



Limousine Associations of New Jersey
December 29, 2011
E-News

LANJ E-News is published each month expressly for the members of the Limousine Associations of New Jersey and other professionals in the livery industry.

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LANJ and COTA Continue Success for Industry

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The Limousine Associations of New Jersey (LANJ) and the Coalition of Transportation Associations (COTA) have been extremely active the past month in defending the interests of the chauffeured transportation industry before the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission (NYC TLC) and the New York City Council.

COTA's "five families," including the Black Car Assistance Corporation (BCAC), the Limousine Association of New York, the Long Island Limousine Association (LILA), the Luxury Base Operators Association (LBOA) and LANJ, led by Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf partner and LANJ general counsel Matt Daus, have been working closely with one another because the NYC TLC and, suddenly, New York City Council have proposed a series of regulations that COTA believes harmful to chauffeured transportation operators.

The NYC TLC had proposed new regulations allowing modified vehicles to be used in the City. The proposed regulations would have created the need for \$10 million-\$15 million of liability coverage. In fact, this level of coverage does not exist and the upshot potential would increase insurance costs to all operators. COTA joined efforts with Lancer Insurance Company and three vehicle manufacturers to educate the TLC on this and proved successful in preventing the proposed regulations.

The NYC TLC also proposed a per-car fee to provide for handicapped accessible vehicles. Although LANJ members would not be directly affected by this rule, LANJ – as a member of COTA – supported BCAC efforts to stop the proposed regulation that financially would cripple their members.

The New York City Council proposed a regulation that would require a chauffeur to ask a passenger who looked like a prostitute to exit the vehicle. One can only imagine the lawsuits that would take place if the driver's assessment of the passenger was incorrect! Fortunately, cooler heads have prevailed and the proposed regulation has been abandoned.

Lastly, as was reported last month, LANJ – with the assistance of New York colleagues and through LANJ general counsel Matt Daus – was able to convince the NYC TLC that their personal injury protection (PIP) requirements were already being followed. Lancer Insurance Company demonstrated that their ISO Line-of-Insurance Program clearly meets the NYC TLC desire for \$200,000 PIP coverage. Do keep LANJ posted if you experience PIP coverage-related problems with the NYC TLC.

Sales Tax on Service Bill Hearing

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On January 5, A3755, the Repeal of Sales Tax on Service for Limousines, is tentatively scheduled for a hearing. You may recall that the Senate version, S680, passed the full Senate 37-0. The strategy is to hear and pass the Assembly version on January 5 and have a vote before the full Assembly on January 9. LANJ members' grassroots support is needed to make this a success for the chauffeured transportation industry. Please expect to receive information from LANJ advising how to contact your Assembly representatives to ask for their support to defeat "sales tax on service" and vote "Yes" on A3755.

Mercedes Benz to Sponsor January 18 Membership Meeting

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LANJ is pleased to announce that, once again, Mercedes Benz Fleet and Prestige Mercedes Benz are demonstrating their support for members and sponsoring the January 18 luncheon membership meeting which will be held from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at the new Prestige Mercedes Benz facilities in Paramus. The invited keynote speaker for the meeting is NYC TLC commissioner David Yassky.

The LANJ Board of Directors meeting will take place immediately prior to the luncheon and all LANJ members are invited to attend. Time will be allowed for public comment following the board meeting.

Should any other vendor members of LANJ like to be co-sponsors of the January 18 event, please call executive director Barry Lefkowitz at (609) 267-2855.

LANJ Calendar Set for Year

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Please mark your calendars for the 2012 meeting schedule:

- January 18 – Mercedes Benz USA Fleet and Prestige Mercedes Benz (Paramus)
- March 14 – Empire Coach (South Brunswick)
- May 19 – Complete Fleet Annual Luncheon/Auction
- July 1 – TBA
- September 12 – A-1 Limousine/Extensis
- November TBA – Annual Limo Digest Breakfast

LANJ Welcomes It's Newest Members

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Black Jack Limo, Cresskill, NJ

Corporate Sedan Service, Huntingdon Valley, PA; www.sedanservice.com

P.T. Executive Transportation Limousines, Parlin, NJ

LANJ Member Benefit: Solveras Payment Solutions

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LANJ is pleased to offer a cost-savings program with Solveras Payment Solutions, one of the leading payment processing experts for small-to-medium sized businesses. Solveras provides all LANJ members a free savings analysis of their current credit processing rates. In addition to credit card processing, the company offers a wide array of solutions to help process electronic payments including e-check, remote deposit capture, web-based transactions, recurring payment plans and electronic invoicing. For more information, visit www.solveras.com.

Wishing you a very Happy New Year!

Let LANJ hear from you. Please send your comments and/or questions to kim.werbos@limo.org.

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