We're very proud of them. Both have achieved a terrific accomplishment in their careers," said Eugene (Gene) Berardi, Jr., president/CEO of Adirondack, New York & Pine Hill Trailways, based in Hurley, New York.

The two recipients were honored, in-person, at the 80th Annual Trailways Members Meeting and Conference this past February in Cape Coral, Florida. Both recipients received a standing ovation when accepting their award.

continued on page 14



Adirondack, New York & Pine Hill Trailways award-winning bus and coach drivers (center) gather before the 2016 awards ceremony with Eugene (Gene) Berardi, Jr., president/CEO (in red tie) and spouses/guests. The Trailways 2015 Outstanding Driver of the Year for the Scheduled Route Division is Wesley Wohl of Adirondack Trailways of New York (in uniform with cap). The Trailways 2015 Outstanding Driver of the Year in the Charter & Tour Division is Aaron Schwartz of Pine Hill Trailways of New York (right, in uniform).

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— David Benedict, President, David Thomas Trailways

— Protective

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## **TRAILWAYS CELEBRATIONS:**



## 80 Years Strong (1936-2016)

## **Trailways 80th Anniversary Meeting**

Thank you for attending and showing your strong commitment to the Trailways brand!



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**Adirondack Trailways** 

**Amador Trailways of California** 

Amador Trailways of Nevada

**Arrow Trailways of Texas** 

Birnie Trailways

**Burlington Trailways** 

Capital Trailways of Alabama

Capital Trailways of Georgia

7

Capital Trailways of Huntsville

Coastal Georgia Trailways

**Colonial Trailways** 

**David Thomas Trailways** 

Dean Trailways of Michigan

Elbo Trailways of the Netherlands

**Excursions Trailways of Indianna** 

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Kobussen Trailways of

West Wisconsin

**Martz Trailways** 

**Mlaker Trailways** 

**National Coach Trailways** 

**New York Trailways** 

NorthEast Trailways of Maine

**Orange Belt Trailways** 

Pacific Coachways Trailways

Pine Hill Trailways

**Prairie Trailways** 

Prairie Coach Trailways of

North Dakota

**Precious Cargo Trailways** 

Salter Trailways

**Sun Travel Trailways** 

Susquehanna Trailways

Thrasher Brothers Trailways

**Utah Trailways** 

VIA Trailways of Arizona

VIA Trailways of California

West Point Trailways

(List of attending companies as of February 2016)

## Trailways 2016 Annual Meeting: 80 Years of Success

80th Anniversary Meeting held February 22-23, 2016 in Cape Coral/Ft. Myers, Florida

he 2016 Trailways Annual Meeting & Conference, held this past winter, included 80th anniversary celebrations and two action-packed days of learning, discussion and networking. The agenda featured outstanding speakers and guests. Thank you to all Trailways company owners; the many industry and government representatives, and our sponsors and affiliated partners who made it a success. In this issue, enjoy many photographs of the anniversary events and meetings.



#### For the detailed session recaps and speaker presentations, please view the Team Trailways news portal including:

- American Bus Association—Suzanne Rohde, Rules & Regulations Updates
- Transportation Safety Administration—David Cooper
- What Affects Passenger Travel: Current Trends & Future Perspectives—Dr. Giovanni Circella
- GoMotoroach News/Motorcoach Marketing Council
   —Chris Riddell
- Customer Service & Driver Professionalism— Alliance Safety Council
- Best Practices in Employment and Retention
   —CareerCorp
- Regional Meetings—East, West & Central

- 80th Anniversary Greeting—Ron Moore, Trailways Board Chair
- Annual Business Meeting
- Legislative Updates—Ken Presley, United Motorcoach Association
- Trailways Strategic Marketing Council 2016-2018 Updated Plan
- Trailways "Spirit" Awards & Eight Decades of Trailways Luncheon
- Trailways Fleet Safety Awards for 2015 Dinner Gala
- Outstanding Trailways Driver of the Year Awards
   —Adirondack & Pine Hill Trailways

## Strailways 1936 - 2016

# Trailways Conference is No. 1 for Business Networking

hroughout the Trailways annual conference, there are countless opportunities for networking between Trailways bus company owners and affiliated partners and sponsors. Trailways has approximately 100 affiliated partners in the organization. With their support, many Trailways programs and business opportunities are made possible. Thank you!













