

FALL 2024

# ROLLING ALONG

NORTH DAKOTA MOTOR CARRIERS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATION

*Celebrating 90 Years of Promoting Highway Safety for Our Members*



JOE MONDOR  
**DRIVER OF THE YEAR**  
page 4



NDMCA'S  
79TH ANNUAL  
CONVENTION  
& AWARDS  
BANQUET  
page 8



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The North Dakota Motor Carriers Association has been publishing the Rolling Along magazine since 1948. Each issue provides members with information concerning their association and the issues impacting the trucking industry.



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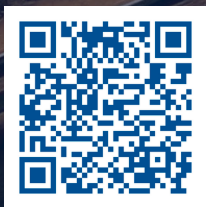
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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Members,

September was a great month for celebrating our members and their successes. Our association came together at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks for its 79th annual NDMCA convention. During our annual awards banquet, we honored the best of the best trucking companies, service technician, safety professional, trooper, and driver of the year. By recognizing those who prioritize safe practices, we underscore the importance of a safety-first culture within the industry. This celebration not only honors achievements but reinforces the commitment to maintaining high safety standards, encourages others to adopt similar values in their work, and fosters an environment where excellence and safety go hand in hand. Fostering an environment where excellence and safety go hand in hand. A full list of award recipients and winners can be found on pages 8-9. I was honored to close out the banquet by presenting a special award to retiring North Dakota High Patrol Col. Brandon Solberg.

As we roll into October, please take note of our upcoming DOT safety and compliance seminars happening over the next few weeks. Information about these seminars can be found on page 7 of this edition of the quarterly Rolling Along..

Election season is upon us. We had good success raising funds at the convention for TruckPac North Dakota and will use those funds to support candidates that support and promote the trucking industry. Keep in mind those candidates will require your support in November at the ballot box. Please get out and vote in November.



JEREMY OISTAD

With a year of serving as NDMCA president, I am excited to see what the future holds for our association. We have a strong association filled with dedicated members who consistently drive us forward. Their commitment, expertise, and collaborative spirit inspire innovation and progress where everyone can thrive.

Lastly, enclosed in this issue of Rolling Along is a special insert dedicated to the history and impact of NDMCA. This feature highlights the milestones of North Dakota's trucking industry and the important role the NDMCA has played in supporting and advancing the industry over the decades. I hope that you enjoy this special feature in this issue.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Oistad

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## TWO STRAIGHT: ALTENDORF'S MONDOR IS DRIVER OF THE YEAR

By Scooter Pursley | Clearwater Communications

If Joe Mondor had followed his dad's advice rather than his footsteps, he wouldn't be the North Dakota Motor Carrier Association's Driver of the Year.

Born and raised in North Dakota and now calling Grand Forks home, Mondor was presented his award at a banquet honoring all the NDMCA's award winners Sept. 5 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. A driver for Altendorf Express, he is the second straight driver from the Altendorf business and third overall to receive the honor. Altendorf Trucking's Julie Hjelle became the first female driver to win the award in North Dakota last fall. Terry Jordan was the 2017 Driver of the Year.

In the hours leading up to his presentation at the 79th annual NDMCA convention, Mondor was loading french fries in his refer (refrigerated trailer) and hours after receiving his honor, he was on the road to Houston, Texas, to drop off the load and pick up a trailer full of fertilizer to be used in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota.

It's the life Mondor loves, even if his dad tried hard to dissuade him from. Ironically, despite his dad's best efforts, it's their time in the cab that turned Mondor on to the open road.

"I rode with my father," Mondor shared. "I actually got held back in the first grade because I missed so many days going to Duluth to the old grain lines. My dad didn't want me to drive, but I went to truck driving school when I was 24 because he wouldn't teach me how to drive."

Family ties helped Mondor land his first job out of truck driving school. "I went to Johnson Farms because they knew my grandfather and my dad and they gave me a chance," Mondor said. He drove 16 years for Johnson Farms hauling produce into Canada before joining Altendorf where he is a standout employee.

Before he took up trucking, Mondor was a boy and a man looking for some direction.

"I played football, wrestled and was in track (at Grand Forks). I was a top athlete in my class, but I would have done better if I would have had some direction," the 1985 graduate said.

The direction he has now is anywhere the road will take him.

"I just enjoy being on the road, solitary, being out there. I'm kind of a quiet, by-myself kind of person," Mondor explained. "What really appealed to me was I had never really been out of North Dakota much, just Iowa with my dad and Montana once. Now I've been all over."

Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire and the eastern provinces of Canada are the only places he hasn't trucked on through.

