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SUMMER 2026

NORTH DAKOTA MOTOR CARRIERS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATION



BEST OF THE BEST REIGN AT TDC

page 4

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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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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Members,

As we move into the second half of the year, I want to thank our members, partners and industry stakeholders for their continued commitment to North Dakota's transportation industry.

One recent highlight was the outstanding turnout for the North Dakota Truck Driving Championships held in Fargo. The event showcased the professionalism, skill and dedication of drivers from across our state while reinforcing our industry's unwavering commitment to safety and excellence. Events like these remind us that North Dakota is home to some of the finest transportation professionals in the country, and I want to congratulate all participants, volunteers, sponsors and organizers who helped make the championship a success.

The trucking industry remains the backbone of our economy, connecting communities, supporting businesses and ensuring essential goods reach their destinations safely and efficiently. While our industry continues to face challenges, including workforce development, regulatory changes and evolving customer expectations, I am continually impressed by the professionalism and resilience demonstrated by North Dakota carriers.

One of the key priorities for the North Dakota Motor Carriers Association remains promoting safety, advocacy and education. Through collaboration with industry partners, regulatory agencies and our member companies, we continue working to strengthen the future of trucking across our state.

Make plans to attend the 81st annual NDMCA convention Sept. 1-2 in Grand Forks. This exciting event will include our awards banquet, speakers ND Insurance Commissioner John Godfreed, Brian Fielkow and Randy Clifford and pre-convention entertainment.

As your association moves forward, we remain focused on providing value through training opportunities, industry updates, legislative engagement and networking events that help our members succeed. I encourage everyone to stay engaged, participate in upcoming programs and continue sharing ideas that help advance our industry.

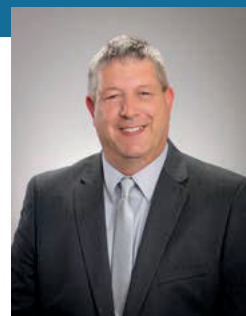
Thank you for your support of the NDMCA and for the important work you do every day. Together, we will continue moving North Dakota forward.

Respectfully,



Paul Gibree

President, North Dakota Motor Carriers Association



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We need your support to keep up the fight and ensure North Dakota remains a trucking-friendly state! TruckPAC North Dakota supports elected officials that are key in helping fight off regulations that negatively impact our industry, bottom line, and safety ratings.

<https://shopndmca.org/truckpac-north-dakota/>

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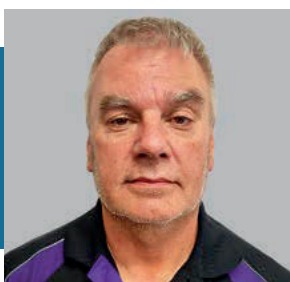
By Scooter Pursley,
*Clearwater
Communications*

MEYERS COMPLETES TRUCKING GRAND SLAM

In golf and tennis, winning all four major championships is called the career Grand Slam. The trucking equivalent of the Grand Slam requires winning eight different championships, and only one driver has all eight to their credit.

Scott Meyers, a veteran line haul driver for FedEx Freight won the Sleeper Class championship at the North Dakota Motor Carriers Association Truck Driving Championship in his hometown of Fargo in May. With

it, Meyers collected the last of the TDC's eight possible trucking championships.



SCOTT MEYERS
*NDMCA
GRAND SLAM*

"That was my goal for last year, too," said Meyers, who came up short. This time, he posted a score of 274, which was the score he would have needed to win in 2025 as well. The difference was his on-course performance.

Meyers said he had to get his wife's permission to compete in Sleeper. "My father-in-law owned a truck and told my wife that I could never try to be better than he was," Meyers explained. "So, I asked my wife if I could, and she said OK."

In addition to his Sleeper title, Meyers won Straight Truck in 2024, Flatbed in 2023, Tanker in 2019, Five-Axle in 2018, Three-axle in 2014, Four-axle in 2012 and 2009 and Twin Trailers in 2007. On the road, he pulls triple trailers from Fargo to Belfield, changes trailers with a driver from Billings, and pulls that back to Fargo each day. He has logged 3.2 million accident-free miles over 42 years.

