



AMERICAN BUS ASSOCIATION

In This Issue:

**The Insider Q&A:
Dale Moser, Coach USA**

2

**Operators & Attractions Fight
NY Tourism Tax**

4

**Monster.com Partnership
Provides New Member Benefits**

5

Did You Know?

Three infrastructure programs created in the last surface transportation authorization lack a well-defined federal role and would benefit from a better project selection process, the Government Accountability Office said in a [report](#) issued last month.

Individual Highlights:

- In the States 5
- Member Services 5
- Travel Tracks 7
- Foundation Focus 8
- New Members 9

The Most Accurate News Source For The Motorcoach, Tour And Travel Industry

Rep. Shuster Reintroduces Science-Driven Bus Safety Bill

Rep. Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) has reintroduced his science-based motorcoach safety bill for the new 111th Congress, and it's already got bipartisan support—as well as a new name.

H.R. 1135, the “Bus Uniform Standards and Enhanced Safety (BUSES) Act of 2009,” is historic in its first-ever call for a comprehensive National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) study to determine what, if any, motorcoach safety requirements should be modified. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas) is an original cosponsor of the bill, citing its scientific approach for crossing party lines to support it.

The study would create empirical data sets from groundbreaking new research, which in turn would provide guidance for engineers to integrate possible new safety components into motorcoaches.

Shuster first introduced the bill in December 2007 as H.R. 4690, then titled “The Bluffton University Motorcoach Safety Act” to honor the memory of the seven students who died tragically in March 2007. Poor signage along a section of I-85 near Atlanta was implicated in the pre-dawn crash, according to findings of the National Transportation Safety Board. The 110th Congress adjourned without taking action, which led Shuster to reintroduce the bill this year.

“ABA has always placed the highest priority on safety, and we’re proud buses are the safest form of surface travel,” said ABA President & CEO Peter Pantuso, CTIS. “But one fatality is too many. We want to make the safest safer. But just as a doctor would never call for invasive surgery on a patient without performing a suite of diagnostic tests beforehand, the same principle applies. First, do no harm. Do the research and testing, leave nothing to guessing.”

Additional co-sponsors of H.R. 1135 include Reps. John Mica (R-Fla.) and John Duncan (R-Tenn.). Shuster, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, was ABA Legislator of the Year in 2008, along with Rep. John Olver (D-Mass).

Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas) last week had planned to re-introduce “The Motorcoach Enhanced Safety Act of 2009,” which calls for regulatory mandates without first conducting the scientific research to provide regulatory guidance. “Safety is too important to be the product of a rush to judgment,” Pantuso added.



Rep. Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) has bipartisan support for his bus safety bill.



HERE LOVE BLOOMS

AND BLOOMS ...
AND BLOOMS AND ...
WELL, YOU GET
THE PICTURE.

When you are looking to get away from it all, including big crowds and hassles, look to our beautiful waterfront city. Norfolk has all the fun and flavor you could want with the peace and comfort only our city can offer. This is what makes a visit here so special. Let comfort be your guide in Norfolk, Virginia.

NORFOLK VIRGINIA
Convention & Visitors Bureau

visitnorfolktoday.com
1-800-368-3097

Located between Williamsburg
and Virginia Beach

The heart of the Virginia Waterfront.

ABAInsider

The Insider Q&A: ABA Board Member Dale Moser, President & COO, *Coach USA*, Paramus, N.J.



ABA: To what do you attribute the rapid growth of *Megabus*, which started in the United States in 2006 and since then has expanded more than 200 percent?

DM: There seems to be a significant demand for the value-type service *Megabus* offers. We're quite delighted.

ABA: With such phenomenal growth, you've obviously tapped into new demographic groups. What customer bases does your service resonate with?

DM: Three core demographic groups are key components of our overall base of riders. We have young professionals under 30, the "silver surfer" senior segment of leisure travelers, and most notably the 30-55 year-old female who has left her \$35,000 SUV in the driveway to get on the motorcoach because it's a hassle-free, safe, reliable travel option that gets them where they want to go with a lot more money left in their pocket for sightseeing, theater, dining and shopping.

ABA: Do you see evidence that you've gotten people to finally leave the car at home for an intercity trip, opting for *Megabus* instead? If so, what's behind that choice?