Altendorf Safety Director Morgan Walsh talked about Mondor's value to the company. "Joe doesn't just operate with a high standard professionally, but also personally," Walsh said.

Altendorf recently hired a driver from Houston, Texas, with 20 years of experience driving a delivery truck in and around the Houston metro area. But long miles over the open road and the additional responsibility of driving a big rig had Julian considering returning to south Texas. Mondor stepped in to help. "It was Joe's guidance and coaching on the road that built a relationship with Julian Chacon, and now Julian is excited to go to work for this small North Dakota trucking company every day," Walsh said.

"Joe is the most patient and willing trucker I've met. He's almost like a big brother to me," Chacon noted. "It's safe to say that without him around I would have quit and gone back to Houston and drove locally. He's a natural leader and teacher."

The allure of the open road is what drives Mondor. The treatment he has received at Altendorf is what brings him back after each run.

"Altendorf is such a good company. Home time means a lot to them, they're family oriented," Mondor said. But the attraction goes deeper than that, as Mondor found out after a recent health scare.

"I had heart surgery and they let my truck set for six months; paid my medical bills. It's just incredible," Mondor said.

At 57, Mondor is still comfortable in the cab. "It's been fun but you miss a lot of life being a truck driver," he said. "You miss a lot of weddings, all my friends I grew up with, I missed their weddings. Kids kind of go by the wayside."

Mondor has no children of his own, but he still finds time to follow nephews in their activities. "My nephews rode with me until they discovered girls and then trucking was no fun. But I watched them in sports and supported them," he said.

Mondor's spouse, Terrie, recently retired and wouldn't be against his cutting back after 4.5 million accident-free miles. "The better half would like me to retire and do something more local and be home more," he said. "But her dad was a truck driver and her stepdad, so she knew what the life was like when we got together 10 years ago."

While trucking around the Northern Plains is much like it always has been, things have changed elsewhere.

"The hardest part about driving now is the amount of traffic. It's just got brutal in the southern half, near the coast," Mondor said. "You get down to Oklahoma and traffic is so heavy and everybody drives so fast. They're so impatient, and drivers are fed up."

Not Mondor.

"I am proud to be his safety director, and I look forward to my work each day knowing he brings that leadership and safe, professional conduct with him wherever he goes," Walsh added. "He is a true ambassador for Altendorf Express; for the entire trucking industry; and I can think of no better way to recognize his accomplishments than with the North Dakota Motor Carrier Association Truck Driver of the Year award."



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# LOCAL NEWS

## 2024 TRUCK DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK

On Tuesday, September 17th, the North Dakota Motor Carriers Association, in conjunction with the North Dakota Highway Patrol, North Dakota Department of Transportation, Transportation Club of Fargo Moorhead and dozens of other businesses, handed out lunches to drivers at the I-94 westbound weigh station near Mapleton. The event was part of National Truck Driver Appreciation Week, which thanks drivers for their hard work and commitment to one of our economy's most demanding and important jobs.



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# 2024 DOT SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE SEMINARS

OCTOBER 17, 22, 24 2024 | NOVEMBER 5, 2024

## Registration & Schedule

### Annual Vehicle Inspection

- October 22 – Virtual  
8:00 am - 12:00 pm (Central Time)  
• \$80 Member • \$160 Non Member

### DOT Safety and Compliance Seminars

*Free Registration for ND WSI Policyholders.  
Scholarship is limited to 2 employees per company.  
Additional employees may attend at the rates below.*

- October 17 – Holiday Inn  
3803 13th Ave S, Fargo, ND

#### SEMINAR SCHEDULE

9:00 am - 12:00 pm (Central Time)  
(Lunch on your own)  
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm (Central Time)

- October 24 – Virtual  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm (Central Time)  
• \$80 Member • \$160 Non Member

### Agribusiness Regulatory Compliance and ND Permitting Webinar

- November 5  
8am - 12pm (Central Time)  
• \$80 Member • \$160 Non Member

### WSI Policy Holder Scholarship Terms

Workforce Safety & Insurance (WSI) is North Dakota's state-run monopolistic compensation fund. All employers with ND employees must be policy-holders. Participants of a company with a WSI policy will receive free registration. This scholarship is limited and will be awarded in the order registrations are received and no preference is given based on membership status with NDMCA. Companies registering multiple employees will only receive the scholarship for the first two employees. WSI Policy Number must be correct and on file at NDMCA prior to training to be awarded scholarship.