## **Trailways 80th Anniversary Spirit Awards**

### Sponsored by Bridgestone USA













- 1. A new Generation—Matt Mlaker, Mlaker Trailways, Pennsylvania
- 2. Outstanding Affiliated Partner—Bob Crescenzo, Lancer Insurance
- 3. Outstanding Volunteer Trailways Member—Jonathan Berzas, Fullington Trailways
- 4. Outstanding Community Achievement— J. Alan Thrasher, Thrasher Trailways, Alabama
- 5. Special Trailways Appreciation—Larry Plachno, Editor, *National Bus Trader* (Accepted by Gale Ellsworth, Trailways)
- 6. Most Team Spirit (Charter & Tour Division)—Martyn Besselsen, Elbo Trailways, the Netherlandsontinued on page 29









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## **Trailways: Outstanding Driver of the Year Recipients**

(continued from page 6)

#### **Highest Achievement by Trailways**

The award is the highest driver-appreciation recognition bestowed by Trailways. These awards are intended to honor individuals who have exemplified the highest level of professionalism and safety as employees of Team Trailways.

#### Who is Nominated?

Drivers must be nominated by their company. He or she can have no absentee or late-to-work notices on-file during the calendar year.

Trailways Safety-Security Committee determines all driver candidacies based on the most deserving. Drivers must reflect the ideals and standards adhered to by the Trailways Transportation System.

## Trailways Outstanding Driver of the Year in the Charter & Tour Category

aron Schwartz has been a driver at Pine Hill Trailways for nearly nine years. During that time, he has driven nearly 500,000 miles.

At the awards event, Bob Crescenzo of Lancer Insurance said, "Customers absolutely love Aaron."



Aaron Schwartz of Pine Hill Trailways of New York.

## The Ultimate Professional

One of his frequent riders said he is one of the most personable drivers she has ever known. She said, "He always takes the time to plan ahead; he is always thoughtful and he does the extra things to make my trips more pleasant."

In addition to his happy customers, Schwartz's co-workers also greatly appreciate him. "He is a role model and a customer service expert," his boss said. "He

is always punctual and in perfect uniform. He is the ultimate professional." He has not been absent or late for work and had no preventable accidents in all of 2015.

"After almost nine years with Pine Hill Trailways and over 25 years as a bus driver, receiving the charter driver of the Year award

and being invited to the 80th Trailways conference in Cape Coral, Florida has certainly been the highlight of my career,' Schwarz said.

I am very proud to be working for Pine Hill Trailways and I'm grateful to the owners and management for nominating me for this award.

I also enjoyed the Trailways nostalgia and meeting members from around the country. Even as a young child, I was a fan of Trailways and road across the country in the early 1970s on a Continental Trailways bus!

An added bonus was that my friend Wes Wohl, an Adirondack Trailways driver based in Albany, who received the Line driver of the Year Award was also there. Thanks to everyone who supported me and made this conference possible, and for allowing me to experience and participate in this memorable event."

## Trailways Outstanding Driver of the Year "Scheduled Route" Division

Pesley Wohl is the Outstanding Trailways Driver of the Year in the Schedule Route Division. He is employed by Adirondack Trailways of New York.

## Two Million Miles in 40 Years

He has a remarkable 40-year



Wesley Wohl, Adirondack Trailways of New York.

driving career. In that time, he has driven nearly two million miles. He joined the company in 1978. His current schedule is the Albany to Port Authority daily route.

In 2015, he drove that route 66,400 miles accident-free.

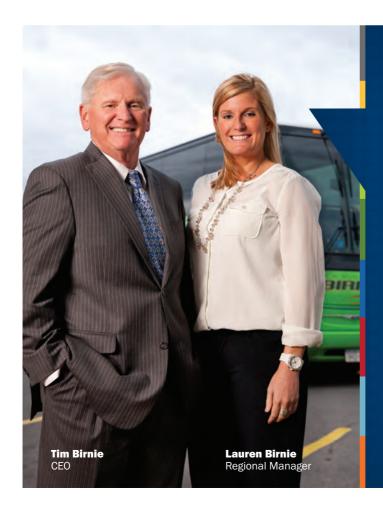
His coworkers say that he is punctual, friendly, courteous and reliable. He has been elected to serve for 15 years on the operator committee at Adirondack Trailways and the general to represent six bargaining units. He is also a volunteer fire fighter in his community.

"It is an honor to have been selected for this award. I have been employed for 38 years by Adirondack Trailways. As a professional driver I've appreciated the emphasis that Trailways has had on customer service and safety. Over the years I've worked with previous winners of this award and I consider it an honor to be among those who have been recognized," Wohl said.

#### **Nominate a Worthy Driver at Your Company!**

The 2017 award will be for the Western U.S., since the conference will take place in California.

To be eligible, a driver must be nominated by his/her employer. The company must also submit written passenger and/or customer testimonials and a senior manager must also provide a letter confirming eligibility. To qualify for the award, a driver candidate must drive a coach at least 20,000 miles or provide service for at least 600 hours during the calendar year. He/she can have no absentee or late-to-work notices on-file during the calendar year. Procedures: Each driver's candidacy submitted for consideration for this award will be judged based upon the following submitted data: Total number of miles driven during the calendar year (2015); actual (copies) of written Passenger/Customer testimonials regarding his/her professionalism and service; member (company) written testimonial on Trailways company letterhead from either the owner and/or a senior-level manager regarding the driver candidate's professionalism and service. Contact bustrails@ trailways.com for an application soon for the 2017 conference in California.