DM: Consumers are looking for a deal in this economy, but they want safe transportation, reliable travel choices, and they love leaving their cars at home so they can relax, not pay for parking and tolls, and save on fuel. Our independent surveys ask riders after they take *Megabus*, "If you had taken this trip today and not taken *Megabus*, how would you have traveled to your destination?" They all say if it weren't for us, they'd have taken their cars. This says we are seeing a modal shift, and that the first choice after the personal auto is now the motorcoach. That's a clear indication of how we're not just reinventing bus travel, but the view of bus travel compared to other modes as well. Our targets are consumers that have never taken motorcoaches, or have a misperception of what it's all about. We are trying to attract someone who has not previously felt comfortable on this mode.

ABA: How successful is *Megabus* in retaining customer loyalty after their first trip?

DM: After the customer tries *Megabus* once, 98 percent say they'd do it again. We like the repeat numbers we're getting. Almost 100 percent of our fleet is new, with luxuries and conveniences that are quite frankly surprising to some consumers. They see our fares, they see the value and the concept of low cost. But in our society, some think if it's cheap it can't be that good. In this economy, they're willing to try it. Then once they're aboard, they see the flat-screen DVDs, WiFi, the comfortable seating and other things they didn't expect. Plus, we're convenient, serving center city locations, not remote bus terminals removed from center cities. We service spots with other intermodal connections from trains to taxis, or walking distance to attractions. We found it successful in the UK, and we've implemented it here.

*Miami County
Ohio has it all.*

Rich History
Beautiful Scenery
& Warm Hospitality...

**Piqua Heritage Festival
September 5-7, 2009**

On ABA Top 100 List for 2009



Early frontier life
Old-fashioned games
Homemade foods
Working canal boat
Entertainment

**Sculptures on the Square
May 4 - Sept. 20, 2009**



Outdoor exhibit by national
sculptors in historic
downtown Troy.



60 traditional quilt patterns
hand painted on area barns
- Year Round -



Troy, Ohio

800-348-8993

Visit our
award winning website
www.VisitMiamiCounty.org

ABAInsider

ABA: With routes in the Northeast and Midwest, what cities do you connect?

DM: Chicago is the hub to 17 cities via spokes throughout the Midwest. In the Northeast, New York City is the hub for 11 cities by spokes. We are now serving 30 cities.

ABA: Are you starting to feel like the field is getting crowded?

DM: Megabus came out first with the \$1 fares and the yield-managed pricing, and we are delighted that other companies have copied our business model. We take it as a compliment, and it is excellent for the traveling public to have those options. There are \$1 fares offered on every bus on every trip every day in our service, and that will continue. It's great that people have hitched their wagon to our horse, especially in these economic times.

ABA: Megabus fares start at a buck. Please share how things vary from that price point.

DM: Then it increases incrementally, but even our top fare is more economical than any other travel mode when measuring comparable distances. Every trip has a top end. New York to Toronto is more expensive than Boston to N.Y.

ABA: With 100 Megabus coaches out of 1400 total Coach USA buses in the company fleet, have you used both buses in the same areas, and for similar services?

DM: Coach USA takes 70,000 commuters in and out of Manhattan daily, and we do airport shuttles, contract services, sightseeing in New York and Chicago, as well as charter & tour. Our inter-city scheduled service from Megabus compliments the diversified portfolio of Coach USA.

ABA: In 2006, less than three years ago, the travel landscape was quite different. Was there reticence back then to launching Megabus in North America?

DM: There was no doubt in our minds that we could puncture the car culture. We Americans are quite acclimated to our autos. But in 2006, with the significant congestion in urban areas, a significant strain on energy sources, and the mainstreaming of the environmental movement, our timing was good, although we view those as ancillary reasons for the decision. The real initiative was targeting consumers economically. Then came taking cars off of highways, followed by achieving the highest passenger miles-per-gallon of any travel mode. We are the greener, smarter form of transportation. We are trying to change a car culture that has been a century in the making. We're trying to reinvent what has been successful in Europe. In under three years, we're approaching three million passengers, from a baseline of zero, and with no brand recognition. We've hit a niche in satisfying travel needs.