Each spring, the NDMCA conducts the annual truck driving championships open to any driver who was accident-free over the past 12 months. They are given a written test, perform a pre-trip inspection and complete a series of driving skills tests. Winners earn the right to compete in the national Truck Driving Championship and Step-Van Championship later in the summer. This year, that will be in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in August.

Meyers, the Grand Champion in 2009, 2014 and 2018, will headline what must be considered a North Dakota all-star team. Looking back through all-time TDC records, the nine champions – including this year's Step Van champion Treasure Paskett – have a combined 64 state championships.

"It's fun. Of course, I always feel like I'm underprepared," Five-Axle champion Brad Morrow of West Fargo said. He's come a long way since attending his first TDC. "The first year I snuck into the banquet to see all of the awards. I saw the trophies that the Con-Way (Con-Way Freight) drivers got. The next year I got in."

Morrow's success in a now-forgotten part of the test – the combo, which combined interview and written scores for the Dixon Award – earned him a nickname. "It was my pleasure to win that a few years running, to the point where other drivers started calling me 'Miss Congeniality,'" he said. "I had no idea what an advantage it would be to me. That's where I learned to do a good pre-tip inspection that helped me every day in my job. It flipped my view of the law enforcement community. Instead of seeing them as an adversary, I saw them as an advocate."

Joining 11-time champion Morrow and nine-time champion Meyers on the all-star team this year: three-axle champion John Janousek (13 titles); Flatbed champion Jonathan Simonson (10 titles in 7 classes); Tanker Truck champion Christopher Scholand (8 titles); Four-axle and Grand Champion David Comings (5 titles); Twin Trailers champion Drew Bartelson (5 titles); Step Van champion Paskett (2 titles) and Straight Truck champion John Byrd (1 title).

FedEx Freight drivers Comings, Meyers, Scholand and Rookie of the Year Jeff Mack were crowned team champion for 2026.

Janousek's 13th state championship came 26 years after winning his first title in Twin Trailers while driving for American Freightways in 2000. He has won the Twin Trailers class 10 times

Simonson's first foray into the TDC was at the urging of a manager at CCX. "He really promoted it. He mentioned all year to the guys to stay safe so they could do it. We had about 12 or 13 guys," Simonson recalled..

He selected the Flatbed class this year – and won it for a third time – for one reason. "I just wanted to go to Pittsburgh," he said. "So we talked (among drivers), and I said I'll do Flatbed. ... And Dave Comings was in Four-Axle and I didn't think I wanted to go against him yet. Next year, I want to do Four-Axle."



See More, TDC (page 6)

RESULTS 2026



3 AXLE



1. John Janousek FedEx Freight
2. Luke Groen Old Dominion
3. Johnathan Kramer XPO

FLATBED



1. Jonathan Simonson XPO
2. Shawn Larson EW Wylie Inc.
3. John Wilkins EW Wylie Inc.

TANK TRUCK



1. Cristopher Scholand FedEx Freight
2. Matthew Albert Old Dominion

5 AXLE



1. Brad Morrow XPO
2. Don Huckins Marvin
3. Mike Harrison Marvin

TWIN TRAILERS



1. Drew Bartelson Old Dominion
2. Jeff Mack FedEx Freight
3. Richard Hartleib FedEx Freight

4 AXLE



1. David Comings FedEx Freight
2. Cory Norman FedEx

SLEEPER BERTH



1. Scott Meyer FedEx Freight
2. Audie Jaeger EW Wylie Inc.
3. Brian Evenson Marvin

STEP VAN



1. Treasure Paskett FedEx
2. Joe Paskett FedEx
3. Demeris Allen FedEx

STRAIGHT TRUCK



1. John Byrd FedEx Express
2. Carlos Salazar FedEx Freight
3. Nicholas McConnell FedEx

FEDEX FREIGHT CHAMPION



- | | | |
|----------------------|-------|---------------|
| David Comings | FedEx | 4 Axle |
| Scott Meyers | FedEx | Sleeper Berth |
| Christopher Scholand | FedEx | Tank Truck |
| Jeff Mack | FedEx | Twin Trailers |

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR



- Jeff Mack
FedEx
Freight

GRAND CHAMPION



- David Comings
FedEx
Freight

TDC (From Page 4)

Comings and Bartelson, an Old Dominion Freight Lines driver, have each won their five titles in succession since a pause for COVID in 2020 and 2021. Comings had the added pressure of proving his state and national championships from 2025 were no fluke. The TDC was just the first step.