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 Tim Birnie, CEO, and Lauren Birnie, Regional Manager, Birnie Bus Service. Inc.



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## Trailways Announces Safety Partnership with CSS-Dynamac

### Aims to be "the best, most effective safety program in the industry"

n March 2016, Trailways forged a partnership with Consolidated Safety Services—Dynamac (CSS-Dynamac). It is one of the most highly regarded new plans offered by Trailways for its Members.

#### **Full-Circle Safety Program**

The goal is to provide Trailways' team of affiliated motor carriers with a "full-circle" program encompassing safety on the road and in the workplace.

#### The Idea Behind the New Program

Jolanda Janczewski, PhD, MPH, chairwoman of the board and co-founder of CSS-Dynamac, said, "Trailways is really on the cutting edge of looking at the whole safety spectrum for their business, recognizing that safety is bigger than just the transportation arena, that it includes occupational and environmental safety. Safety is at the core of our business at CSS-Dynamac, and we are a technical business. So, we're thrilled to bring that technical expertise to Trailways."

#### Standards of Excellence

"We're going to make sure that everybody under the Trailways umbrella meets a standard of safety excellence," Janczewski said. "Part of our goal is to help companies understand the economic value of safety programs. Though not directly generating revenue, safety programs prevent revenue loss due



to injuries and property damage. They also protect a company's reputation, which once lost can have a devastating impact on the bottom line."

—Brad Watkins, CSS

Brad Watkins, CSS-Dynamac program manager, elaborated, "Our goal is to assist Trailways in developing and enhancing their network's overall safety culture, not just in transportation safety but also workplace safety and health."

## Focus & Goals: How CSS Will Assist Trailways' Companies

- Include assessment, compliance and training expertise in a new safety manual
- Create a baseline of best practices
- Reduce inconsistency across the brand
- Enhance its members' safety culture
- Help operators understand the economic value of safety programs
- Prevent revenue loss due to injuries and property damage
- Protect a company's reputation and that of its affiliates

"We'll work with their safety experts to assist them, guide them and provide whatever expertise they need to bolster their safety programs. We'll help them to make sure that they have the best, most effective safety program in the industry," said Watkins.

"Trailways couldn't ask for a better partner than CSS-Dynamac in making top-notch safety program development, assessment, compliance and training expertise and support services available to the independently operated companies affiliated with our Trailways network," said Ron Moore, Trailways chairman and president of Burlington Trailways.

"By funding this comprehensive safety program we are underscoring our commitment to our most important core value — safety," Moore said.

#### **Enhanced of Safety Manual**

CSS-Dynamac's initial project in the new partnership will be to update the Trailways network's safety manual. "The need is for consistency," said Janczewski.

"Our mission is to apply science and technology to create a healthier, safer and environmentally sustainable future," explained Janczewski. "We understand how to "Trailways couldn't ask for a better partner than CSS-Dynamac in making top-notch safety program development, assessment, compliance and training expertise and support services available to the independently operated companies affiliated with our Trailways network."

Ron Moore, Trailways Chairman and President of Burlington Trailways

integrate environmental, safety and health policies and services across entire organizations and work sites to create more effective and efficient outcomes. We bring proven management tools, lessons learned and best practices from decades of experience to help our clients minimize risks and to comply with regulations and policies."





## **Tal Ways** Fleet Service Safety Awards

The Trailways national bus system announced its top awards for bus fleet safety at its 2016 winter conference. The event was sponsored by MCI and took place February 23rd, 2016, at the Trailways 80th Annual Members Meeting & Conference in Cape Coral, Florida. MCI's Pat Ziska, at left in the below photos, was the dinner sponsor and guest presenter. Scott Henry, Martz Trailways (PA), and Trailways board member, was co-presenter (below center and right).

#### **RECIPIENTS:**



1. Trailways Fleet Safety Award in the category of Less Than Two Million Miles Traveled in the Charter & Tour Division: Martz Trailways of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. It is a founding company of Trailways 80 years ago. The father and son Henrys, Scott and John.



2. Trailways Fleet Safety Award in the category of *More than Two Million Miles Traveled* in the Scheduled Route Division: **Burlington Trailways of West Burlington, Iowa.** It is also a founding company of Trailways 80 years ago. Ron Moore, Burlington Trailways, accepting (center).



3. Trailways Fleet Safety Award in the category of *Less Than Two Million Miles Traveled* in the Scheduled Route Division: Pine Hill Trailways of Hurley, New York. Gene Berardi, Adirondack/New York/Pine Hill Trailways, accepting (center).



4. & 5. "Most Improved" Fleet Safety Award (two): Charter & Tour Division, and Scheduled Route Division. Arrow Trailways of Killeen, Texas. Kris Gauze, Arrow Trailways, accepting (center).