ABA: What is the most common thing customers tell you about choosing Megabus?

DM: Women say, "I've got more money to spend on the theatre, restaurants and shopping."

ABA Testifies Before NY Senate For Fair Bus Policies

Motorcoaches perform the same benefits as transit buses throughout the Empire State and therefore should be treated the same way, ABA President & CEO Peter J. Pantuso, CTIS told key State Senate Transportation Committees last month in Albany.

Motorcoaches, Pantuso urged, should be "treated equally with transit buses" by being "exempted from tolls on the East River and Harlem River bridges." It was the third time in the past month that ABA was the designated association voice for the industry.

"It is our hope that the Governor, in crafting his financing proposals to

ABAInsider

maintain service and solvency for the Metropolitan Transit Authority, ensures that over-the-road buses (OTRBs) be treated equally with transit buses, whether performing commuter, airport express, intercity, or charter and tour service. OTRBs and transit buses both help to protect the environment," Pantuso testified.

"With more than 1,000 coaches moving commuters in and out of New York City each day and hundreds more charter, tour and intercity buses bringing people into the city for shopping, theater, dining, and to visit friends and family, the industry saves fuel, cuts emissions and reduces congestion and adds to the current tourism economy," Pantuso added. "Our member companies form the backbone of the transportation network particularly as it relates to rural transportation and we hope that our contributions to the traveling public are upheld."

Travel & Tour Groups, Operators Unite To Fight NY Gov's Tax Plan

Academy Bus, Coach USA, and Peter Pan Bus Lines united with the Broadway League, Carnegie Hall, the Hospitality and Tourism Association, the Hotel Association and NYC & Company to show solidarity among bus operators and New York attractions as ABA President & CEO Peter Pantuso, CTIS, and Policy Manager Daniel Hoff told the Motorcoach Travel & Tour Industry Round Table the damaging effects Gov. David Paterson's (D) proposed tax hike would have on travel and tourism in New York.

"Transportation services" were defined such that they included not only charters, intra-city buses, sightseeing services and coach services, but horse-drawn cabs, pedicab services, charter fishing services, and nearly every other means of mobility. The definition

could also include regularly scheduled service including commuter and line-haul.

All charter bus tours, including buses that are hired or rented as a charter, beginning and ending in New York State, will be taxed unless service terminates out of state. If passed, the bill is slated to take effect June 1.

MCI 'Customer First' Events Underway

Motor Coach Industries March 5 launched in Houston the first of 12 planned "Customer First" regional events across North America for 2009 to engage motorcoach operators through educational outreach programs, as well as familiarize them with the company's regional service facilities.

The events will feature several seminars and displays covering engine technology, marketing techniques, safety features and seasonal maintenance tips, as well as model updates, financial service counseling, warranty implementation, aftermarket support and training, test drives, classes on fleet management and more.

MCI has reallocated its UMA Expo funds to its "Customer First" events to meet more customers in more places throughout the year. MCI said it will continue to be a supportive member of UMA, as it has since the Association's start in 1971.

A Green Pavilion focused on fuel-saving tips and technology will offer eco-friendly information on going green. ABA's "[Save A Penguin. Take A Motorcoach](#)" brochures will be available to operators to use in their marketing efforts.

ABA Special Projects Manager Brandon Buchanan conducted a special seminar at the Houston event to help operators navigate the federal grant application process. Buchanan is slated to offer the grant seminar at many of the upcoming MCI events.



PHILADELPHIA
Where you're at Liberty to...



Go Wild!

Whether your group prefers land or sea adventures, there's an experience for them at the Philadelphia Zoo and Adventure Aquarium. Earn bragging rights when you pet the stingrays and feed the animals! Both locations also offer new unique event spaces that turn the explorations into all day, or evening celebrations!

Schedule your journey today!

PHILADELPHIA
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



www.PhiladelphiaUSA.travel/
plan-your-group-tour



MCI's "Customer First" events will focus on engaging operators.

Did You Know?

The Bus Industry Safety Council (BISC) has a new [Web page](#) featuring safety tools every bus operator needs to meet FMCSA rules.



GrapeVine is the perfect group destination for Christmas and now is the time to plan your trip!