“For me, coming back to the state there was a lot of internal pressure to win the class and go back to nationals,” the Wahpeton driver said. “Every year I feel more pressure at state ... What if I don’t win to validate what I did last year.”

Comings, who was already headed back to the national TDC as the past champion, said he is relieved to be going again as an active competitor. “This is a veteran team. I’m excited to see how that goes.”



FALL DOT COMPLIANCE & SAFETY SEMINARS

October 6

Annual Vehicle
Inspection and Pre-/
Post-Trip Inspections

October 20

DOT Safety
and Compliance
– Dickinson

October 22

DOT Safety
and Compliance
– Fargo

October 29

DOT Safety
and Compliance
– Virtual

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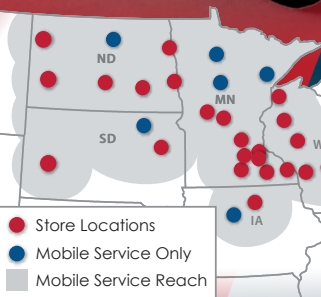


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2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION INFORMATION & SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

2pm-4pm Vendor set-up (*Alerus Center 1200 S 42nd St*)

6:00-9:00pm NDMCA Night Out at Northern Air Action Park

Sponsored by: **Bauer Built Tire, Fargo Freightliner, Dixon Insurance and Interstate Truck Licensing, EW Wylie, Forks Freightliner, Great West Casualty Company, IState Truck Center, Jobbers Moving and Storage, Johnsen Trailer Sales, Magnum Companies, Midland Garage Door, North Central International, Pro Transport and Leasing, Wallwork Financial Corp., Northdale Oil**

Social Sponsored By:
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Indoor karting

Craving the rush of real racing? Northern Air Action Park features North Dakota's most exciting indoor go-kart track—complete with LED lights, sharp turns, and high-speed straightaways that test your skills and fuel your need for speed.

Laser Tag

Step into our immersive, sci-fi arena where lights, thumping soundtracks, and interactive bases turn every match into a showdown. Form alliances or go solo in multi-round missions designed for all ages. Accurate vests, rapid reloads, and dynamic game modes mean no two battles are ever the same.

Axe Throwing

Test your aim and unleash your competitive side in our single or double throwing lanes. Ideal for date nights, team-building, or proving bragging rights with friends.

SAFETY AWARDS BANQUET

The North Dakota Motor Carriers Association Annual Safety Awards Banquet gives special recognition to industry professionals and fleets going above and beyond in helping keep our roads and highways safe. Awards for Fleet Safety, Service Technician of the Year, Safety Professional of the Year, Trooper of the Year and Driver of the Year will be given in 2026 in recognition of achievements in the previous year.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

7:00 am. Leadership breakfast
Sponsored by: **Johnsen Trailer Sales, Wallwork Financial Corp.**

8:00 a.m. Opening Remarks

8:15 a.m. Keynote ATA Chairman **Randy Clifford**, American Trucking Association

9:00 a.m. **Brian Fielko**, Safety From the C-Suite,” Discover how executive leadership shapes safety culture and learn practical strategies to reduce risk, strengthen operations, and improve business performance.
Sponsored by: **Workforce Safety & Insurance**

10:30 a.m. Vendor Networking Break
Sponsored by: **Magnum Companies, Pro Transport and Leasing**

11:00 a.m. Industry Segment Meetings

11:45 a.m. Member Lunch
Sponsored By: **EW Wylie, TMI Transport Corporation**

12:15 p.m. ND Insurance Commissioner John Godfread
Hear the latest from the North Dakota Insurance Department on insurance trends, regulatory developments, and issues of interest to motor carriers and transportation businesses.

1:15-2:00 p.m. FMCSA Update Special Guest to be announced.
Receive the latest updates from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration on regulatory developments, enforcement priorities, and initiatives affecting motor carriers and commercial drivers.

2:15-3:15 p.m. From Reactive to Proactive: Using AI to Strengthen Fleet Safety. This session will explore how fleets are using AI, in-cab cameras, and driver scorecards to shift from reactive safety management to proactive coaching. Topics may include driver buy-in, implementation challenges, use of data, and the impact on safety outcomes and insurance.

