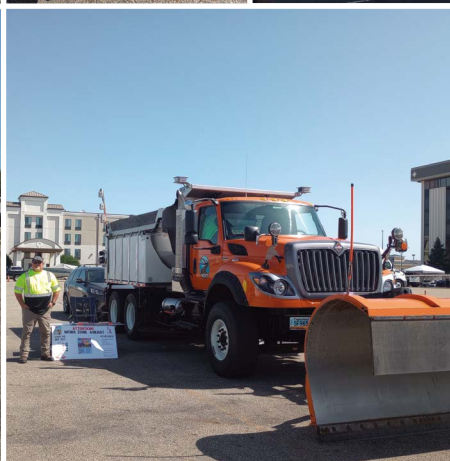
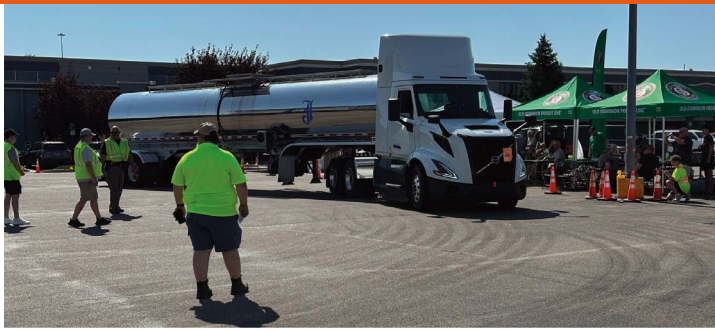


# ROLLING ALONG

SUMMER 2025

NORTH DAKOTA MOTOR CARRIERS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATION





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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.



Rolling Along is published quarterly (April, July, October and January) by the North Dakota Motor Carriers Association. Statements of fact and opinion are the responsibility of the authors alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of the officers, members or staff of the North Dakota Motor Carriers Association.

The mission of the North Dakota Motor Carriers Association is to promote highway safety, deliver services and provide representation for our members. All rights reserved. Materials may not be reproduced or translated without written permission. Subscription rate for members is \$50, which is included in the dues. U.S. subscription rate to nonmembers is \$100 for one year. For advertising information please contact the Association office at [info@ndmca.org](mailto:info@ndmca.org) or by phone at 701-223-2700.

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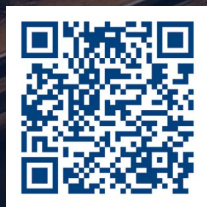
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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Dear Members,

As I begin my final month as president of the North Dakota Motor Carriers Association, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we've shared over the past two years. It has truly been an honor to serve in the role and to work alongside such a passionate, committed and inspiring group of individuals.

Together, we faced challenges, celebrated milestones and made meaningful progress toward our shared mission. I know there is more work to be done, and I look forward to working with Paul Gibree from Knife River as he assumes the role of president at our upcoming 80th annual convention (August 26-27) at the Fargo Holiday Inn. As I pass the gavel, I am confident that our association is in more-than-capable hands. I look forward to seeing the next chapter unfold, filled with innovation, growth and continued legislative impact.

We changed our convention format slightly this year and will begin the event on Tuesday, August 26 with an evening of fun and networking at Suite Shots in Fargo. The night will include a meal and social from 6 to 9 p.m. The following day will feature educational sessions and networking and conclude with our annual Safety Awards Banquet. This part of our annual convention is for recognizing individuals and companies committed to safety. I hope you plan to attend and look forward to seeing everyone during the two-day event.

We had another successful Truck Driving Championship this year on June 21 at the Fargo Holiday Inn. Congratulations to the competitors who showed off their skills at this annual event showcasing the best of the best drivers in North Dakota. Wahpeton's David Comings, who competed in the 5-axle category and drives for FedEx Freight, was crowned the 2025 Grand Champion.

David's story and a rundown of all the winners can be found on pages 6-7. A special thank you to all the volunteers that make this event a rewarding and successful event year after year.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to all the individuals who were incredibly supportive and understanding during my tenure. Your encouragement, patience and collaboration have made a lasting impact and I'm truly grateful for the relationships and experiences we've shared. Your support has meant more than words can express. I am truly honored to be part of such a great industry. Keep on Truckin'!