800-457-6338
www.GrapevineTexasUSA.com

"The operators welcomed Brandon's expertise at demystifying the federal grant process," said MCI Marketing Manager Vicki Bowman. "Brandon was invaluable in showing operators seeking grant assistance how to cut through the red tape."

Following the March 5 Houston event, MCI heads to Boston March 12, the Atlanta Motor Speedway March 19, Harrisburg March 24, Quebec City March 26, and British Columbia's Penticton Speedway April 1. The second wave of six more events are slated to take place later this year. For more information, [click here](#).

"Speedways are great venues to safely demonstrate MCI's ESC technology," Bowman added.

In other MCI news, employees represented by IAM Lodge 1953 at the MCI plant in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada voted February 28 in favor of a three-year contract that provides stability for MCI's employees, customers and the company's vendors, a substantial number of which are also located in Manitoba.

IN THE STATES

Bloomberg Plans To Slice Big Apple Streets In Core Area

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg will close traffic lanes along Broadway starting Memorial Day, saying the routes will be torn up and transformed into pedestrian plazas until at least the end of 2009, but will improve bus times on the affected streets for the more than 750,000 daily bus passengers.

The \$1.5 million pilot program will discontinue all vehicular traffic from 47th Street to 42nd Street and from 35th Street to 33rd Street—connecting Seventh Avenue through Times Square, where it is currently bisected by Broadway, and improve traffic flow on Sixth Avenue through Herald Square.

Sign Up Now To Be Part Of Vermont's Green Coach Program

Researchers from the University of Vermont are working with ABA to develop a program to test and evaluate standards and protocols for a proposed Green Certification program for motorcoach fleets. ABA collaborated with UVM to develop the proposal that will be used during an 18-month field test of the program.

If your company is running a fleet that collectively averages more than 148 passenger MPG; running EPA 2007 compliant engines in certain vehicles; offsetting a percentage of carbon emissions; running on an alternative fuel (such as a blend of biodiesel); or incorporating other policies, programs, or technologies to reduce the environmental impacts of services, your company may be qualified. To be eligible to participate in this new project your company must sign up by March 20th by contacting UVM's Dave Kestenbaum (802)656-9141 or ABA's Robin Phillips (rphillips@buses.org).

MEMBER SERVICES

ABA Forms New Premium Partnership with Monster.com

monster™ ABA is pleased to announce a new Premium
Your calling is calling™

Partnership with global online career and recruitment resource leader Monster.com that will provide special access to top motorcoach, travel and tourism industry talent through the latest online technologies. For an ABA members-only discount, both job seekers and employers seeking specialized talent for all segments of the hospitality industry will be able to utilize Monster.com's powerful tools and career resources by clicking [here](#).

"This is a great resource ABA is proud to provide to members as we consistently seek tools to help all bus and tour operators, travel partners and

Member Services

Continued

“We look forward to this relationship with ABA.”

—Monster.com VP of Global eBusiness Diane Frankenfeld

associates ways to navigate the current economic uncertainty,” said ABA President & CEO Peter J. Pantuso, CTIS. “What is unique about the partnership is its commitment to both sides of the employment equation—from talent-seeker to talent provider.”

“We are excited to align with the ABA and look forward to providing employers and job seekers with the tools and functionality to enable successful matches. We look forward to this relationship with the ABA,” said Monster.com’s Diane Frankenfeld, VP of Global eBusiness.

ABA members also have special discounts and offers, and can post jobs through the Monster.com [ABA Hiring Center](#).

CTIS Also Means “Critical To Increasing Success”

More than 60 participants gathered in Charlotte at this year’s Marketplace to celebrate their coursework completion, graduation and professional designation as Certified Travel Industry Specialists – among them ABA President & CEO Peter Pantuso, CTIS. The CTIS program

offered through the ABA and Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) affords enrollees the opportunity to increase contacts and further their education, fostering their professional development.

“In today’s economy, it is critical to increase your edge over the competition,” said Vicki Osman, CTIS, ABA Senior Director of Member Services. “CTIS is an avenue for enhancing business in every part of the motorcoach, tour and travel industry.”