## TRAILWAYS PROGRAM NEWS:

## Trailways' New Business Council

#### Mission: Share Best Practices, Improve Members' Performance & Profits

By Jonathan Berzas, Business Council Chairman—2016-17

Then five independently owned motorcoach operators founded the Trailways system in 1936, they did it so that all of them could succeed by helping one another. To that end, this past May, the Trailways board of directors has approved formation of a Trailways Business Council. The Business Council will begin with a pilot group of approximately 10 to 12 non-competing Trailways members in good standing, selected because of commonalities in company size, region, markets served and other factors. They will meet four times annually, once in person and three times via video conference. This council replaces the Trailways Performance Group. We will work with the Spader Group for this new program.

#### What's Our Plan?

Our plan is to discuss financial comparisons, safety programs, business techniques, strategic marketing, problems and solutions, opportunities unique to Trailways, brand recognition, industry trends and several other topics.

Jonathan Berzas, Trailways Business Council Chair, Trailways board member, and president/CEO of Fullington Trailways (PA)



Jim McCann, Spader Group

comparisons with peers and industry norms.

## Helping you Determine Root Causes for Improvement

- ► Using critical numbers from these reports, McCann will point out efficiencies and deficiencies where the group as a whole is underperforming, then help the group drill down to the likely root causes and develop steps to take for improvement.
- ► He said that group members will share "best ideas" and "benchmark their performance to the most successful operators." You'll also have access to McCann for one-on-one consultations specific to their individual companies.

#### Pilot Group Participant

"The Trailways Business Council, working with Spader, will allow us to correct areas where expenses are higher than they should be and to compare ourselves to the industry norms," said pilot group participant Tom Bazow, president of Excursions Trailways of Indiana and Ohio.

#### Invitation to Join

- ➤ Trailways Members must apply to join. At press time, the group has been growing. If you're interested in joining the pilot group, please contact Jim McCann at (800) 772-3377 or jmccann@spader.com.
- Eventually, Trailways hopes to engage all of its member companies in its Business Council groups.
- ➤ The Trailways Business Council will put into action one of the strategies in the Trailways strategic plan: "to strengthen and leverage the Team Trailways network through opportunities for collaborations, best practices exchange and the sharing of innovations."

#### How Will it Work?

- ➤ Facilitating the confidential discussions will be Jim McCann, a consultant with Spader Business Management of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, a management consulting firm known for its "Spader 20" peer groups of executives in the motorcoach industry and several others.
- ► Each month, participating Trailways members will submit their financial data in a standard format to McCann. He will prepare a consolidated financial report with key financial analysis for each member, including

## Trailways Strategic Plan Update: 2016 – 2018

Updates to the Trailways Strategic Plan for the next two years from the Trailways Strategic Marketing Council:

### **Three Objectives:**

## **Charters & Ticketing Sales and Brand Enhancement:**

- GOAL #I: Increase and Strengthen
  Marketing, Sales and
  Promotion Efforts to
  Generate New Business
  Growth for Members.
- **GOAL #2:** Ensure that the Trailways
  Brand will be the Consumer's
  First Choice for Safe, Secure,
  Reliable and Comfortable
  Passenger Motorcoach and
  Related Transportation
  Services.
- **GOAL #3:** Fortify and Leverage the "Team Trailways" Concept to Help Enhance & Strengthen the Value of Members Affiliation.
- **GOAL #4:** Ensure Trailways Corporate and Members Possess the Ability to Utilize Cutting-Edge Technologies which can help Increase Revenues and Reduce Costs.

For more details on tactics for each goal and to be involved, please contact Eva Hotard/CEO at Trailways 703-691-3052 (document is confidential).



## **Trailways CALENDAR NOTES:**

## Trailways will be attending these upcoming 2016 events:

- SEPTEMBER "BUSCON" Indianapolis Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, IN (September 19-21)
- OCTOBER
  - California Bus Association (October 16-18)
  - Trailways Board of Directors Meeting Dallas (October 24)
- MARCH (2017) Trailways Annual Meeting & Conference in Newport Beach, California (March 26-28, 2017)—Hyatt Regency (see last page for Preliminary Schedule)

## Annual Publications Calendar / Annual Opportunities & Deadlines:

- MAY Equipment reports are due.
- SEPTEMBER
  - Trailways Annual Newsletter
  - Trailways Charter Network Directory text & photo deadline to tracey@trailways.com (703) 691-3052 x 3
- For daily news in the meantime, remember to visit your news portal "TeamTrailways.com" http://www.teamtrailways.com/ Subject to updates





# International Trailways News

#### Canada



#### Report from Larry Hundt, President of Great Canadian Trailways

Iluctuations of the Canadian dollar against the American dollar are affecting tour business on both sides of the border. With Canadian currency at about 79 cents against U. S. currency, Canadian citizens are not taking many trips. The downturn that began about three years ago is largely tied to the global decline in oil prices.