Panel Discussion
Rocco Marrari, Pedigree Technologies-Moderator
Trevor Monilaws, Hofmann Trucking
Nikki Williams, F&M Transport
Rick Maidens, Great West Casualty Company
Ben Sand, Workforce Safety and Insurance.

3:15 p.m. Vendor Networking Break
sponsored by: **Magnum Companies, Pro Transport and Leasing**

3:45 p.m. Annual Board Meeting and Foundation Meeting

5:00 p.m. Last chance vendor networking

6:00 p.m. Awards Banquet Social, Sponsored by:
North Central International

7:00 p.m. Annual Safety Awards Banquet
Sponsored by: **Dixon Insurance and Interstate Truck Licensing, Great West Casualty Company, Altendorf Trucking, Butler Machinery**

ACCOMODATIONS:

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2026 NDMCA LEADERSHIP CONVENTION

Alerus Center
1200 S 42nd St Grand Forks, ND 58201

2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION SPEAKERS

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration Deadline – August 15th, 2025

Registration Fees

- ▶ Member (all speakers, events and meals) - \$350
- ▶ Non-member (all speakers, events and meals) - \$500
- ▶ Member Day 2 only (all speakers events and meals on Sept. 2) - \$200
- ▶ Spouse/Non-Industry Guest (all speakers, events and meals) - \$175.00
- ▶ Kart, Axe & Connect Solo - \$150.00
- ▶ Kart, Axe & Connect Trio - \$300.00
- ▶ Awards Banquet only - \$150.00
- ▶ Awards Banquet Trio (3 tickets to safety banquet) - \$300.00
- ▶ Reserved Banquet Table (Does not include registration) \$30
- ▶ Child Banquet - \$30.00
- ▶ Vendor Booth (includes 1 registration) - \$500.00
- ▶ Non-member Vendor Booth (includes 1 registration) - \$700.00

Register Online at www.ndmca.org | Registrations are transferable.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Platinum Level - \$8,000
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- ▶ Presenting Banquet Sponsor - \$3,000
- ▶ Supporting Banquet Sponsor - \$1,500
- ▶ Presenting Lunch Sponsor - \$2,000
- ▶ Event Supporting Sponsor - \$800
- ▶ Networking Break Sponsor - \$800
- ▶ Convention Sponsor - \$350
- ▶ Registration Table Sponsor - \$300

**Sponsorships can be purchased at www.ndmca.org.
Click on the event page.**

FEATURED SPEAKERS



JON GODFREAD

Jon Godfread has served as North Dakota's 22nd Insurance Commissioner since 2016 and was re-elected in 2020 and 2024. He is committed to protecting consumers while ensuring effective insurance regulation and has led efforts to modernize the department and maximize its resources. A recognized national leader in insurance policy, Godfread serves as the 2025 President of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).



BRIAN FIELKO

Brian is an accomplished senior executive with more than three decades of experience leading and transforming multi-million-dollar organizations. Known for driving strong corporate strategy, operational excellence, and continuous improvement, he is equally passionate about building high-performing teams and fostering a strong, sustainable safety culture.
www.brianfielkow.com



RANDY CLIFFORD

Randall ("Randy") J. Clifford has dedicated nearly four decades to advancing the trucking industry through leadership and advocacy. He has served on the California Trucking Association Board since 1989, was its President in 2002, and has held numerous leadership positions with the American Trucking Associations (ATA), including Vice Chairman beginning in 2024.

FMCSA Update with Special Guest to be Announced.

Receive the latest updates from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration on regularly developments, enforcement priorities and initiatives affecting motor carries and commercial drivers.

From Reactive to Proactive: Using AI to Strengthen Fleet Safety explores how fleets use AI, in-cab cameras and driver scorecards to shift from reactive safety management to proactive coaching. Topics may include driver buy-in, implementation challenges, use of data and the impact on safety outcomes and insurance.