Sincerely,



Jeremy Oistad



JEREMY OISTAD

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NORTH DAKOTA

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# 2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION INFORMATION & SCHEDULE

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025

### NDMCA Annual Convention

3:00-4:30 p.m. Vendor Set-up, Fargo Holiday Inn  
3803 13th Ave., S.; 701-282-2700

Registration sponsored by:  
**Dixon Insurance & Interstate Truck Licensing**

6:00-9:00 p.m. NDMCA Night Out at Suite Shots  
3400 James Way S., Fargo; 701-352-4653

Sponsored by: **Bauer Built Tire, Dixon Insurance & Interstate Truck Licensing, Greatwest Casualty Company, Fargo Freightliner, Holland Enterprises LLC, Johnsen Trailer Sales, Magnum Companies, Midwest Motor Express, North Central International, Pro Transport & Leasing, EW Wylie, Istate Truck Center, OK Tire Store, Farstad Oil, Knife River Cooperation, Wallwork Financial, Jobbers Moving and Storage, Altendorf Express, Agtegra Cooperative; Marsh McLennon Agency**

Social sponsored by:  
**Fargo Freightliner/Forks Freightliner, IState Truck Center, Westlie Truck Center**

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration Deadline – August 15th, 2025

### Registration Fees

- ▶ Member (all speakers, events and meals) - \$300
- ▶ Non-member (all speakers, events and meals) - \$500
- ▶ Member Day 2 only (all speakers events and meals on Aug. 27) - \$200
- ▶ Spouse/Non-Industry Guest (all speakers, events and meals) - \$125.00
- ▶ Suite Shots Social and Dinner - \$125.00
- ▶ Suite Shots Trio (3 tickets to social and dinner) - \$250.00
- ▶ Awards Banquet only - \$125.00
- ▶ Awards Banquet Trio (3 tickets to safety banquet) - \$250.00
- ▶ 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](http://www.ndmca.org) | Registrations are transferable.

## 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 2025 in recognition for achievements in the previous year.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2025

7:00 a.m. Registration sponsored by:  
**Dixon Insurance & Interstate Truck Licensing**

Leadership Breakfast sponsored by:  
**Johnsen Trailer Sales, EW Wylie, Knife River Corporation, OK Tire Store**

8:00 a.m. Opening Remarks

8:15 a.m. Keynote Speaker, **Greg Hodgen**, American Trucking Association executive committee member and president and CEO of Groendyke Transportation, a national leader in tank truck safety.

9:00-10:00 a.m. **Brandon Wiseman**, transportation attorney and founder of Trucksafe Consulting. Presenting Crash Prevention Determination Program  
Sponsored by: **Workforce Safety & Insurance**

10:00-10:30 a.m. Vendor Network Break  
Sponsored by: **Allstate Peterbilt Group, Midwest Motor Express, Pro Transport and Leasing, Magnum Companies, Holland Express.**

10:30-11:45 a.m. **Eric Johnson**, president and safety director of Meinecke-Johnson, "Let's talk about that"

11:45 a.m. Member lunch with Keynote speaker  
**Attorney General Drew Wrigley**.  
Sponsored by: **Agtegra Cooperative, Farstad Oil, Marsh McLennon Agency, TMI Transport Corporation Wallwork Financial**

1:30 p.m. Speaker, **Brandon Schroeder**, presenter of Believe in Safety. He challenges audiences to reflect, reset and commit to a culture where safety isn't optional – it's personal.  
Sponsored by: **Workforce Safety & Insurance**

2:30 p.m. Industry Segment Meetings:  
Allied – **Kelly Krapu**, Chair  
LTL – **Tyler Johnson**, Chair  
Private – **Kevin Borseth**, Chair  
Specialized – **Jeff Jacobson**, Chair  
Truckload – **Tracy Buzick**, Chair

3:15 p.m. Vendor Networking Break  
Sponsored by: **Allstate Peterbilt Group, Midwest Motor Express, Pro Transport and Leasing, Magnum Companies, Holland Express.**

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**  
Featuring Music From: **Brianna Helbling**

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

## 2025 NDMCA LEADERSHIP CONVENTION

Fargo Holiday Inn, 3803 13th Ave. S.  
701-282-2700



# CONVENTION SPEAKERS



## **ATTORNEY GENERAL DREW WRIGLEY**

Drew Wrigley is North Dakota's 30th Attorney General, appointed in 2022 and later elected to the position. A former U.S. Attorney and Lieutenant Governor, he has led significant efforts to enhance public safety, support law enforcement, and shape state policy. Drew brings decades of legal and public service experience to the role, rooted in his commitment to North Dakota communities.



## **BRANDON SCHROEDER**

After surviving a catastrophic workplace accident in 2011, journeyman electrician Brandon Schroeder turned his experience into a mission. As the founder of Believe in Safety, Brandon shares his powerful story with audiences across the country, challenging individuals and organizations to make safety a personal value through emotional storytelling and practical insight.