"We do a lot of tours into both the U.S. and Canada," said Larry Hundt, president of Great Canadian Trailways. "U.S. destinations along the eastern seaboard and into

Texas, California, Arizona, and Florida, are important to us year 'round. But with Canadians not wanting to spend money in the U.S.—especially on longer trips—we are find our four-to-six day trips are most popular."

There is a slight uptick in international business, Hundt said, because the favorable currency exchange has more Americans and Europeans coming into Canada.

For those trips that do cross the U.S.–Canadian border, there has been some relief in wait times at bridges and other crossings, Hundt said.





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Once they clear borders, coach operators in both the U.S. and Canada now have the ability to travel from province to province and state to state without permit fees, thanks to the International Registration Plan (IRP) which apportions payments of registration fees among various jurisdictions.

—Larry Hundt

"One of the busiest crossings is along the Niagara-Buffalo route, and a new voluntary operations program—borderplanner@gmail.com—has drivers entering their data so officials know when they are likely to arrive. This is helping borders officials know what they need in the way of staffing at certain times, and drivers know what bridges and routes to avoid.

"We still have a monumental task with border congestion," Hundt said.

Facilities improvements at Niagara's Rainbow Bridge are due to open in 2017, and those upgrades are expected

to alleviate the traffic flow into Canada at that popular crossing point.

"The IRP has been in place for years and has been heavily used by the trucking industry," Hundt said. "But on January 1st, charter carriers were required to apply and register. This makes travel more seamless for carriers in both countries."

Its remains difficult for Canadian carriers to do business out of their home provinces, however. Individual provincial regulations prevent operators from picking up passengers in different parts of the country.

I would never pick up people in the Maritimes or Montreal," said Ontario-based Hundt. "We continue to have more regulations among our provinces that we do about moving around inside the U.S. We've had a test case in which a person took 20 cases of beer he bought in Quebec home to New Brunswick. It was taken to court, and the New Brunswick court decided in his favor. This has become a test case about these trade barriers that have been in place a very long time."

continued on next page

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## **Europe**



#### News from Germany: Report from Helmut Seitz, President of *Seitz-Reisen Trailways of Germany*

urope's swelling refugee influx, along with terrorism incidents, have impacted business for Trailways' German affiliate and other motorcoach carriers since the beginning of 2015. Seitz-Reisen Trailways is located in Germany's Passau region near the Austrian border. Like Team Trailways' Netherlands member, Seitz is feeling the impact of "sharing economy" innovators on its markets.

"At the beginning of May, there was a need to transport 2,000 migrants daily, and by the end of May it was up to 16,000," Seitz said. "I bought a few used buses and we drove all night, but we had a shortage of coaches, so the government made contracts with a lot of companies—for as many as 200 buses a day." That transport business was good while it lasted, but when Austria recently closed its borders to most refugees, the need for transport through

Austria into Germany stopped.

Both the refugee migration and the recent terrorism events in Paris and Brussels have impacted his company, Seitz said. "I have lost approximately 20 percent of my foreign tour business because of the migrations and the bombs," he continued. "Tourism has returned to Paris, but not to Brussels and the local hotels are hurting for guests."

Competition from Europe's sharing economy startups is also impacting Seitz and his industry counterparts. Germany-based FlixBus and MeinFernbus are now cooperating to deliver low rates to passengers for travel throughout Europe, and the partnership has captured about 70 percent of the long distance market.

"More than 100 bus companies are driving for FlixBus with more than 3,000 buses," said Seitz. "The tickets are cheap for passengers but the companies are losing money. Also other companies like Megabus and Postbus have come in with even more competitive prices. Some of my industry friends are driving for FlixBus, but they complain about the bad prices and the need for three to four drivers. We'll see in a year who survives."





#### Netherlands News: Report from Martyn Besselsen, President, ElboBus Trailways, the Netherlands:

The "sharing economy," which includes companies like Uber and Airbnb, now operates around the world. These businesses market civilian transport and lodging services that carry no permits or regulatory compliances, and they are beginning to impact European motorcoach carriers, reports Martyn Besselsen, president of ElboBus Trailways.

"There has been a successful ban on Uber in the Netherlands, which is a victory for the taxi companies," said Besselsen, "but the UberPop and UberBlack variations are still active."

How long will it take for European bus charter operators to see something like UberBus in the charter market? It's already happening, Besselsen said. In Germany a couple of students started to offer scheduled routes with chartered buses, and they aim to build an all-European network.

"As long as there are companies willing to offer their services to web sellers like this and take the losses, we can expect more of these initiatives," he continued. "As traditional charter bus companies, I think we should no longer think of our business as 49 seats to fill from point A to point B. We must change and offer specialized services."