### Disclaimer:

Membership rates only apply to organizations who pay annual dues to The North Dakota Motor Carriers Association. You do not need to be a NDMCA member to qualify for the WSI discount. To see if your company qualifies for the member discount contact 701-223-2700.

## Curriculum

### October 22 – Annual Vehicle Inspection

#### *ND Highway Patrol*

This united training offers driver and mechanics the opportunity to receive information in a setting that allows for open discussion and a cooperative team approach to CMV repair and maintenance safety.

The course will address what vehicles meet the definition of a CMV, requiring an annual periodic inspection, and some of the record-keeping requirements. It then goes through Part 393, and other roadside inspection information, so the inspector understands what exactly is required under Part 393 and what constitutes a violation on a roadside inspection. It lays a foundation for an inspector to know when something must be replaced or when something is working as required, rather than using their opinion.

Upon completion of the class, attendees will receive a certificate of attendance to help satisfy Inspector qualifications under Part 396.19.

### October 17 & 24 – DOT Safety and Compliance Seminars

#### *FMCSA*

This is a foundation course for understanding compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. This course will provide a comprehensive review of regulatory compliance as well as how to prepare and what to expect during a FMCSA investigation. Topics to be discussed include, but are not limited to: hours of service, driver logs, entry level driver training, drug/alcohol testing, driver qualification files and vehicle maintenance files.

### November 5 – Agribusiness Regulatory Compliance

#### *ND Highway Patrol*

This course provides an overview of the Safety regulations and Hazardous Material regulations applicable to agricultural related businesses, including exemptions and the requirements to meet those exemptions.

This course will be suitable for coops and ag industry professionals and staff who are wanting a better understanding of the requirements that are related to their business operations.

### Understanding ND Permitting System and Rules

This course is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the oversize and overweight permitting process and regulations. We will discuss and review the allowable configurations, axle weights, frost laws and a walk through of the online permitting system.

Register online at [www.ndmca.org](http://www.ndmca.org)

The Fargo class will cover more in depth information than the virtual class, but some of the same topics will be covered.

# NDMCA'S 79TH ANNUAL CONVENTION & AWARDS BANQUET

By Scooter Pursley | Clearwater Communications

GRAND FORKS, N.D. – The 79th annual North Dakota Motor Carriers Association state convention was held Sept. 4-5 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks.

Industry leaders and affiliated organizations gathered to hear keynote speakers discuss items that threaten motor carrier operations like frivolous nuclear-level legal awards in accident lawsuits against trucking businesses; skyrocketing insurance rates (see accident lawsuits); autonomous trucking; and the economy's effect on the trucking industry.

Speakers included ATA economist Emily Clayton, litigation consultant Steve Wood and FMCA field administrator Craig Price.

The event began with the NDMCA Foundation scholarship golf tournament at King's Walk Golf Course. Fifteen teams competed in the team scramble tournament with a score. No one aced hole No. 8, a par-3 playing 185 yards from the black tees to win the Ford F-150, but Melissa Dixon gave it a good try, leaving her tee shot about two feet from the hole. Prizes also were awarded for longest drive, longest putt, closest to the hole and closest to the swine (wins the wine).

The event concluded with the annual awards banquet and a special presentation to retiring North Dakota Highway Patrol Col. Brandon Solberg.

Year-end awards went to Service Technician of the Year Levi Flath of Holland Enterprises Inc.; Safety Professional of the Year Pamela Warner of Northdale Oil; Trooper of the Year Myles Sundby of the North Dakota Highway Patrol; and Driver of the Year Joe Mondor of Altendorf Express.

Mondor is Altendorf's second straight Driver of the Year.

"My dad didn't want me to drive but I went to truck driving school when I was 24. Then I started driving," the 57-year-old Walhalla native said. "I just enjoy being out on the road."

Flath was surprised just to be nominated for his award. Winning was even more of a surprise. "That came as a big shock," he said. "Knowing every time one of my trucks is passing it's going to be making its destination safely and on time, that's a good feeling. I'm still turning wrenches but doing a little bit of everything." Flath has worked for Holland since 2015.

Warner came to her new career from the military. "Prior military has a lot to do with (her new job). They're big on safety in the military," said Warner, whose job is safety and compliance of drivers. For nine years she has tracked safety and training at Northdale Oil since retiring out of Minot Air Force Base. "I'm most proud of how far I've come."