## **GREG HODGEN**

Greg Hodgen is the president and CEO of Groendyke Transport, one of the nation's largest tank-truck carriers. Under his leadership, the company has expanded operations and earned multiple national safety awards. He currently serves as chairman of the American Trucking Association chairman and is actively involved in national and state transportation associations, workforce development and civic organizations.



## **BRANDON WISEMAN**

Brandon Wiseman is a transportation attorney and founder of Trucksafe Consulting. He specializes in FMCSA regulations and safety compliance, advising some of the nation's top carriers. Brandon is a trusted voice in the industry, especially on topics like the Crash Preventability Determination Program and practical DOT compliance strategies.



## **ERIC JOHNSON**

Eric Johnson is a leadership strategist and partner at Meinecke-Johnson Company. He will address the critical topic of mental health in the workplace – sharing practical strategies to reduce stigma, support employees and build a culture of wellness. With a background in organizational development and real-world leadership, Eric brings valuable insight into how companies can prioritize mental well-being alongside safety and performance.

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- ▶ Convention Sponsor - \$350
- ▶ Registration Table Sponsor - \$300

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North Central International  
 OK Tire Store  
 Pro Transport & Leasing  
 TMI Transport Corporation  
 Wallwork Financial Corp.





## LESSONS LEARNED: FEDEX DRIVER COMINGS IS NDMCA GRAND CHAMPION

By Scooter Pursley | Rolling Along Editor

What is it that sets Wahpeton truck driver David Comings apart from hundreds of other drivers hauling cargo across North Dakota? Probably his attention to detail and the ability to multi-task.

Comings, who drives less than truck loads (LTL) on Interstate 94 from Fargo to Belfield and back five days a week, uses part of each trip listening to American Trucking Association audio training manuals to sharpen his skills.



LTL drivers like Comings take partially loaded trailers to a distant destination where they meet up with LTL drivers coming the other way and change trailers. Comings swaps loads with drivers from Billings, Montana, and returns to Fargo. Having a little more than nine hours on the open road comes in handy prepping for events like the North Dakota Motor Carriers Association's Truck Driving Championship, held in late June in Fargo. Comings was the big winner there, taking home first in 5-axle and team with his FedEx Freight team, and, of course, the grand championship.

"I'm still afraid I will wake up in the morning and realize we haven't competed yet," Comings said. "Year after year I've been working my way up. Trucking is part of my life and it's something I've loved since I was 5 years old. I love soaking in as much of the industry as I can."

The knowledge Comings gained through audio studies made all the difference in the FedEx Freight driver winning his first grand champion award and fourth class title in four years. He won the state 4-axle title in 2022 and 2023, and repeated as 5-axle champion after claiming the title in 2024.

"The people who have mentored me and brought me through instilled in me to work hard and do things the right way with an emphasis on safety," Comings said. "Coming here with a safety above all culture that FedEx emphasizes, it made me develop a safety above all mindset." Comings'

unique study methods don't come at the expense of safety. "Obviously my concentration and focus is on driving," Comings emphasized. "Whether you're listening to a podcast, or music or this, you might miss 15 minutes. But conversations with others helps with that."

"I don't have a lot of time at home to sit down and study," Comings added. "By the time I get home I don't feel like studying. Nine and a half hours on the road is a wonderful opportunity to listen. Normally, it's three or four hours a day and as we get closer the competition, it's more like five or six." Each TDC consists of three sections: pre-trip inspections, on-course skills and a written test. Comings said his in-cab studies were the difference in the competition.

"The book is one part of the competition where you can gain points," Comings said. "It's a harder part where, for me, I can gain the advantage."

"There's three or four other guys there that have been real consistent. I've been working my way up to it. When you come to a state competition, your first goal is to win your class. That's your ticket to nationals. To do that, you have to do well in all three phases. I felt I did well on pre-trip and felt good after driving."

Comings said he and tank truck driver Drew Bartelson tied in the driving test and Bartelson outscored him in pre-trip. But Comings made up the difference in the written test.

"It's not to say I don't listen to music, but while a lot of people are on the road and doing other things, that's my chance to brainstorm on the book," said Comings, who will travel to Minneapolis, Minnesota, in August for the national TDC.

Federal Express Corporation's Treasure Paskett was a multiple award winner, claiming first in step van, a team title and the Rookie of the Year honor. Old Dominion driver and previous grand champion Bartelson and FedEx Freight driver Cameron Janousek defended their titles in tank and 4-axle, respectively. FedEx Freight team champions also winning individual classes were Christopher Scholand (3-axle) and Jamie Ackerland (straight truck). XPO's Thomas Opgrand won flatbed, EW Wylie's Audie Jaeger won sleeper berth, XPO's Brad Morrow won twin trailers.

