



Attendance Records are Shattered

Dear Fellow Member,

A visit to New York City is always a fascinating and invigorating experience. There is no place quite like it for spectacular Broadway shows like *Jersey Boys*, incredible restaurants, amazing museums, like Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, and world-class shopping. It was the perfect place for TLPA to hold its Spring Conference & Expo this year! What an opportunity to explore New York! Within walking distance from our Grand Hyatt Hotel were Grand Central Station, Times Square and Central Park.

Records are Shattered

I am pleased to announce the final count of attendees was 383. That smashes the old record of 311 by over 23%. We also set a new record for exhibits with 40 displays beating the old record by over 21%. These are great accomplishments in this economic environment and a real tribute to our co-hosts, host operators, sponsors and speakers. I hope the commemorative pin that I designed and made available also helped contribute to this success. I noticed many people were wearing the pin during the conference.

Support TLPA

Member Vendors

I want to encourage all of you to support the wonderful vendors that



TLPA President,
Rick Hewatt

support TLPA. They earn your support primarily by exhibiting at TLPA and offering valuable products at a fair price, but they also earn your support by sponsoring social events and networking activities at our educational meetings. TLPA members should support our vendors who support us.

Our vendor members contribute time and money to help TLPA deliver these helpful educational meetings and memorable social networking opportunities for our entire membership. Many of these vendor companies have supported TLPA year after year after year. They deserve your gratitude and your consideration at times of purchasing after that long commitment to you over all of these years. We've all heard the old saying, "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours".

Thanks to our Sponsors

On behalf of our members, I would like to thank all of our three conference co-hosts, **Black Car Assistance Corporation/The Black Car Fund, Metropolitan Taxicab Board of Trade and Ronart Leasing**, for sponsoring a wonderful private party for TLPA at Madame Tussauds Wax Museum at this year's Spring Conference & Expo. It made for a terrific evening of socializing and fun. This event was in keeping with my theme for this year: "Work Hard! Play Hard!" I would also like to thank our two operator hosts, **Valera Global and Vital Transportation** who sponsored a tour of their facilities, along with lunch and a memorable tour of Ground Zero.

Thank you, our vendor sponsors, for aiding the following special events. **VeriFone Transportation Systems** for co-sponsoring the Luncheon on Friday and also the Board Breakfast on Saturday; **Creative Mobile Technologies** for sponsoring the Opening Night Cocktail Reception Hors d'oeuvres;

TaxiData for sponsoring the Opening Night Cocktail Reception Open Bar; **Pulsar Technology Systems** for co-sponsoring the Full Buffet Breakfast on Friday; **Liberty Motor Company** for sponsoring the registration bags; **Digital Dispatch Systems** for sponsoring the name badge holders; **TaxiPro/AequiCap** for sponsoring room key cards at the Grand Hyatt; and the **Committee for Taxi Safety** for sponsoring the Continental Breakfast on Saturday. The combined special efforts of these vendor's contributions made the Spring Conference & Expo in New York an exceptional experience. Our sponsors really stepped up for this convention. I am very grateful to them.

More to Come

I can't believe I am half way through my year as TLPA President. I have had such a great time and have enjoyed working with every one so much that I wish I could keep going beyond October. However, we have a great line up of Presidents after my year that I am confident will do a great job. (Don't worry I will council with them on the "Play Hard" part of my year. The "Work Hard" part they are very familiar with, that I can assure you!)

We still have a lot of time left this year and we are going to step up the Work Hard and the Play Hard agenda for the remaining part of my term. So, make plans now to attend our next two meetings this year. Our Mid-Year International Leadership Conference will be held in Dublin, Ireland, July 15-18, 2009. Our board will meet and discuss association policy and focus on legal, legislative and regulatory issues. Don't forget our 91st Annual Convention & Trade Show will be held in Las Vegas, NV, October 4-7, at Caesar's Palace. I hope to see you there!

Your Friend,

President Rick Hewatt

The Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association represents taxicab, limousine, sedan, airport shuttle, paratransit, Medicaid, & non-emergency medical fleets worldwide.

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