

SUMMER 2019

# ROLLING ALONG

NORTH DAKOTA MOTOR CARRIERS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATION

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Changing of the Guard:  
Pat Severson succeeds  
Melissa Dixon as NDMCA  
President – Page 7





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# ROLLING ALONG

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1937 East Capitol Avenue  
P.O. Box 874 • Bismarck, ND 58502  
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### NDMCA STAFF

**Mike Gerhart** ..... Executive Vice President  
[mike@ndmca.org](mailto:mike@ndmca.org)

**Kacey M. Heidrich** ..... Office Manager  
[kacey@ndmca.org](mailto:kacey@ndmca.org)

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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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# NEWS & NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Hello Members,

It's been a busy spring for the NDMCA which included our Annual Convention in Bismarck and Truck Driving Championship in Fargo. These events profile trucking companies as well as industry professionals who are committed to safety and dedicated to being the best at the profession they have chosen. I wish to extend my gratitude to all who were involved in both events. Your support of the NDMCA allows us to continue to promote the trucking industry and focus on industry needs. I would also like to extend my thanks to Melissa Dixon who finished her term as President of the NDMCA. Her commitment to serving the trucking industry and long-standing support of the NDMCA is greatly appreciated. She handed the gavel over to our newly elected President Pat Severson. Pat will do an excellent job in his new role and I look forward to working with him in the future.

In closing, I would like to welcome our new members to the NDMCA. Your support is greatly appreciated, and we are committed to delivering high-quality service to meet your needs.

Sincerely,

*Mike Gerhart*



**MIKE GERHART**  
mike@ndmca.org

## MEMBER NEWS

The North Dakota Motor Carriers Association would like to welcome the following new members, who joined with the Association between December 2018 and June 2019. We look forward to working with you in the years to come.

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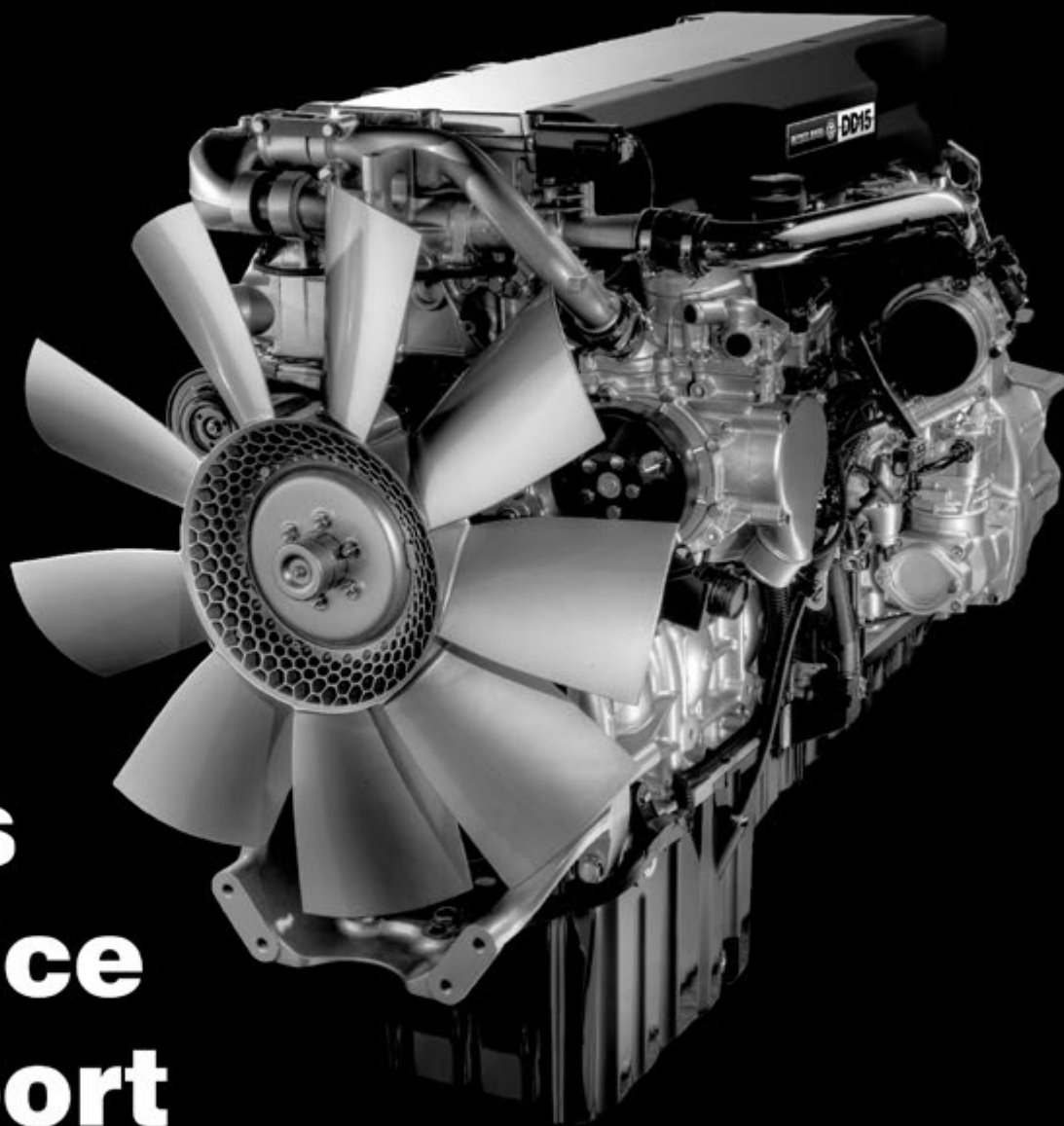
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## *Greetings NDMCA Members!*