*Scooter Pursley in the Senior Communications Specialist at Clearwater Communications.*



### 3 AXLE



- 1 Christopher Scholand FedEx Freight
- 2 Luke Groen Old Dominion Freight
- 3 Jonathan Kramer XPO

### STRAIGHT TRUCK



- 1 Jamie Ackerland FedEx Freight
- 2 Nicholas McConnell Fed Ex Express

### ROOKIE OF



Treasure Paskett  
FedEx Express  
5 Axle

### 4 AXLE



- 1 Cameron Janousek FedEx Freight
- 2 John Enlow Old Dominion Freight
- 3 Tyler Tollefson FedEx Freight

### TANK TRUCK



- 1 Drew Bartelson Old Dominion Freight
- 2 Mark St Louis Locomotive Service

### GRAND



David Comings  
FedEx Freight  
5 Axle

### 5 AXLE



- 1 David Comings FedEx Freight
- 2 Richard Hartleib FedEx Freight
- 3 Ryan Seward FedEx Freight

### TWIN TRAILERS



- 1 Brad Morrow XPO
- 2 John Janousek FedEx Freight

### CHAMPION

2025

R  
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### FLATBED



- 1 Thomas Ogrand XPO
- 2 Adam Krenzel Magnum
- 3 Shawn Larson EW Wylie

### STEP VAN



- 1 Treasure Paskett FedEx Express
- 2 Anthony Colbenson FedEx Express
- 3 Joeseph Paskett FedEx Express

### SLEEPER BERTH



- 1 Audie Jaeger EW Wylie
- 2 Scott Meyers Fed Ex Freight
- 3 David Volk XPO

### FEDEX FREIGHT INC - TEAM PURPLE



- |                      |               |                |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| David Comings        | FedEx Freight | 5 Axle         |
| Christopher Scholand | FedEx Freight | 3 Axle         |
| Jamie Ackerland      | FedEx Freight | Straight Truck |
| Scott Meyers         | FedEx Freight | Sleeper Berth  |
| Tyler Tollefson      | FedEx Freight | 4 Axle         |





## Emma Baukol - Transportation Scholarship Recipient

I am a 4.0 graduate of Grand Forks Central High School, in Grand Forks. I come from a loving family that has supported me in all of my activities. I was a member of the National Honors Society. I have been a volunteer confirmation leader in my church and help the elementary school ministry program. I have been a gymnast at Red River Valley Athletics for the past 17 years and finished my final season as a level 10, the highest level in Junior Olympic Gymnastics. Next year I will be continuing my gymnastics career as a member of Glenville State University's acrobatic and tumbling team in West Virginia where I will be studying Criminal Justice. With a Criminal Justice major, I plan to pursue a professional job that will help raise awareness, prevent and stop human trafficking in the United States and around the world. Finally, my connection to the trucking and transportation industry is through my aunt, Nicole Williams, who is a safety director at F&M for the past seven years but has been working in the trucking industry for the past 15 years.



## MaKinzie Grinde - NDMCA Member Scholarship Recipient

I recently completed my Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) degree and will begin pursuing my Registered Nurse (RN) degree this fall. My long-term academic goals include earning both my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and eventually my Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). I am passionate about advancing in the nursing field and committed to providing compassionate care throughout my career. In recognition of my dedication to patient care, I was honored as the North Dakota Long Term Care Association (NDLTCA) Caregiver of the Year for 2023. I've also been inducted into a National Honor Society for my academic excellence and commitment to nursing education. My family has deep roots in the trucking and diesel mechanic industry. My grandparents, Jim and Cindy Senske, own Senske & Son Transfer, a heavy hauling trucking company based in Grand Forks. My parents own a diesel mechanic shop in Grand Forks, and my brother, Logan, is also a diesel mechanic. Growing up in the shop taught me the value of hard work, dedication, and community – lessons I carry with me into the healthcare field today.



## Noah Krueger - NDMCA Member Scholarship Recipient

Hi, My name is Noah Krueger I live in Bismarck ND. I come from a hardworking family my first job was in Watford City, ND at an oil company. While there I won a Quanta coin of hard work after my time in northwest ND I came back home to Bismarck and now work at Northern Improvement Company in Bismarck, I'm just went on my second season with the company with my time at Northern it had pursued me to make the decision to get my CDL as well this winter. I love being around the industry and am honored to receive this scholarship.