The program includes courses in customer service, sales, advertising, business writing, personal organization and effectiveness, among others. Each CTIS participant is required to take five IUPUI correspondence courses and attend eight Marketplace Education Seminars to graduate. The program is designed to be completed in 12 months but can be extended without any additional enrollment fees from ABA.

[Register now](#) and save 40 percent on the CTIS enrollment fee. The deadline to enroll in program and still be qualified for the \$50 discount has been extended to March 31. Only two months after Marketplace, 33 pupils have already enrolled – more than half of the entire 2009 graduating class.

PASSINGS

Joe King, Travel Titan

Joe King, 68, Founder and Chairman of [www.tours.com](#) and [www.sightseeing.com](#), died last month of complications from lung cancer. His lifelong career in travel and tourism included stints with Radisson Hotels and Holiday Inns. He was active in the late 1960s movement that created “modern wholesale travel,” and established the tour and travel department of Tavern on the Green and the Lincoln Center in New York. He later founded King International in 1980 and [www.tours.com](#) and

Did You Know?

The 145-page 2009 New Jersey Travel Guide, released by the New Jersey Division of Travel & Tourism, is available online [here](#).

CTIS Graduating Class of 2009, including ABA President & CEO Peter Pantuso.



“ABA believes in giving back to the group travel community.”

—ABA President & CEO Peter Pantuso, CTIS

Did You Know?

The 1863 Civil War battle of Gettysburg was the northernmost point where Confederate troops fought the Union Army on the battlefield.

ABA will be teaming up to help restore a historic farm in Gettysburg.

www.sightseeing.com, leading worldwide directories of tours and vacations.

TRAVEL TRACKS

ABA Joins Tourism Cares To Address Gettysburg Restoration Project

ABA's entire staff is slated to travel (via motorcoach, of course) to Gettysburg April 17 to work with Tourism Cares and hundreds of other travel community professionals to work together to restore the George Spangler Farm, an 82-acre site of a field hospital that cared for both Union and Confederate soldiers during and after the famous 1863 three-day Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War.

In the past, more than 300 volunteers, including ABA staff, have participated at events such as last year's clean-up in a New Orleans park devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

“ABA believes in giving back to the group travel community, and working through Tourism Cares is a great way to show our commitment to bus & group tour attractions,” said ABA President & CEO Peter Pantuso, CTIS. “We give back at Marketplace to show our support for a worthy cause in each host destination, and raised \$66,000 in total to fight Breast Cancer from our recent events in Charlotte this year and Virginia Beach in 2008. But giving back to the group travel community is something ABA is committed to at all times.”

Vermont Operators Warn Of Tourism Drop If Exemption Ends

Vermont's motorcoach industry is fighting a state proposal to end the partial fuel tax exemption that makes it possible to provide bus mobility across the Green Mountain State. Some operators are expecting as much as a 30 percent decline in bus tour bookings this fall during the height of the foliage season. Vermont is one of

four U.S. states that currently invests in green travel by investing in a partial diesel fuel tax exemption for motorcoaches, which is 26 cents per gallon. Motorcoaches help generate up to \$150 million per year for Vermont in tourism dollars, and the elimination of the fuel tax exemption could cause a nosedive in bus tours to the state.

New 'Travel Tip Sheets' Aimed At Helping Attractions

ABA just launched a new member marketing tool, “*Travel Tip Sheets*,” to provide strategies for attractions looking to boost business from group tour operators. Read the first helpful hints on “*Getting Heads In Beds From Bus & Group Tours*.”

Driving Dips For 14th Straight Month

There was less travel on U.S. roads in December 2008 than a year before, marking the 14th straight month that driving has fallen from the previous year, the Federal Highway Administration said in a report released Feb. 19. December saw 3.8 billion fewer vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in 2008 than in 2007, a decline of 1.6 percent, according to FHWA.

EXECUTIVE EXCURSIONS

Davis New ABA Meetings & Events Coordinator

Courtney Davis joins ABA March 16 as its new Meetings & Events Coordinator. She most recently worked for VisitCharlotte, and was part of the VisitCharlotte team that helped to make Marketplace 2009 so successful. Her duties at ABA will include managing the 2010 Host Advisory Committee, Marketplace registration and customer service. ABA is pleased to have Courtney as the newest member of our team. She can be reached starting March 16 at cdavis@buses.org.





