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By Gary Petty, president and CEO of the National Private Truck Council. His column appears monthly in *FleetOwner*. The council's website is www.nptc.org.



NPTC 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Make your plans now to attend the NPTC 2021 Annual Education Management Conference and Exhibition June 13-15 at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel and the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati. NPTC 2021 will feature general sessions, workshops, and interactive roundtable discussions as well as an exhibit—all geared at improving your knowledge of private fleet operations; awareness of best practices from other leading private fleet professionals; and exposure to top private fleet resources, solutions, and suppliers.

The Annual Conference Planning Committee, representing both fleet and allied NPTC member companies, has assembled an expanded line-up of 30 high-impact education workshops that will be offered.

The exhibit hall is quickly filling up with companies that will be showcasing state-of-the-art equipment, technology, and services catered to the transportation industry.

NPTC 2021 is currently being planned as an in-person, 'live' event. NPTC is committed to providing a meeting and exhibition environment incorporating the latest safety, health and sanitization protection protocols to ensure the well-being of conference attendees.

The annual conference will feature the following:

- **Information:** General sessions feature professional leadership and Driver Hall of Fame recognition award ceremonies; Certified Transportation Professional Class of 2020 and Class of 2021 graduation; industry

benchmarking insights; and the latest legislative and regulatory affairs update.

- **Exhibits:** A world-class exhibit hall packed with some 150 companies offering products, resources, and solutions that will increase the effectiveness of your private fleet.

- **Networking:** Unparalleled peer-to-peer interaction is forged in an environment of trust, confidentiality, and non-disclosure.

- **Education:** More than 75 top fleet practitioners will serve as speakers and panelists at 30 workshops showcasing the latest, most innovative, and best ideas in private fleet management.

- **Best Practices:** More than 30 best practices breakfast roundtable sessions will allow private fleet professionals to share in a culture of trust and confidentiality, challenges and opportunities.

- **Recognition:** The private fleet community's best and brightest practitioners will be honored for achievements in safety, leadership, and certification, and for their years of innovative leadership and contributions to the industry.

- **Social:** Meals, events, and activities create an engaged earning atmosphere.

NPTC has reserved a block of sleeping rooms at the special discounted rate of \$163 per night. To guarantee availability at that rate, make your reservation by March 31.

To make your reservation, call the hotel at 800-445-8667 and identify yourself as attending the "NPTC Conference" or visit NPTC 2021 Annual Education Management Conference & Exhibit - Start your reservation (passkey.com) to reserve your room online.

CENTERLINE DRIVERS SPONSORS SAFETY LETTER

NPTC has announced that Centerline Drivers has been named the sole and exclusive sponsor of the Driver Safety Letter, one of the Council's primary resources to help boost the safety performance of NPTC members.

The Driver Safety Letter is a Microsoft Word document that NPTC members can print out and post as is, if appropriate, or modify any way desired to make it a better fit for their drivers, including adding their own company logo. If NPTC members are already doing an in-house letter, they are encouraged to cut and paste into their own letter.

"We are delighted to welcome Centerline Drivers as the sponsor of one of NPTC's primary and essential resources to its members. The driver plays a front-line role in the private fleet's efforts to enhance safety," said Gary Petty, president and CEO, in announcing the new sponsorship. "This partnership will go a long way to providing the information that is so critical to our efforts to improve safety."

"Centerline Drivers is committed to enhancing drivers' knowledge and education so that they stay safe on the roads," said Jill Quinn, president of Centerline Drivers. "Centerline shares NPTC's core values of respect and commitment to excellence, and we are excited to sponsor the Driver Safety Letter so that we can continue to connect top quality drivers with the private fleet community."

The Driver Safety Letter is published and made available on the third Monday of each month.

NPTC LAUNCHES BENCHMARKING SURVEY

Earlier this month, NPTC, in conjunction with new sponsor Penske Truck Leasing, began collecting data for the 2021 Benchmarking Survey. The benchmarking survey is widely regarded as the most valuable benefit of NPTC membership and the gold standard by which fleets assess performance against peer operators and national standards. For most companies, the report effectively serves as a fleet justification exercise for upper management and scorecard for continuous improvement.

This year, NPTC is pleased to recognize Penske Truck Leasing, an NPTC Five-Star member company, as the new exclusive sponsor of the NPTC Benchmarking Survey Report.

This survey is designed for the benefit of NPTC members and the private

fleet community. The purpose is to help validate and enhance private fleet performance. Last year, 109 fleet members participated in the 2020 survey. Considering the disruptive impact COVID-19 has had on fleet operations, this level of participation is extraordinary. Appropriately, the report includes evolving best practices and benchmarks implemented in response to the pandemic crisis.

The final report of the survey will be released on Aug. 1. Participants will be invited to sit in on a special pre-release webcast to review the results in detail. In addition, those companies that participate in the survey are welcome to request specialized, customized reports to better calibrate their operation against best-in-class performers.

2021 SAFETY AWARD APPLICATIONS

Each year, NPTC honors more than 75 industry professionals and member companies with awards and recognition for best-in-class safety, excellent customer service performance, and leadership in fleet management. Applications are now available for the 2021 Driver Hall of Fame and Fleet Safety Awards. By recognizing outstanding performance and accomplishments in our field, these awards are a great way to showcase your fleet.

These awards recognize fleets for outstanding and/or improved safety records based on their crash rates. First, second and third place awards are given for large and small fleets in each of the three operational categories (local, regional, mixed).

These awards also present Gold, Silver and Bronze Seal Certificates to private fleets with locations that have reduced their vehicle accident frequency rates. Applications must be postmarked by Monday, March 1.

The NPTC Driver Hall of Fame honors four exceptional drivers each year who are inducted into this elite group. A driver must have driven three million miles, 20 years, or 50,000 hours with no preventable accidents. Drivers must be a regularly employed full-time, leased, or dedicated driver of an NPTC member company who is actively driving until time of induction. Applications must be received by Monday, March 1.

MONTHLY WASHINGTON REPORT

As a reminder, NPTC hosts the Washington Report, a monthly conference call of the Legislative and Regulatory Committee. Sponsored by the TransForce Group, the call features NPTC General Counsel Rick Schweitzer providing insights and updates on the latest

legislative and regulatory developments that impact the private fleet community.

The meeting is held on the second Monday of each month at 11:30 a.m. EST. Last month, more than 80 members registered to participate in the conference call.

coming events...

Mark your calendars now for the following upcoming events:

- **March 1**—NPTC Driver Hall of Fame and Fleet Safety Award Applications due
- **June 13-15**—NPTC Annual Conference & Exhibition, Cincinnati, Ohio
- **Sept. 8-10**—NPTC National Safety Conference, Orlando, Fla.

At its meeting last month, the NPTC Institute Board of Governors elected the following new members to serve on the board:

- Erle Bergstrom, CTP
Transportation Manager
Orscheln Farm and Home

- Bryan Boyd, CTP
National Account Manager
Hendrickson

- Jill Glenn, CTP
President
Dedicated Sleep

- Ron Honken
Executive Director-
National Sales Leader
Transportation and Logistics
Practice, Commercial Risk
Solutions
Aon

- Marius Karoy
Chief Commercial Officer
Instructional Technologies

- Rich Kurtz, CTP
Director of Sales
BOLT System