
NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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TRUCKING INDUSTRY DISPLAYS THE BEST OF THE BEST IN SPRINGFIELD

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – On June 10 & 11, 2011, the Missouri Trucking Association held the 44th Annual Missouri Truck Driving Championships at the Prime, Inc. CDL Training Lot in Springfield, Mo. The Official TDC Headquarters was [John Q. Hammons Hotels & Resorts' University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center](#), which seamlessly hosted the meeting that was previously scheduled for Joplin, Mo., at a sister John Q. Hammons property. The two-day event evaluated over 150 drivers on their knowledge of the industry, first aid, safety and security, and required federal vehicle inspections. The participants were then interviewed by industry experts before competing on a point-value-assessed driving skills course of six obstacles to be completed under actual everyday conditions.

The event relocation was a result of the devastating tornado in Joplin, in which area hotels temporarily began serving as emergency relief centers and much-needed accommodations for local residents left homeless after the storm. The Missouri Trucking Association dedicated an evening of its event to a fundraiser in which more than \$10,000 was donated by attendees to help rebuild Joplin.

In their respective classes, drivers tested their expertise in the driving skills they use daily. The competition challenged their knowledge of safety, equipment, and the industry, as well as their performance on a personal interview. The skills course tested drivers' ability to judge distances, maneuver tight spaces, reverse, park, and position their vehicle exactly over scales, before barriers or around curves.

Over 500 on-lookers at the Awards Banquet Saturday evening saw **David Wiechers** of Belton, Mo., receive the prestigious "Grand Champion" title as Missouri's best of the best. David, a driver for ABF Freight System of Kansas City, Mo., achieved this recognition by outscoring all other competitors in four elements of skill and knowledge.

Mr. Wiechers was also awarded the top driver in the Straight Truck Class in the annual safe driving competition sponsored by the Association's Council of Safety Supervisors. He will be joined by eight other class winners as the Missouri Championship Team reporting to Orlando, Fla., to compete against other state teams in the American Trucking Association's Truck Driving Championships August 9 – August 13, 2011. During the competition the Missouri Team will compete against 450 other professionals vying for selection as the nation's top professional truck drivers.

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First, second and third place winners in all nine classes of competition as well as the top “Rookie” and the driver with the best Pre-Trip Inspection were honored at the Awards Banquet.

Winners and runners-up in the classes of competition are listed below with the driver’s hometown, and employer company and location.

Straight Truck Class

- 1st – **David Wiechers**, Belton, Mo. – *ABF Freight System, Kansas City, Mo.*
2nd – **John Larson**, Independence, Mo. – *YRC Transportation, Kansas City, Mo.*
3rd – **William Cranford**, Jacksonville, Fla. – *Con-way Truckload, Joplin, Mo.*

Three Axle Class

- 1st – **Byron Bramwell**, Centerview, Mo. – *YRC Transportation, Kansas City, Mo.*
2nd – **Bryan Dupart**, Florissant, Mo. – *Con-way Freight, St. Louis, Mo.*
3rd – **Danny Thompson**, Republic, Mo. – *YRC Transportation, Strafford, Mo.*

Four Axle Class

- 1st – **Richard O’Brien**, Maryland Heights, Mo. – *FedEx Freight, St. Charles, Mo.*
2nd – **Wayne Pierce**, Old Monroe, Mo. – *UPS Freight, St. Louis, Mo.*
3rd – **Michael Jones**, Ellington, Mo. – *Walmart* Transportation, St. James, Mo.*

Five Axle Van Class

- 1st – **Paul Baumhoer**, Koeltztown, Mo. – *Walmart* Transportation, St. James, Mo.*
2nd – **Wyatt Hooper**, Republic, Mo. – *Con-way Freight, Marshfield, Mo.*
3rd – **William Stanford**, Kennesaw, Ga. – *Prime, Inc., Springfield, Mo.*

Tank Truck Class

- 1st – **John Fobes II**, Colon, Mich. - *Prime, Inc., Springfield, Mo.*
2nd – **Remy Braun**, Mount Vernon, Mo. – *D & D Sexton, Carthage, Mo.*
3rd – **Thomas Miller**, Bunker Hill, IL. – *Prime, Inc., Springfield, Mo.*

Flatbed Class

- 1st – **Randall Campbell**, Aurora, Mo. – *Steelman Transportation, Springfield, Mo.*
2nd – **Duane Grimme**, Satsuma, Fla. – *Prime, Inc., Springfield, Mo.*
3rd – **George Shuck Sr.**, Nampa, Idaho – *Prime, Inc., Springfield, Mo.*

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Sleeper Berth Class

1st – **Paul Stallibrass**, Joplin, Mo. – *Con-way Truckload, Joplin, Mo.*

2nd – **Stephen Hanna**, O’Fallon, Mo. – *UPS Freight, St. Louis, Mo.*

3rd – **Donald Lewis**, Republic, Mo. – *O & S Trucking, Springfield, Mo.*

Twin Trailers Class

1st – **Steven Fields**, Independence, Mo. – *YRC Transportation, Kansas City, Mo.*

2nd – **Wayne Darnell**, Poplar Bluff, Mo. – *Con-way Freight, Poplar Bluff, Mo.*

3rd – **Charles Hargrave**, Trenton, IL – *UPS Freight, St. Louis, Mo.*

Step Van Class

1st – **Michael Hausner**, O’Fallon, Mo. – *FedEx Freight, St. Charles, Mo.*

2nd – **John Wood**, Kansas City, Mo. – *FedEx Freight, Kansas City, Mo.*

3rd – **James Frank**, Cape Girardeau, Mo. – *FedEx Express, Cape Girardeau, Mo.*

Randall Campbell of Aurora, Mo., a driver for *Steelman Transportation* out of Springfield, Mo., was named “Rookie of the Year” for his outstanding well-rounded performance as a first-time contestant.

The "Pre-Trip Inspection" award for the highest score in assuring that a vehicle is in safe and efficient operating condition before leaving on a trip went to **Richard O’ Brien** of Maryland Heights, Mo, a driver for *FedEx Freight*, in St. Charles, Mo.

The "Team Championship" went to **YRC Transportation**, based in Overland Park, Kan., for having the highest average team score in the competition.

The keynote speaker for the evening was **Jan Skouby**, Director, Motor Carrier Services Unit, Missouri Department of Transportation.

6/14/2011

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