FOUNDATION MISSION

The ABA Foundation mission is to answer the call to support the industry with research and scholarships that benefit the ABA, policy-makers and the public. As part of its efforts to meet the lofty expectations set by its visionary Board of Governors, the ABA Foundation awards 19 scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students each year, hosting interns and conducting research studies on the industry and its positive impact on the country at a variety of levels.

LEGACY PATRONS



MOTOR COACH
INDUSTRIES

Going further!

PLATINUM DONORS



PREVOST



2009-2010 Scholarship Program Open To Applicants Until April 6

Those interested in applying for the ABA Foundation's [2009-2010 George T. Snyder Jr. Scholarship Program](#) have until Monday, April 6 to submit their materials. All members are encouraged to notify their employees, colleagues, friends, family and others who may be eligible to receive one of the 19 scholarships.

The George T. Snyder, Jr. Scholarships recognizes deserving students who show academic achievement, leadership and character; who come from diverse backgrounds; and who have the desire and potential to become part of the industry's next generation of leaders. The ABA Foundation annually awards \$45,000 worth of scholarships in five different categories (ABA Member Awards, Academic Aptitude, Diversity, The Ron Cornell Memorial Award, and the Peter L. Picknelly Memorial Award).

Updated Impact Study Shows Vibrant Motorcoach Industry

The ABA Foundation's just released 62-page updated version of "[The Economic Impacts and Social Benefits of the U.S. Motorcoach Industry: Binding the Nation Together by Providing Diverse and Affordable Services to Everyone](#)" shows that the industry is vibrant despite the economy – and may actually be benefiting from a travel mode shift because of tight budgets. From the first page, the study outlines the scope of motorcoach service in the United States: "In 2007, the motorcoach transportation industry consisted of approximately 3,400 mostly small businesses, nearly four-fifths of which operated fewer than 10 coaches. Operating a total fleet of more than 33,400 coaches, the industry provided scheduled, charter, tour, sightseeing, airport shuttle, commuter, and special operation

services. More than half of all industry operators provided more than one service," according to the study by well-respected research firm Nathan & Associates Inc.

"The industry generates sales and supports jobs throughout the economy," the study reports. "In 2007, tourists purchasing motorcoach services and industry spending on new motorcoaches generated \$55.0 billion of sales which supported 792,700 jobs in the U.S. economy.

Tourists purchased \$5.6 billion of motorcoach industry services. The industry spent \$978 million on new motorcoaches."

Motorcoaches are critical to the tourism and travel economy, as "Consumer spending of motorcoach passengers and industry spending stimulates local economies, thereby promoting economic growth and opportunity. Because of visitor and motorcoach industry spending in local economies, sales increase, additional jobs are supported, businesses thrive, and local and state governments collect additional tax revenues."

Spring Golf Outing Slated For Florida

All top-flite putters and contending titleists are invited to sign up for the Bridgestone/Firestone ABA Golf Tournament Monday, May 5 at 1 pm at the Amelia Island Plantation in Amelia Island, Florida, to raise funds for the ABA Foundation. The tournament is a great networking opportunity for ABA members and is open to golfers of all skill levels.

The ABA Foundation will utilize proceeds to provide unique educational assistance to scholars, as well as for funding for research. The Foundation is thankful for the support of five sponsors ([Bridgestone/Firestone](#), [ABC Companies](#), [Motor Coach Industries](#), [Pacific Western](#), and the [Amelia Island CVB](#)). To sign up, download the [Registration Form](#).

New Members—Print and Add to Your 2009 ABA Motorcoach Marketer

Can't wait for the ABA Insider to make the office rounds?

Sign up today to receive it automatically by e-mail every other week.

[Click here](#) to be added to the ABA Insider distribution list.