## Travon Littlefield - NDMCA Member Scholarship Recipient

I am a 2024 graduate of Dickinson High and currently a student at North Dakota State College of Science, pursuing my associates degree in welding technologies while playing football for the NDSCS Wildcats. My most recent achievement was helping my fellow teammates win the MCAC conference championship in football and earning my first football ring. My passion for hands-on work grew tremendously this last semester with the help from the staff at NDSCS. I hope one day to have my own welding business in western North Dakota. I want to thank the NDMCA for selecting me to receive this scholarship.



## Samantha Peterson - NDMCA Member Scholarship Recipient

I am the youngest of two other siblings in my family. I graduated from Center-Stanton High School with highest honors in May 2025. Throughout my time at Center-Stanton and within the Center community, I participated in several clubs and activities and held various leadership roles in each. In the fall, I will be attending the University of Mary to obtain a bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders and a master's degree in Speech Language Pathology. I have always had a passion for helping people and have found a love for the different ways people communicate. My mother is an administrative assistant for Rud Oil and Gas. Growing up, I saw the importance of the trucking industry. Thank you to the North Dakota Motor Carriers Association for selecting me to receive this scholarship.



## Marcus Robertson - Transportation Scholarship Recipient

I am a 30-year-old aspiring truck driver and the youngest of three siblings. Ever since I was young, I've been drawn to the trucking industry and the idea of hauling freight across the country. I've always admired the essential role truckers play in keeping things moving. My family has been a huge inspiration to me as we come from a background of hardworking individuals with strong work ethics. That mindset shaped who I am today. Currently, my career goal is to drive locally, either hauling grain or working for a road company. That will allow me to gain valuable experience while staying close to home. I'm truly grateful for this scholarship opportunity as it's going to help me move forward with my CDL training and take the next steps toward building a solid future in the trucking industry.



## Londyn Sackman - NDMCA Member Scholarship Recipient

I am from the town of Steele and attending Bismarck State College, where I'm pursuing a bachelor of science degree with the goal of becoming a registered nurse. In addition to my college studies, I proudly serve as the president of our local 4-H club, where I've developed leadership skills and a strong connection to my community. I also work at Sanford Health, gaining valuable hands-on experience in the healthcare field. My tie to the trucking industry comes through my aunt, Lori, who works at Jobbers in Bismarck. Through her, I've gained a deep appreciation for the dedication and hard work that drives the industry forward. Growing up in a close-knit, hardworking family has taught me the value of responsibility, perseverance and service, qualities I strive to carry with me in all areas of life.



# 2025 ANNUAL NDMCA SCHOLARSHIP



## TOURNAMENT

The North Dakota Motor Carriers Association held its annual Foundation Scholarship Golf Tournament on June 4th at The Meadows in Moorhead, Minnesota. The mission of the NDMCA Foundation is to fund educational scholarships and to further the understanding and image of the North Dakota trucking industry.

For more information on how you can learn more about the NDMCA Foundation, visit [www.ndmca.org/foundation/](http://www.ndmca.org/foundation/)

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Jake Greenwood  
Jim Peterson

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Jackson Jangula  
Ryan Paradis  
Jake Lind

### NINTH PLACE

Conner Christianson  
Jared Steichen  
Danny Wilm  
Eric Jorgenson

### OTHER WINNERS

Longest Putt: Bryce Allickson	Longest Drive: Alex Christiansen (men)
Closest to Hole: Kaleb Groce	Longest Drive: Katie McPherson (women)

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# NEW LEARNING MODULES HELP CARRIERS WITH COMPLIANCE

Whether you're new to the world of interstate trucking or just looking for a refresher, staying on top of IFTA and IRP requirements can feel overwhelming. That's why we've launched a set of new learning modules designed specifically for IFTA/IRP carriers. Each lesson gets straight to the point, so you can learn what matters without getting buried in technical terms.

These learning tools use real carrier records, so they focus on what actually matters when you're out there trying to keep everything running smoothly.

## Goals of an Audit

Ever wondered what auditors are really looking for during an IFTA or IRP audit? This module breaks it down. By the end of this quick lesson, you'll have a clear understanding of why audits happen, what they focus on, and how to stay prepared — no stress, no surprises.

## Internal Controls

Good internal controls help you catch problems early, avoid penalties, and save a ton of time during audits. Keeping your records in order isn't just good practice — it's one of the best ways to pass an audit. This module covers the internal controls you should have in place to stay organized and compliant.

## Recordkeeping & Retention

Good records mean less stress during audits. These lessons walk you through what to track, how long to keep it, and how to make sure you're staying compliant.