Sundby, meanwhile, followed in the footsteps of his father in law enforcement. "Something I always wanted to do was go into law enforcement." His current duties include size and weight enforcement. "I can just go wherever I want to go. I go and do what I do." Sundby has been with the Highway Patrol since 2005. "



Colonel Brand Solberg, NDHP



Driver of the Year  
Joe Mondor, Altendorf Express



Safety Professional Of the Year  
Pamela Warner, Northdale Oil



Trooper of the Year  
Myles Sundby, North Dakota Highway Patrol



Service Technician of the Year  
Levi Flath, Holland Enterprises LLC

## INDUSTRY PARTNER AWARDS



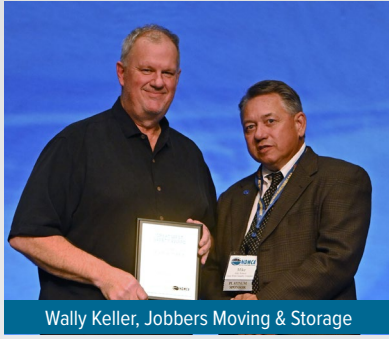
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Mari Obenchain, Mayer Truck Line Inc.



Nikki Williams, F & M Transport, Inc.



Ken Foltz, Foltz Trucking Inc.



Riley Holland, Holland Enterprises LLC



Chris Hoerth and Eric Opdahl, Marvin



Corey Bittner, TMI Transport Corporation  
Fleet Grand Champion

**2023 DRIVER OF THE YEAR:**  
Joe Mondor, *Altendorf Express*

**2023 SAFETY PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR:**  
Pamela Warner, *Northdale Oil*

**2023 SERVICE TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR:**  
Levi Flath, *Holland Enterprises LLC*

**2023 TROOPER OF THE YEAR:**  
Myles Sundby, *North Dakota Highway Patrol*

**2023 SPECIAL RECOGNITION:**  
Outgoing North Dakota Highway Patrol Col. Brand Solberg

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Holland Enterprises LLC

**PRIVATE / 500,000 - 750,000 MILES**  
Baker Boy

**PRIVATE / 1,000,000 - 2,500,000 MILES**  
TMI Transport Corporation

**PRIVATE / 10,000,000 - 25,000,000 MILES**  
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## PROJECT FOCUSES ON REDUCING RURAL TRUCK CRASHES

Truck crash rates on rural roads in North Dakota are among the highest in the nation, but during the past two years, partners in a multi-faceted statewide outreach and education initiative have worked to bring those numbers down.

The effort, led by the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute at North Dakota State University, focused on making truck safety leaders and resources easily accessible. No-Zone, driver rules, load securement, size/weight management, farm use, and operating around trucks were among the topics highlighted in the two-year public education and outreach effort funded by the Federal Motor Carriers Administration. Other partners included the North Dakota Highway Patrol, North Dakota Department of Transportation, North Dakota Motor Carriers Association, North Dakota Farmers Union, Dixon Insurance, the FM Transportation Club, NDSU Extension, and the Associated General Contractors of North Dakota.

The effort addresses the prevalence of truck crashes on North Dakota's rural roads. In 2019, the state was in the top quartile among a distribution of truck-involved crash fatality rates nationwide. State crash records show that 66.7 percent of serious crashes (those with fatalities and disabling injuries) occurred on rural roads between 2016 and 2020. During that period, 16 percent of those crashes occurred on gravel roads, more than twice the rate for non-truck crashes.

Del Peterson, a UGPTI researcher who helped coordinate the effort, said a subject matter expert committee formed at the outset of the effort played a key role in developing the objectives of the project and guiding ongoing efforts. In addition to partners in the effort, the subject matter expert committee included representatives from the Cass County and McKenzie County Sheriff's departments, the sugarbeet industry and the Dickinson chapter of the American Petroleum Institute.

The subject matter expert committee met 11 times and formed several subcommittees that met to focus on particular safety issues. "It was critical to get their input on specific trucking safety issues that are prevalent in North Dakota," Peterson said.

Mark Wolters, a long-time leader in truck safety in North Dakota, was hired as a truck outreach liaison for the project to provide communication and knowledge-sharing to deliver a sustained truck safety education and outreach program. Key components of Wolter's outreach activities included:

- Working with the Fargo-Moorhead Transportation Club
- Providing training and safety education to local trucking firms
- Preparing a booth with information for the North Dakota Motor Carriers Association Conference
- Promoting safety around commercial motor vehicles through a No-Zone demonstration at a career expo attended by nearly 4,000 students in Fargo.



He also provided insight and feedback regarding outreach materials and activities from a commercial truck driver perspective throughout the study period.