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2026 ANNUAL NDMCA SCHOLARSHIP

GOLF

• TOURNAMENT •



1ST PLACE

Shawn Martin
Jess Siemers
Jacob Baltes
Mike Heckman

2ND PLACE

Richard Dalzell
Landon Rude
Blake Christiansen
Connor Brown

14TH PLACE

Mitchell Gladue
Jared Erickson
Connor Klovstad
Mark Schiltz

OTHER WINNERS

Closest to Pin: Mike Heckman	Longest Drive: (women) Sherri Thompson
Longest Putt: Jamie Elliott	Longest Drive: (men) DJ Hawkinson

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NORTH DAKOTA MOTOR CARRIERS ASSOCIATION

2026 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Nicolas Hynson

Thank you for selecting me as a recipient for the NDMCA Foundation Transportation Scholarship. I am very grateful. I am from Minot, North Dakota, and grew up with my mom and my sister and I would see my dad every other weekend. I was fortunate enough to grow up with a strong independent mother who raised me to figure things out and make the most out of all my opportunities. I have been making the most out of my time while being a student by investing in tools at student pricing. I also obtained my Class A CDL permit and will be taking the CDL class over my summer semester to get my commercial license. I've been trying to keep my grades high and have excelled during my internships. In high school, I was part of SkillsUSA and won my state competition in automotive refinishing and got to represent North Dakota at the national conference. I was elected president of our school's SkillsUSA club and participated on a welding fabrication team. That bled into my hobbies. I repainted a 1985 Chevrolet K10 Silverado longbox and did minor bodywork in high school. Now I'm working on a 1982 Chevrolet C10 Silverado shortbox that came with a 6.2 Detroit engine. Right now, I have that truck down to the frame and am planning on a big block swap with a four-speed behind it. I am connected to the industry by my employment by Butler CAT. I am part of the ThinkBIG program and have full-time employment working on heavy machinery and trucks.



Philip Kuntz

Growing up I knew I wanted to work in the towing industry following in my parents' footsteps. My parents own Berg's 24-Hour Towing. While attending school I was able to work at Berg's 24-Hour Towing. In May, I graduated from Shiloh Christian School. This fall I was a co-captain of the football team and received the Shiloh Rudy Award for always being able to do what was asked of me. I received the Legacy Award for attending 12 years at Shiloh. This fall I plan on attending Bismarck State College for auto mechanics and the following fall I plan on taking diesel mechanics.



Kaylee Oistad

My name is Kaylee Oistad. I graduated from Moorhead High School in May of 2026. This upcoming fall, I will be attending MSUM to major in elementary inclusive education. Growing up, I always dreamed of pursuing a career in teaching. Currently, I work at a daycare called Little Discoveries, where I have had the opportunity to work with children of many different ages. Working for Little Discoveries has given me a deeper insight into the field of teaching and continues to push my passion for teaching to grow. My mom works at Noridian Healthcare Solutions as a quality review analyst. My dad works as a Midwest territory manager for Turbo Solutions and is a long-standing North Dakota Motor Carrier board member. I want to thank the NDMCA for selecting me as one of the recipients.



Kamrin Wangler

My name is Kamrin Wangler and I grew up in Mandan, North Dakota. I graduated from Mandan High School in 2025 and went into the workforce as a concrete laborer. I've always loved working on and modifying cars, so after seeing the equipment used on job sites, I became curious about how it functions and is maintained, which led me to become interested in becoming a diesel technician. I plan to attend NDSCS in Wahpeton, North Dakota, to earn a degree in diesel technology through its NDSCS Caterpillar ThinkBig program. Once I've finished school, I plan on becoming a full-time service technician at Butler Machinery in Bismarck, North Dakota, where I'll get to work on diesel equipment, machines and semis to ensure the equipment the trucking industry relies on is running safely and efficiently.

TRUCKER'S LOG - SUMMER 2026



PREPASS/HAAS ALERT'S SAFETY CLOUD

PrePass Safety Alliance, the nonprofit public-private partnership advancing commercial vehicle safety and efficiency, and HAAS Alert, a pioneer in real-time digital safety alerting technology, today announced a strategic collaboration to integrate HAAS Alert's Safety Cloud Alert™ solution into PrePass

Safety Alerts™ - expanding the product's capabilities to include live digital warnings for approaching emergency vehicles, incident responders, and active work zones.