It was such an honor to receive the president's gavel from Melissa Dixon at our 74th convention in Bismarck. I was raised in the petroleum tank line business Austad, Inc. The transportation business is a passion for me, not a job. What a great way to serve our industry by becoming president of NDMCA.

I want to thank Melissa for honorably serving our association. During her tenure, Melissa worked on our foundation 501(C)(3) which will enable us to participate in the long-term development of scholarship programs, Legacy and tax-deductible donations, and other projects that will benefit the organization as a whole. She was also active in our association promoting highway safety programs and working with our strategic planning committee.

My goal mirrors what Melissa has done with a push to grow our membership and promote highway safety. It's important we continue to seek opportunities to partner with new safety stakeholders and grow the alliances we currently have in place, such as our relationship with the North Dakota Highway Patrol.



The NDMCA delivers many services and I encourage everyone to use them. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your president, and with my 41 years in the industry, we as a board are here to help you in any way we can. I look forward to working with Mike and Kacey to bring each of you the best membership experience we can.


*Pat Severson*

**stayconnected**



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## FOUNDATION NEWS

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<b>Founders Champions</b>		
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## *NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL PERMITS OFFICE*

### *ANNUAL PERMITS*

Annual Permit Changes - If you purchased annual permits between May 21-2019 and May 20, 2019 please log into the permit system and reprint your permit. The expiration date has been updated to be valid for 365 days. This change was made with the passage of Senate Bill 2151.

### *HARVEST PERMITS*

The 10% Harvest Permit will start on July 15, 2019. This is valid when hauling grain from field to first point of storage or first point of storage (current year's crop) to point of sale. It is valid for State and US Highways. The cost is \$50 for 30 days. It allows for 10% over axles, gross or registered weight, whichever is the least. Max weight allowed is 105,500. Permits can be purchased starting July 8, 2019 at: <https://apps.nd.gov/ndhp/epermits/login.htm>

### *E-PERMIT UPDATES EFFECTIVE 6-12-19*

- After purchase of permit when selecting email have option to email drivers from the drivers list of stored emails.
- Added code to limit the purchase of multi trip and annual permits if a valid one exists for that power unit.
- Bold the total price in the cart
- Updated the Permit history report to pull from the dates of purchase. Also automatically show the last 10 purchased on the screen.
- Added option on external to add a truck/trailer/ accessory from the create configuration screen.

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## *WSI NEWS*

### *WORKERS COMPENSATION RATES TO BE REDUCED ON AVERAGE BY 8.5% FOR 2019-20*

WSI's consulting actuaries completed the WSI 2019-20 annual premium rate review. The 2019/20 indications were for a statewide average rate decrease of 8.5 percent. The WSI Board recommended the actuarial recommendation and that recommendation was approved by the Governor.