## Bulk Fuel

Buying fuel in bulk can save money — but it also comes with extra recordkeeping responsibilities under IFTA. This module breaks down how bulk fuel works and what you need to track to stay compliant. If you're using bulk fuel or thinking about it, this module will help you make sure you're doing it by the book — without overcomplicating things.

## Why It Matters

These new learning modules are a great way to train new team members, brush up on the basics, or just feel more confident about staying in compliance. They're designed to be flexible, so you can go at your own pace — on your schedule.

Whether you're a seasoned carrier or just getting started, this is a smart (and easy) way to stay informed and ahead of the game.

These new learning modules can be found at [www.dot.nd.gov/motor-vehicle/motor-carrier-services](http://www.dot.nd.gov/motor-vehicle/motor-carrier-services) under IFTA/IRP Audit Learning Tools.

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!

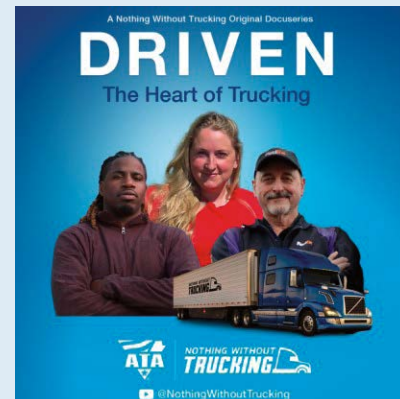
### Motor Vehicle Division, Motor Carrier Section

701-328-2725  
[motorcarrier@nd.gov](mailto:motorcarrier@nd.gov)  
Audit Services Division  
[nddotas@nd.gov](mailto:nddotas@nd.gov)

## LOCAL NEWS

# DOCUMENTARY SERIES SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON AMERICA'S TRUCKING INDUSTRY

Trucking on the open road has long been a symbol of freedom, opportunity, and resolve. Now, a new documentary series titled **DRIVEN** shines a spotlight on the dedicated professionals behind the wheel who keep our nation rolling through good times and bad—and the millions more who work throughout the industry to deliver for America.



**DRIVEN** was produced by the American Trucking Associations—in association with ACT 1 and the Texas Trucking Association Foundation—as part of its Nothing Without Trucking campaign, which educates policymakers and the public about the indispensable role trucking plays in Americans' lives. Beginning with professional drivers, the series plans to document the vast array of roles throughout trucking that come together to form an unbreakable bond in the U.S. supply chain.

"We believe trucking has storytelling potential that few other industries can match," said Jeremy Kirkpatrick, ATA's vice president of public affairs and strategic communications. "This industry touches lives in every community and corner of our country — from the North Slope of Alaska, to the rolling hills of New England, to the streets of South Dallas. These stories need to be told — not only to celebrate the skill, resilience, and humanity of these incredible pros who run the nation's supply chains, but also to ensure trucking always has a seat at the table when government officials are making decisions that affect our industry and the broader economy."

"**DRIVEN** offers a rare and powerful look at our industry—and our nation—through the eyes of the professionals who keep it moving," said Nikki Thomas, ATA's vice president of industry affairs. "ATA is proud to bring their journeys to the screen—celebrating their unwavering commitment to excellence and the transformational impact of trucking. Perhaps most exciting of all is that we're just getting started, with so many more stories still to tell."

**DRIVEN's** pilot episodes deliver a compelling journey chronicling the lives of three extraordinary professional truck drivers who keep America moving. Later this year, the series plans to expand its aperture to profile the vast ecosystem and intricate network of roles throughout the trucking industry that work in tandem to move the U.S. economy.

**For more information, visit [DrivenDoc.org](http://DrivenDoc.org).**

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## BAUER BUILT INC. ACQUIRES MEEKHOF TIRE SALES & SERVICE INC. EXPANDING MIDWEST FOOTPRINT

Bauer Built, Inc., a trusted leader in commercial tire sales and service, is pleased to announce the acquisition of Meekhof Tire Sales & Service, Inc., effective Sunday, June 8, 2025. This strategic acquisition significantly strengthens Bauer Built's presence across the Midwest and represents a union of two long-standing, family-owned organizations with shared values and a commitment to exceptional customer service.

With this acquisition, Bauer Built adds 14 retail and commercial locations throughout Michigan and Illinois, along with one Michelin Retread Technologies (MRT) facility and one Oliver retread manufacturing facility. Bauer Built now operates 49 locations and 7 retread manufacturing plants across its expanding footprint.