Through a first-of-its-kind nationwide partnership PrePass and HAAS Alert will deliver critical roadside safety alerts directly to professional drivers using the PrePass Mobile App across the lower 48 states. This collaboration combines PrePass nationwide trucking reach with HAAS Alert's Safety Cloud, North America's most comprehensive platform for dynamic road hazard alerts.

With this integration, PrePass Safety Alerts will notify drivers of active roadside emergency scenes, work zones, and other roadway events before they reach them - giving commercial truck drivers minutes of advance warning rather than seconds provided by traditional lights and signage alone. The Safety Cloud platform automatically captures hazard events when emergency or incident responders activate their vehicles' warning lights or when work zone equipment is deployed, requiring no additional action from crews in the field and enabling them to focus on the job at hand. Safety Cloud Alert sends this safety information in real time. This partnership reflects our shared belief that technology should be put to work protecting the people who keep America moving. "For more information, visit www.prepassalliance.org/ or www.haasalert.com

BAUER BUILT INC. ACQUIRES JACK'S TIRE AND SERVICE

Bauer Built Inc., has announced the acquisition of Jack's Tire and Service

Jack's Tire and Service out of Beloit, Wis., was founded in 1982 and has built a strong reputation for quality tire and automotive service throughout the region. The acquisition adds key locations in South Beloit, Ill., and Madison, Wis., strengthening Bauer Built's service network across the Midwest.

Bauer Built Inc. is a family-owned and operated business for 82 years, providing tire and mechanical services throughout the Midwest. With the addition of the Jack's Tire locations, Bauer Built now operates 51 service locations, five Michelin Retread Technology retread plants, and two wheel refinishing operations. Bauer Built is a member of the Michelin Commercial Service Network.

NEW NDHP PERMIT SYSTEM

The North Dakota Highway Patrol Permit Office will be implementing a new permit system this fall. Please watch for information regarding training sessions that will be offered prior to the system launch.

To help ensure a smooth transition, it will be identifying select companies to participate in a soft launch, bringing users onto the system gradually rather than having everyone begin on the same day.

The new system will also provide the ability to make certain changes to permits after they have been issued, helping to reduce the need for refunds and resubmissions.

WALLWORK TRUCK CENTER ACQUIRES MOTOR POWER KENWORTH

Wallwork Truck Center, a leading Kenworth and Ford commercial truck dealership with locations across North Dakota and Minnesota, has acquired Motor Power Kenworth – one of the oldest Kenworth dealer agreements in the country, serving Montana and Wyoming since 1941. The acquisition expands Wallwork's network to 10 locations across four states.

The deal expands Wallwork's reach into agriculture, energy, and construction markets across Montana and Wyoming. This is a significant expansion story for commercial trucking in the Northern Plains and Mountain West regions.

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WESTERN CMV SAFETY SUMMIT TO SPOTLIGHT SUCCESS STORIES

By Brenda Lantz, Associate Director, North Dakota State University, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute



Innovative safety initiatives ranging from state-led education and enforcement programs to emerging technologies and industry-driven safety solutions will be highlights of the fifth Western Regional Commercial Vehicle Safety Summit, scheduled for **January 27–28, 2027, in Denver, Colorado.**

The summit is co-hosted by the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute (UGPTI) and the Colorado State Patrol, and supported through a cooperative agreement with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)

Additional details about the 2027 Western Regional Commercial Vehicle Safety Summit are available through the CVSC website. For more information, to discuss partnership opportunities, or to suggest a topic for the upcoming Summit, please contact Brenda Lantz at brenda.lantz@ndsu.edu.

The event will bring together representatives from law enforcement agencies, driver licensing agencies, universities, and industry partners from across the western region. Participants will have the opportunity to share success stories that are making a measurable difference in reducing commercial motor vehicle (CMV) crashes and improving roadway safety. They will gain valuable insights into the latest research, practical tools, proven best practices, and collaborative strategies advancing CMV safety nationwide. In addition to showcasing successful programs and partnerships, the Summit will address emerging issues and key trends shaping the future of CMV safety. Topics and sessions are being developed based on input gathered from states and territories throughout the FMCSA Western Service Center region regarding current projects, partnerships, challenges, and areas of interest. The final agenda will be developed collaboratively with the Summit advisory team, which includes representatives from NDSU-UGPTI, the North Dakota Highway Patrol, the Colorado State Patrol, and FMCSA.