Personal attention is first priority, he said, and offering more complete packages in which the bus ride is a small part of the total 'experience' is one approach.

Besselsen said price agreements with tourism attractions and ownership of more sites make this kind of product work.

"We have our own summer camp and activity park, and most recently we purchased a small theme park and turned it into Dinoland.nl. By owning the destinations, we can secure about 40 percent of our charter business," he said.



Celebrating the Trailways 80th anniversary at the annual meeting in 2016 in Florida, Ron Moore, Trailways chairman, left, with Martyn Besselsen and his children.



#### New Trailways CEO (Continued from page 2)

#### A Conversation with Eva Hotard

## TW—How will your experience in the bus industry help Trailways?

**Eva**—The companies in the Trailways system are exuding optimism to grow and to embrace the future. They work very well together," she added. "With the experience of my own growth as a leader in the school of hard knocks, I can help to shorten the learning curve while the companies are in a growth mode. I'm going to be working with the member companies to help them with revenue management, operations and driver management, including meeting the challenge of attracting and retaining the next generation of drivers. I'll also work on developing a very strong sales culture.

#### **Search Committee Process**

A search committee composed of Trailways board members unanimously selected Hotard. Search Committee Chairman Jonathan T. Berzas, president and CEO of Fullington Trailways in Clearfield, Pennsylvania, stated: "Ms. Hotard is well respected in the motorcoach industry and brings a wealth of knowledge to the Trailways organization. She led a family motorcoach business based in New Orleans through a tremendous growth period. We chose her because of her extensive knowledge and experience in the industry."

"Eva ran a very successful bus company. She has been in the business for many years, worked her way up through the ranks and has a wonderful reputation as a talented business leader. She knows all of the trials and tribulations that independent bus companies go through. Eva clearly understands everything about the industry," said Ron Moore, president of Burlington Trailways and chairman of the Trailways board. "We selected her because of her experience and her leadership skills. Like Gale, Eva is also passionate about the industry. "

#### TW—Tell us about yourself and Hotard Coaches

**Eva**—I'm one of one of nine children! We all worked in the family business at one point. I started my career with Hotard Coaches, in 1977. Then, I was elected general manager in 1984 and president/CEO in 1993 and served





in that position until 2004.

My family has been in the bus business since 1935, when Etienne Hotard launched a line-run service between the Eastbank River Parishes and New Orleans, Louisiana. Then, in 1960, my father started Hotard Coaches as a one-bus operation offering scheduled service between Vacherie and New Orleans. It later became known for its charter transportation services.

#### TW—What was your role at Hotard Coaches?

**Eva**—We grew from a three-vehicle operation to a fleet of more than 100 vehicles. It became one of the largest travel services companies in the Gulf South, with four offices (New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Biloxi, Mississippi; and, Washington, D.C.) I had overall responsibility for the operating entities, two leasing entities and a partnership with land holdings.

#### TW—Tell us about your background

**Eva**—During that time period, we expanded to include a destination management company for large themed events and meetings. We also purchased a receptive tour

continued on page 28

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operator; plus, 50 percent ownership (in partnership with the New Orleans Steamboat Company) of Gray Line of New Orleans, Inc., a sightseeing company.

#### TW—What were you most proud of?

**Eva**— I was the most proud of our initiatives to develop a customer service monitoring system, customized operating and fleet management software, convention sales systems and a system for training hundreds of good drivers.

#### TW—Tell us about your career after Hotard.

**Eva**—In 2005, I decided to become a management consultant and executive coach, drawing upon my experience of hiring and training key managers to executive growth strategies.

My work focused on owners and CEOs of small and medium-size businesses to transform their companies into high-performance organizations.

#### TW—What is your executive management training?

**Eva**—I was trained in executive coaching by renowned leadership coach Lee Thayer and participated for 10 years as a member of The Executive Committee (TEC), a CEO development organization.

## TW—What do you believe is the biggest challenge for most companies?

**Eva**—It's a challenge to grow from an entrepreneurialstyle organization to a well-managed, styled organization.

I enjoy working in that area. You have to be really strong in your systems, strategies and diligent in your management. That's what makes you a strong competitor.

#### TW—What drives and motivates you?

**Eva**—My passionate purpose is helping people journey from who they are to who they ought to be to lead high-performance organizations.

#### TW—What makes a great leader?

**Eva**—Leadership mastery is a journey like no other; it brings true meaning to life. Great leaders create a better future for their organizations. The Trailways Board is open to new opportunities; I'm looking forward to being of service to them.

Gale Ellsworth described Eva Hotard as a warm, solid, keen and savvy businesswoman. "Trailways is extremely privileged to have Eva join its Team. I am confident she will lead Trailways onward and upward," she said.