"For more than 80 years, Bauer Built has grown by staying true to our mission of serving customers with integrity, reliability, and top-tier products," said Tad Bauer, President of Bauer Built, Inc. "Meekhof Tire is a well-respected company that has demonstrated these same values for over 50 years. We are excited to welcome their team into the Bauer Built family and look forward to building an even stronger presence in the Midwest together."

Meekhof Tire was founded in 1971 and has developed a strong reputation for service and quality across the agricultural, commercial, and retail tire markets. The combined strength of the two companies will allow for enhanced customer service, expanded product offerings, and continued investment in people and communities.



"Both Bauer Built and Meekhof Tire believe our success comes from putting people first—customers, employees, and partners alike," added Jerry Bauer, Chairman & CEO. "This partnership honors that legacy while positioning us for future growth."

Bauer Built will begin integrating operations immediately while maintaining a strong focus on business continuity and customer satisfaction throughout the transition.



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## 2025 AUTONOMOUS TRUCKING CONFERENCE SET

The evolution of autonomous trucking in North Dakota and the Northern Plains will be the focus of a September 15 and 16 conference at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, N.D.

The 2025 Autonomous Trucking Conference is organized by the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute (UGPTI) at North Dakota State University with support from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The conference will provide a forum for autonomous truck companies; tech entrepreneurs; motor carriers; safety enforcement personnel; the agricultural, energy, and manufacturing industries; state and local governments; and community leaders to share advances and discuss future opportunities and challenges for the technology's implementation. "

Conference sessions will cover a range of topics, including the following:

**How Do Autonomous Trucks Work?** Autonomous vehicle experts will provide an overview of autonomous trucking technology, including sensors, algorithms, fault monitors, and remote operations.

### **Developments in Autonomous Trucking in the U.S.**

Autonomous trucking is growing and spreading across the southern and eastern United States. This dynamic industry is changing almost daily, with new users, customers, and routes coming online. While growth trends are apparent, many uncertainties remain. A panel of experts and industry leaders will explore key developments and trends in autonomous trucking from a variety of perspectives, including autonomous truck developers and tech firms, original equipment manufacturers, commercial motor carriers, and government.

**State Perspectives on Autonomous Trucking.** In the absence of specific federal regulations, each state is developing its own policies, creating variations and uncertainties for the trucking industry. This session will examine the roles and views of states in facilitating and overseeing autonomous truck services.

**Middle- and Last-Mile Autonomous Trucking.** Deliveries of goods within business enterprises (e.g., business-to-business trucking) and last-mile deliveries of goods and inputs to communities and industries are a vital part of the autonomous trucking landscape. Freight is already being moved over the middle mile from manufacturing plants and central warehouses to distribution centers in autonomous trucks. Moreover, major retailers and logistics companies are delivering goods over the last mile from distribution facilities to supercenters in autonomous trucks. This panel of representatives from autonomous truck firms, logistics companies, and trucking service providers will describe current middle- and last-mile autonomous trucking services and future visions for how autonomous trucking can meet the needs of manufacturing, logistics, and retail industries while improving the reliability of services.

**Challenges to Widespread and Year-Round Operations in Northern Regions.** Many challenges remain before autonomous trucking can effectively penetrate rural areas in northern regions, which will require year-round operations over two-lane rural roads. These challenges include (1) operating and remotely monitoring autonomous trucks that must travel on two-lane rural roads and under extreme weather conditions, (2) the impacts of extreme cold on sensors and automated driving systems, (3) the implications of extreme winter conditions for safety inspections, and (4) change detection of operational conditions and appropriate responses. This session will highlight these and other challenges, existing and potential solutions, and ongoing research questions that will support expansion of autonomous trucking into rural and northern regions.

**Interactions between Autonomous Trucks and First Responders.** This panel of autonomous truck developers and safety experts will discuss the industry's first-responder plans, procedures, and available trainings.

### **Insurance and Liability for Autonomous Vehicles.**

This discussion will cover current leading knowledge and industry practices regarding insurance and liability for autonomous vehicles.

**Applications of Autonomous Trucks (Agriculture, Mining, Energy, Yards, Logging, and More).** Autonomous trucks have widespread applications, including agriculture, mining, energy, logging, and yard operations, with new applications emerging regularly. This panel will cover a range of these current and potential applications, considerations for integration, and opportunities for growth or expansion in these domains.

**Engagement, Education, and Workforce Development.** While much of the autonomous truck development focuses on the vehicle itself, there are many other stakeholders involved in the process. To effectively deploy autonomous trucks, all of these stakeholders must provide input into the deployment process and receive education on the necessary skills and information. This session will offer perspectives on engaging with stakeholders across the autonomous vehicle landscape in order to inform policymakers, educate the public, and develop a technical workforce.