Previous Summits have generated significant outcomes, including the establishment of the NDSU-UGPTI Commercial Vehicle Safety Center (CVSC), the development of a webinar series, and the creation of a comprehensive online resource center. The CVSC website (www.ugpti.org/outreach/cvsc/) provides access to presentations, educational materials, webinar recordings, and resources from prior Summits. The CVSC also serves as a point of contact for universities, law enforcement agencies, driver licensing agencies, and industry stakeholders seeking to build partnerships and advance CMV safety initiatives.



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- Organizes Western Regional Commercial Vehicle Safety Summits every two years to focus on critical issues. Next summit is January 27-28 in Denver, Colorado
- Hosts webinars to highlight new regulations, technologies, strategies and success stories
- Conducts research to improve commercial vehicle safety through data-driven analysis, technology evaluation, and policy analysis



PAY FOR COMPANY DRIVERS JUMPED 11% IN FIRST QUARTER

By The Trucker

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. — Average weekly pay for company truck drivers jumped 11% during the first quarter of 2026, landing at \$1,804, according to a May 18 report issued by Fleet Intel, a division of Conversion Interactive Agency (CIA). Even with these gains, company driver pay lags behind weekly pay for team drivers (\$2,063), lease-purchase drivers (\$2,748) and owner-operators (\$3,364). According to data, Colorado ranks first in weekly company driver pay at \$2,207, while North Dakota is second nationally at \$2,032.

The report, available for download here, highlights key trends in truck driver pay across the transportation industry for Q1 2026, including national average weekly pay by driver type, national average weekly pay by trailer type, and geographic trends in company driver compensation across the U.S. According to a statement released by Fleet Intel, the data for Q1 2026 reveals continued upward movement in advertised driver compensation as driver pay becomes an increasingly important topic across the industry.

Company drivers experienced the most notable increase during the quarter, with average weekly pay rising 11% from Q4 2025 to Q1 2026. Lease purchase, owner operator, and team driver compensation also remained strong throughout the quarter.

“The Q1 data reflects growing momentum in driver compensation as carriers continue prioritizing recruiting and retention efforts,” said Steve Sichterman, chief product officer at CIA.

Pay by trailer type

Company driver pay by trailer type also revealed notable trends during Q1 2026.

Refrigerated freight continued to report some of the strongest advertised compensation levels (\$1,865), while flatbed (\$1,745) and van (\$1,740) pay remained competitive throughout the quarter. Tanker trailed other categories at \$1,625 per week.

“These findings demonstrate the continued strength of specialized freight segments while highlighting sustained demand across core equipment categories,” noted CIA’s May 18 statement

Variations in regional pay

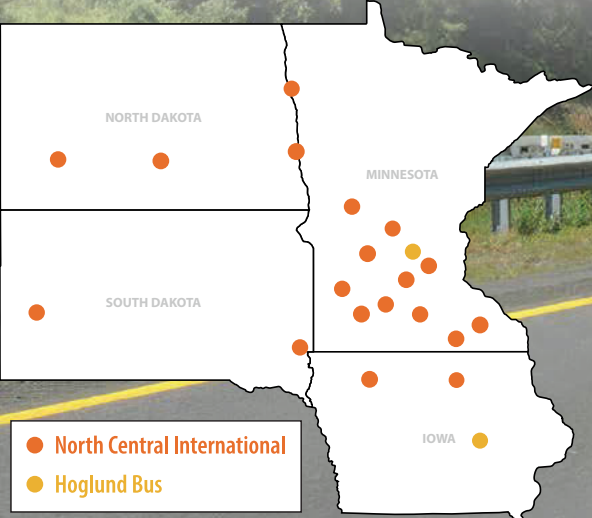
Another key highlight from the Q1 2026 report is the regional variation in company driver pay across the country. Several Midwestern and Southern states ranked among the nation’s highest-paying markets for company drivers, while portions of the Northeast and West Coast reported some of the lowest average weekly pay levels during the quarter.

“Understanding how driver compensation shifts across freight markets remains critical for carriers looking to stay competitive,” Sichterman noted. “These insights help transportation companies benchmark pay trends, strengthen recruiting strategies, and better positioning themselves in a rapidly evolving labor market.”



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