In addition, UGPTI updated its Ag Transportation Handbook to include changes based on North Dakota statutes and updates to the Highway Patrol's Trucker's Handbook. NDSU Extension provided input for changes to safety guidelines for transporting anhydrous ammonia and implements of husbandry. The handbook is available for instant access at [www.ugpti.org/resources/downloads/2023NDAgTransportationHandbook.pdf?d=20230715](http://www.ugpti.org/resources/downloads/2023NDAgTransportationHandbook.pdf?d=20230715)

Based on input from NDSU Extension, UGPTI staff developed a series of public service announcements on large truck and agricultural safety topics for National Safety Month in June. UGPTI recruited volunteers to personalize and read 30-second safety messages. The messages were recorded and broadcast by a North Dakota radio network in June and during the fall harvest period. Volunteers represented North Dakota Vision Zero, NDHP, NDMCA, UGPTI and an ambulance service driver. Local law enforcement staff may contribute to future messages.

A project website ([www.ugpti.org/rtssc/resources/truckedu/](http://www.ugpti.org/rtssc/resources/truckedu/)) was created to consolidate truck-related safety resources into a single location. Education materials were developed and selected based on input from the subject matter group. The website serves as the central information hub for the project and will continue to be maintained by UGPTI.

Although funding for the project ended in September, the project will continue as part of the NDDOT Vision Zero Initiative and the NDDOT's high-priority crash prevention efforts. UGPTI and other partners will continue to be a part of the advisory group for that effort.

"Local awareness and a sustained commitment to preventing large truck-involved crashes will strengthen the state's commitment to the issue," Peterson said. At the same time, the project has possible implications beyond North Dakota's borders. "The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is looking at this sustained team partnership and education program for possible implementation nationwide," Peterson noted.



## NDDOT IFTA/IRP RECORDS REVIEW: WHAT TO EXPECT

You were selected for an IFTA/IRP Records Review, now what?

Don't panic. A Records Review is not an audit. The goal is to examine compliance with International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) and International Registration Plan (IRP) recordkeeping requirements by reviewing a sample of a carrier's distance and fuel records. It also includes an evaluation of the carrier's internal controls which help ensure accurate reporting on a quarterly and annual basis.

Remember, the IFTA and IRP programs allow carriers to move from state to state and some Canadian provinces without having to register, pay fees and pay fuel tax in each participating jurisdiction in which travel occurs. Therefore, it is important for carriers to follow the guidelines to continue participating in the programs.

The main purpose of a Records Review is to help the carrier understand and comply with recordkeeping and retention requirements of IFTA and IRP programs. Any issues identified through a carrier's records can then be corrected going forward. A carrier can be selected for a Records Review at any time, even in its first year of operations.

No assessments can be applied as a result of a Records Review when a carrier is found to have inadequate records. The purpose is to educate and help the carrier get into compliance, not to penalize.

So, what should you expect when selected for a Records Review? Following is an overview of the process:

- A Records Review notification letter will be sent to the carrier.
- A questionnaire about business operations is included with the letter.

- Monthly and quarterly mileage and fuel summaries will be requested.
- One month of trip and fuel records will also be requested.
- The records submitted will be analyzed for program compliance.
- Based on the completed questionnaire, the carrier's internal controls will be evaluated.
- A phone conference to discuss the findings and recommendations will be held.
- The Records Review Report, detailing the findings and recommendations, will also be mailed to the carrier.
- Completing the records review process precludes the carrier from an audit for minimum of 180 days to allow carriers time to correct deficiencies and/or implement any recommendations.

The Motor Vehicle Division, Motor Carrier Section as well as the Audit Services Division are available to help answer questions. Please reach out if you have any questions. We are here to help!

### CONTACT US

Motor Vehicle Division  
Motor Carrier Section

Email: [motorcarrier@nd.gov](mailto:motorcarrier@nd.gov)

Ph: 701-328-2725

Audit Services Division

Email: [nddotqa@nd.gov](mailto:nddotqa@nd.gov)

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# GOLF



## TOURNAMENT

The NDMCA Foundation Scholarship Golf Tournament was to be held at King's Walk Golf Course in Grand Forks. The NDMCA Foundation would like to thank all those who planned to golf and our sponsors for their continued support.



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#### KEY TOPICS:

- Potential for autonomous trucking in North Dakota
- Potential business uses for autonomous trucks
- Challenges in implementing the technology
- Benefits of autonomous trucking including improved efficiency, reliability, and safety
- Deployment prospects and timelines
- Market considerations

In addition, Kodiak Robotics will discuss planned deployments of autonomous trucks in hauling frac sand in the Permian Basin.

Take our short survey  
regarding autonomous  
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