**Projecting the Next Decade of Autonomous Trucking.** Autonomous trucking has changed rapidly over the past decade and is reaching a critical inflection point in 2025, where the first companies are beginning commercial driverless operations on public highways. This discussion with experts and industry leaders will provide a forward-looking view of autonomous trucking, including the expected growth in the industry, and the steps new and interested stakeholders can take to prepare themselves for that growth.



# 2025 Autonomous Trucking Conference

Evolution of Autonomous Trucking in North Dakota and the Northern Plains

1:00 pm Sept. 15 – 3:00 pm Sept. 16

No fee to attend • Registration is required

## Potential attendees include:

- Autonomous Truck companies
- Tech entrepreneurs
- Motor carriers
- Safety enforcement personnel
- Agricultural, energy, & manufacturing industries
- State and local governments
- Community leaders



[www.ugpti.org/events/atc/](http://www.ugpti.org/events/atc/)

The Alerus Center  
1200 S 42nd Street  
Grand Forks, ND

## Panels/Topics may include:

- How Do Autonomous Trucks Work?
- Developments in Autonomous Trucking
- State Perspectives
- Middle- and Last-Mile Autonomous Trucking
- Challenges to Widespread and Year-Round Operations
- Enhanced Inspection Procedures
- Interactions Between Autonomous Trucks and First Responders
- Insurance and Liability
- Applications
- Engagement, Education, and Workforce Development
- Projecting the Next Decade





# HAUL OF KNOWLEDGE

WEBINARS

## YOUR ROAD TO STAYING INFORMED

NDMCA is excited to introduce Haul of Knowledge, a new webinar series designed to keep our members connected to timely, relevant information that supports your business.

These 45–60 minute virtual sessions feature expert speakers covering topics that matter—from safety and compliance to technology, workforce development, and regulatory trends. As a benefit of membership, all sessions are free to NDMCA members. Industry professionals who are not yet members are also welcome to attend.

### What to expect:

- 45–60 minute webinars
- Expert speakers and real-world topics
- Live Q&A and follow-up resources
- Member-driven content

Our first session covered Miles, Logs, and Ledgers: Navigating IFTA & IRP Compliance with Confidence, and was held July 24th.

### Scheduled Events:

#### September 17, 2025

Cargo Claims and Freight Loss: What Carriers Need to Know  
Speaker: **Jason E. Engkjer**- DeWitt Law Firm

#### October 8, 2025 -

Beyond the Band-Aid:

Preventing Minor Injuries Before They Become Major

Speaker: **Grant Judah**, DPT, Sanford Occupational Medicine

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

### Become a Presenter for Our Haul of Knowledge Webinar Series: Share Your Knowledge!

Do you have insights, experience, or practical know-how from the trucking industry that others could benefit from?

We'd love to have you share your perspective as part of our Haul of Knowledge One-Hour Webinar Series. It's a great way to contribute to the industry conversation, connect with peers, and offer value to others — all in just 60 minutes.

Contact **Kacey** for more information, [kacey@ndmca.org](mailto:kacey@ndmca.org) or 701-223-2700.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Annual Vehicle Inspection Training

Date: October 14, 2025 (Virtual) 8:30 p.m. -12:30 p.m.

Trainer: North Dakota Highway Patrol, Trooper Joshua Anderson

Focus: Teach required annual inspection procedures and compliance best practices.

### NATMI: Accident Prevention, Management & Investigation

Date: October 15, 2025 (In-person, Fargo) 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Trainer: Kevin Blackwell, NATMI Certified Trainer

The North American Transportation Management Institute (NATMI) is a leading provider of professional certification and training for fleet safety, maintenance, and driver training professionals.

Focus: Improve accident investigation, reduce incident costs, manage post-accident media/police interactions.

### Reasonable Suspicion Training

Date: October 28, 2025 (Virtual) 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Trainer: Jerad Childress, Managing Partner, Childress Law; Vice President, Trucksafe Consulting

Focus: This course fulfills 49 CFR §382.603 requirements, providing supervisors with the mandated 60 minutes of training on alcohol misuse and 60 minutes on drug misuse. The session educates attendees on identifying warning signs and making appropriate DOT-mandated testing decisions.

### DOT Compliance Training

Date: TBD (Virtual; pending FMCSA approval)

Focus: Core DOT safety and compliance topics for fleet managers and safety professionals.

Visit [www.ndmca.org](http://www.ndmca.org) to learn more or contact [kacey@ndmca.org](mailto:kacey@ndmca.org), 701-223-2700.

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