#### Spirit Awards (Continued from page 12)



7. Outstanding Volunteer Affiliated Partner—Pat Ziska, MCI



8. Industry Appreciation (In Memoriam-Clancy Cornell)—Accepted by Roman Cornell/ABC



9. Most Team Spirit (Scheduled Route)— Ron Moore, Burlington Trailways



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## **Trailways Board Seats Two New Members**

## Trailways

In April 2016, the Trailways board of directors added two new members. They were introduced at its recent 80th annual members meeting and conference in Cape Coral, Florida. Trailways Chairman Ron Moore, said the diverse experiences both of these individuals bring to the board will enable the brand to open new avenues of business excellence in the 21st century.

"The addition of these two proven and experienced leaders will enhance our ability to build an even greater legacy in the coming decades. We appreciate their willingness to serve," Moore said.



Patrick Dean, director and chief operating Officer at Dean Trailways in Lansing, Michigan, has been elected to a 2016-2019 term.

#### Patrick Dean

Patrick Dean, Director and chief operating officer at Dean Trailways in Lansing, Michigan, was elected to a 2016-2019 term. He brings long industry experience to the board position from his family's business that his father, Kellie Dean, founded in 1994. Patrick Dean also has experience on nonprofit boards including High Fields Inc., St. Vincent Catholic Charities, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce and Information Technology Empowerment Center (ITEC). He also serves as a public member of the Board of Real Estate Brokers and Salespersons for the State of Michigan.

"Trailways is an organization with a remarkable history, and I want to help our brand build even more on the great record of 80 years we are celebrating this year," Dean said. "I look forward to providing insights and leadership as we navigate current and coming challenges to the industry such as increasing government regulations and customer demands for more technology and new equipment."



Timothy (Tim) Birnie, President of Birnie Trailways in Rome, New York has been appointed to the board for a one-year term.

#### Tim Birnie

imothy (Tim) Birnie, president of Birnie Trailways in Rome, New York was appointed to the board for a one-year term by Ron Moore, Trailways chairman and president of Burlington Trailways in Burlington, Iowa. Birnie also brings a wealth of industry experience to Trailways' leadership. His father, Martin Birnie, founded the company in 1947; Tim Birnie became part of the family team at an early age.

"I want to help make the Trailways brand even more valuable to our fellow owners by helping them through the challenges we face as an industry," said Birnie, "I look forward to adding benefits such as more regional collaboration among our companies to bring in business and share operations practices throughout our system."

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31

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#### **Susquehanna Trailways**

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#### **RHODE ISLAND**

#### **Flagship Trailways**

Providence, RI 800.672.6705 suchada@flagshiptrailways.com

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

## Lancaster Trailways, the Carolinas

Lancaster/Charlotte, NC 800.621.4580 frankie@lancaster-tours.com

#### **Lancaster Trailways of Charleston**

Charleston, SC 800.842.1789 kitty@lancaster-tours.com

#### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

#### **Dakota Trailways**

Spearfish, SD 800.499.2652 daktrail@rushmore.com

#### **Prairie Coach Trailways**

Dell Rapids, SD 877.428.4798 dispatch@prairiecoach.com

#### **TENNESSEE**

#### **Gentry Trailways**

Knoxville, TN 888.816.2796 darlene@gentrytrailways.com

#### <u>TEXAS</u>

#### **Arrow Trailways of TX**

Killeen, TX 800.392.0768 charters@arrowtrailways.com

#### **Sun Travel Trailways**

Beaumont, TX 888.898.2638 secretary@suntravel.org

#### UTAH

#### **Utah Trailways**

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#### **VIRGINIA**

#### **National Coach Trailways**

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#### **WASHINGTON**

#### **Northwestern Trailways**

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#### **WISCONSIN**

#### **Kobussen Trailways**

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#### **Kobussen Trailways of West WI**

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#### CANADA

#### **Great Canadian Trailways**

800-461-8687 519-896-8687 charters@greatCanadiancoaches.com

#### **EUROPE**

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### Seitz Reisen Trailways of Germany

Bayern/Regen, Germany hseitz@seitz-reisen.de

For more information on affiliating with the Trailways brand, please contact the nearest board member above or President & CEO Eva Hotard at (703) 691-3052 x 3

As of 8-1-16. Subject to change.

### About *Trailways*

Trailways, founded in 1936, has been transporting North American citizens and international visitors for nearly 80 years with point-to-point transportation on modern transport and other high-styled vehicles at practical fares. Trailways transport service providers offer premium passenger transport and tourism services between, to, and from all key tourist destinations and major cities. Other services include sightseeing and travel planning, group moves, shuttle, airport transfers, corporate excursions, transit and supplementary intermodal by means of ground, air and rail as well as sea access. All companies are Department of Defense (DOD) safety-certified (or it's country equivalent). For more information visit: www.trailways.com; or call 703.691.3052



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#### **Clarion Inn Pigeon Forge**

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#### **Community Anti-terrorism Training Institutute**

