

April 1, 2011

Priority News

Upcoming:

April is Anniversary Month

- Priority 38 yrs. later
- Before & After Clean-up
 - Which DC can make the most improvement?
 - Take a photo & send in your results by 4/25
- Priority Pet Parade
 - Send in a picture of that little cutie by 4/15
 - Let's see if we can match owner to pet!

An Infectious Substance Presentation created by Guy Cook

- Can be found in Share Point (take a look)
- Vickie Gaskins & Tricia Viars created a DVD with voice recording detailing the various slides from the presentation for IC certification
- Read next week's PN for more on this effort!

Top of Mind:

Service – Superior

Customer Service will be best achieved when we stay committed to two priorities: High Quality Performance & Personal Commitment.

Efficiency – We will

continually strengthen our performance to ensure better execution.

Growth -- We will maintain

steady, sustainable, profitable growth for our Customers & our Company.

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OSTA – Priority's link to State Government

Lobbying efforts on behalf of all Ohio Couriers....



Besides being the compliance guy, Priority's Guy Cook is also a nice Guy!

As President of the Ohio Sameday Transportation Association (OSTA), Jeff Thomas has been engaging one of Priority's associates, Guy Cook, in the lobbying efforts for Ohio's first joint state-wide courier organization. To give a greater sense of understanding of Guy's responsibility and involvement in the organization we're including the following reprint from the MCAA (Messenger Courier Asociaton of America) Government Affairs Update:

"Earlier this month, Democrats in the Ohio Legislature re-introduced legislation to amend varous sections of the Ohio Revised Code (including unemployment, workers compensation, and the other employment laws) in order 'to create a generally uniform definition of employee.' Last year, identical legislation was defeated during the lame duck session due in large part to efforts by the Ohio Sameday Transportation Association (OSTA).

Recently, Ed Seidel from Dynamex, Guy Cook from Priority Dispatch, and the OSTA's lobbyist, Kristen Brinkman, visited with the Senate bill sponsor. The group scheduled this meeting to make the Senator aware of the courier industry and the negative impact that passage of the bill would have, and to learn about the Senator's motive in introducing the bill. The Senator spoke specifically about the construction industry and the underground economy, but also indicated that State and Local governments were not receiving the tax dollars they were owed. He did indicate that he would review and consider any language we might propose to modify or clarify the Bill. OSTA will continue to keep up their lobbying efforts to ensure harmful legislation does not make its way through the Legislature."

Now, if that were not enough on Guy's plate, he also represented Priority on the national level at the MCAA's Government Lobby Day, held in Washington, D.C. on March 2. Couriers across the nation attended this two-day event to develop federal legislation to protect and establish clear criteria which will be used to protect Independent Contractor status. Guy has provided the Priority News with his personal impression of this experience:

"Did you know the Federal Government is the largest utilizer of Independent Contractors? Well I and others from the MCAA took time to inform Capitol Hill that the United States Postal Services (USPS) uses over 17,000 independent contractors to line-haul the mail. If the USPS removed this current model for delivering mail, their operating cost would increase significantly, resulting in an immediate increase in the price of postage.

On March 3, 2011, I went to Capitol Hill to advocate our current business model. Along with six other MCAA/OSTA members, we had a 'Coffee Meeting' with Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown (D) and introduced him to our industry and our business model. Later in the day, I met with several legislative aides representing, Senator Sherrod Brown (D); Congressman Patrick Tiberi (R); Senator Rob Portman (R); Congresswoman Jean Schmidt (R) and had in-depth conversations about the current political climate to repeal the IRS 530 (Safe Harbor) bill. I discussed the need for clarity and guidance for small business to determine proper classification of our model on all Federal, State/Administrative levels. In addition, I solicited preliminary support for future proposed legislation drafted by the MCAA with favorable language for the industry.

Overall, I felt it was a memorable experience, and I appreciated the opportunity to advance our position in this forum. None of the legislative aides knew the independent contractor uses by the USPS was so vast, and it gave them better insight into the independent contractor model and the ramifications if the model is not preserved."

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