ABA Insider

Eron Shosteck, Editor In Chief

Aimee Tome, Associate Editor

Roderick Lewis, Membership Editor

Joe D'Angelo, Advertising Director

Judith Whitt, Circulation Manager



AMERICAN BUS ASSOCIATION

700 13th Street NW, Suite 575

Washington, DC 20005

(202) 842-1645

FAX (202) 842-0850

E-MAIL: abainfo@buses.org

www.buses.org

TOUR OPERATOR

Purpose Driven Tours

Wayne Barber, President
3924 Lake Catherine Drive
Jackson, MS 39212
PH 601-371-8733, FAX 601-371-8733
www.purposedriventours.org

TRAVEL INDUSTRY

Ameristar Casino Hotel

Jennifer Wilson, Destination Marketing Manager
2200 River Road
Council Bluffs, IA 51501-7048
PH 712-328-8888, FAX 712-329-6988
jennifer.wilson@ameristar.com
www.ameristar.com
Casino, Lodging

Best Western Rio Grande Inn

Anthony Valentin, Director of Sales
1015 Rio Grande Blvd. N.W.
Albuquerque, NM 87104
PH 505-843-9500, FAX 505-843-9238
dos@riograndeinn.com
www.riograndeinn.com
Lodging

Comfort Suites Kennesaw a Kasandas Properties LLC

Roshan Patel, Vice President
637 Cobb Parkway S.
Marietta, GA 30060
PH 678-718-0222, FAX 770-218-2824
rpattel@kasandas.com
www.kasandas.com
Lodging

HMA Hotels

Elaine Seidel, Director of Tour Sales
3400 Rider Trail S.
St. Louis, MO 63045
PH 314-291-6800, FAX 888-415-2245
eseidel@hmahotels.com
www.hmahotels.com
Lodging, Management Group

Hampton Inn & Suites Surprise

Cheryl Street
14783 W. Grand Avenue
Surprise, AZ 85374
PH 623-537-9122, FAX 623-537-9123
cheryl.street@hilton.com
www.phoenixsurprisesuites.hamptoninn.com
Lodging

Harrisonburg Tourism and Visitor Services

Brenda Black, Manager
212 S. Main St.
Harrisonburg, VA 22801-3605
PH 540-432-8940
brendab@harrisonburgva.gov
www.HarrisonburgTourism.com
DMO - Convention & Visitors Bureaus

Hilton Parsippany

Erica Wyronsky, Sales Manager
1 Hilton Court
Parsippany, NJ 07054
PH 973-267-7373, FAX 973-984-2896
erica.wyronsky@hilton.com
www.hiltonhotelsfoparsippany.com
Lodging

Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course

Joey Venezia, Marketing Manager
777 Hollywood Blvd.
Grantville, PA 17028
PH 717-469-3370, FAX 717-469-2910
joey.venezia@pngaming.com
www.hcpn.com
Casino

Greenfron Corp. dba Hyatt Place Columbus North

Pam Hudson, Director of Sales
2974 Northlake Parkway
Columbus, GA 31909
PH 706-507-5000, FAX 706-507-5013
pam.hudson@hyattselect.com
www.hyattplace.com
Lodging

Louisiana State University Rural Life Museum

David Floyd
P.O. Box 80498
Baton Rouge, LA 70898
PH 225-765-2437, FAX 225-765-2639
rurallife@lsu.edu
www.rurallife.lsu.edu
Museum

Soo Locks Boat Tours & Dinner Cruises

Marion Handziak
P.O. Box 739
Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783
PH 906-632-6301, FAX 906-632-1811
sales@soolocks.com
www.soolocks.com
Attraction - Other

Star Hotels

Kelsey Gage
7226 Lee Deforest Drive
Suite 200
Columbia, MD 21046
PH 410-953-6161, FAX 410-953-0010
debra@starhotels.net
www.starhotels.net
Lodging

QUALIFIED OPERATOR MEMBERS

The following Motorcoach & Tour Operators have submitted application(s) for membership between Feb. 17, 2009 – Feb. 24, 2009 and have met all membership requirements. They are currently in the mandatory 30 Day period for member comments.

BUSCHARTER dot NET

(DOT 869608)
P. Schmidhofer, President
Miami, FL
www.buscharter.net

Equator3 Tours LLC

Verl Thomas, Partner
New York, NY
www.equator3.com

5 Star Transportation LLC

(DOT 01445197 MC 546219)
Sam Pipkin, Manager
Bonneau, SC
www.5startransportation.vpweb.com

Kenny Tours, LTD

Bob Nay
Salisbury, MD
www.kenny-tours.com

Should members have comments regarding these applications, please contact abamembership@buses.org.