DBA CAT Eyes Michael J. Licata (6

Michael J. Licata (609) 448-9655 info@cateyes.us

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#### H-L

#### **Hotel Planner**

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## Trailways' Affiliated Partner Program Information:

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#### MARCH 26 -28, 2017—HYATT REGENCY NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA

## 2017 Trailways Annual Members Meeting & Conference

#### **DAY 1: FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017**

**5:00**рм **-8:00**рм Registration Desk Open

**Welcome Board Arrivals**—Hyatt Hotel Concierge Offers Pre & Post Activity Packages

#### DAY 2: SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017

8:00am – 12:00pm Registration Desk Open

#### 8:30AM - 12:00PM

• Executive Committee Breakfast Meeting (closed)

#### 12:00PM -9:00PM

- Board of Directors Meetings/Dinner (closed)
- Welcome Early Arrivals Hyatt Hotel Concierge Offers Pre & Post Activity Packages

#### **DAY 3: SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2017**

**8:00**ам **–5:00**рм Registration Desk Open

#### 8:00AM -3:00PM

- Bus Departs 8:00AM (lobby door) (ALL)
- Golf Outing Shotgun Start/Best Ball (Fee-Oak Creek
   —Oak Creek Club, Irvine)

#### 10:00AM -3:00PM

 Off-Site Sunday Sightseeing Tour – location to be determined/Fee (ALL)

#### 12:00PM -3:00PM

• Outdoor Exhibit Vehicle Setup #1 – Parking Lot

#### 4:30PM -7:00PM

Open House/Reception (ALL)

#### 7:00PM-9:00PM

• Dinner on Own (ALL)

#### 9:00PM-11:00PM

• Chairman's Cordials & Dessert Reception (ALL)

#### **DAY 4: MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017**

8:00AM-5:00PM Registration Desk Open

#### 7:30AM-10:00AM

Outdoor Exhibit Vehicle Final Set-Up—Parking Lot

#### 8:00AM -8:45AM

Opening Breakfast & Welcome (ALL)

#### 8:45AM -9:10AM

• All Exhibitors One-Minute Intros (ALL)

#### 9:10<sub>AM</sub> -9:45<sub>AM</sub>

• General Session I—Speaker or Panel (ALL)

#### 9:45AM - 10:15AM

• General Session II—Speaker or Panel (ALL)

#### 10:15AM -10:45AM

• General Session III—Speaker or Panel (ALL)

#### 10:45AM - 11:00AM

Coffee Break (ALL)

#### 11:00AM - 12:15PM

 Preferred Partners Part I (Services & Products with Trailways Owner-Operator Members)

#### 12:30<sub>PM</sub> = 2:15<sub>PM</sub>

 Outdoor Luncheon with Equipment: California Farmers Market (ALL)—(Ballroom–Parking Lot)

#### 2:30PM -3:45PM

 Preferred Partners Part II (Manufacturers with Trailways Owner-Operator Members)

#### 4:00pm -5:30pm

 Info-Motion Concurrent One-on-One Exhibitor & Trailways Operator-Members (Mandatory)—Plaza Ballroom (ALL)

#### 7:00PM -9:00PM

Opening Reception "California Dreamin" — (ALL)
 —Beachwear, prizes, dancing—Terrace Room & Promenade (indoor/outdoor)

#### 9:00pm - 11:00pm

• Indoor Tabletop Exhibitors Set Up—Plaza Ballroom

#### DAY 5: TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017 (WEAR RED DAY)

8:00am – 12:00pm Registration Desk Open

#### 6:00AM - 12:00PM

• Indoor Tabletop Exhibitors Set Up

#### 8:30AM - 10:00AM

 Trailways Member Annual Business Breakfast Meeting, Roll Call/Photo (All)

#### 10:05AM - 10:25AM

Break—Library (All)

#### 10:30AM - 11:25AM

• Stockholder Regional Meetings (Members Only)

#### 11:30AM - 12:15PM

• Stockholder Topical Breakouts (Members Only)

#### 11:30AM - 12:15PM

• Affiliated Partners Annual Committee Meeting (Affiliated Partners)

#### 1:00PM -2:30PM

• 81st Annual "Special Awards" Luncheon (ALL)

#### 2:30PM -5:00PM

• Indoor Tabletop Exhibitor Center Tradeshow—Plaza Ballroom (ALL)

#### 6:00PM -7:30PM

Gala Cocktail Reception (ALL)

#### 7:30рм -9:00рм

 81st Annual Closing Dinner Gala – Safety & Driver of the Year Awards Plaza Ballroom (ALL)

#### 9:00рм – 10:00рм

• Afterglow & Desserts—Plaza Ballroom (ALL)

#### DAY 6: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2017

#### 8:00AM - 12:00PM (CLOSED)

Trailways Business Council (by advance arrangements)
 —for information, please contact Jonathan Berzas,
 jonathan@fullingtontours.com

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