All premiums for the 2019/20 reporting period will be calculated using a payroll wage cap of \$36,400 which has increased from \$35,500 per covered worker for the 2018/19 reporting period. The net effect of the 8.5 percent average statewide rate decrease combined with the change in the payroll cap will result in an average statewide premium decrease of approximately 7.1 percent.

Proposed rate changes for individual rate classifications vary, ranging anywhere from a decrease of 23.5 percent to an increase of 6.5 percent. Under this proposal, rates for 113 rate classifications will be decreased, rates for 22 classifications will be increased and rates for 6 rate classifications will remain the same.

### *WSI DECLARES 50% DIVIDEND FOR 2019-20 POLICY YEAR*

During the June 2019 WSI Board meeting, the Board of Directors made a recommendation to issue a 50% premium dividend credit to policyholders. This recommendation is pending approval by the Governor.

The dividend credit will be applied against policyholders renewing during the FY 2019-20, who are in good standing with the agency and are not minimum premium accounts. The credit will reflect 50% of the prior year's premium less safety discounts, ensuring no account total is less than \$250 after the dividend credit is applied.

Favorable investment returns contributed to increased surplus growth resulting in the fund exceeding statutory surplus requirements. When surplus requirements are exceeded, dividends are required.

Including this recent dividend, total dividends issued in 14 out of the last 15 years will amount to approximately \$1.4 billion. This includes the estimated \$118 million dividend for the 2019-20 policy year.

# INDUSTRY NEWS



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# 2019 ANNUAL SAFETY AWARDS

## *Annual Safety Awards Winners*

The 2019 Annual Safety Awards Banquet was held May 16, 2019 as part of the NDMCA Annual Convention in Bismarck, ND. The Safety Awards Banquet recognized industry professionals and companies who go above and beyond and show an unwavering commitment to safety.



*Driver of the Year  
Jason Moore,  
Hofmann Trucking*



*Safety Professional of the Year  
Joshua Greene,  
AP Logistics and All Power Trucking*



*Trooper of the Year  
Brian Mehlhoff*



*Service Technician of the Year  
Jason Klava,  
Altendorf Trucking*



*Fleet Grand Champion  
Tom Stordahl,  
Dixon Bros., Inc.*



## Banquet Award Winners:

**Back Row:** Pat Severson, TMI Transport Corp.; Marlin Kling, Midwest Motor Express; Dave Rogalla, Altendorf Trucking; Tom Stordahl, Dixon Bros. Inc.; Bryce Allickson, Magnum LTL; Bob Stankey, Baker Boy; Scott Schantz, FedEx; Wally Keller, Roger Ward Moving and Storage; Jason Moore, Hofmann Trucking



**Front Row:** Jason Klava, Altendorf Trucking; Joshua Greene, AP Logistics and All Power Trucking; Mari Obenchain, Mayer Truck Lines; June Seng, S and S Transport; Robin Collins, Jobbers Moving and Storage.

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# DRIVER OF THE YEAR

## Jason Moore

During the NDMCA's 74th annual convention, veteran driver, Jason Moore was selected as the 2018 driver of the year. Jason has 24 years of commercial driving experience hauling everything from dry goods to large windmill blades. His current role at Hofmann Trucking has him hauling bulk food grade ingredients for the pet food industry. One of Jason's most treasured memories is his first load as an owner-operator. In recent years, Jason has been logging more than 140,000 miles annually and has achieved 2.4 million miles accident-free with zero moving violations. This is quite an achievement and shows Jason's commitment to safety. Jason also has a strong commitment to service which is reflected in his eight distinguished years in the Army Reserve's 1st Cavalry Division with deployments to Desert Shield and Desert Storm along with his willingness to always help others in the trucking industry. Jason's advice to new drivers is to be patient regardless of the situation and always be prepared for anything and everything.

Jason's on-time delivery is unmatched, and his "can-do" attitude is favored by management, dispatch, and the customers he serves daily. Because of this positive attitude, he is often tasked with the first delivery to a new customer or difficult



*Jason Moore, Hofmann Trucking*

customer deliveries that require extra care. He acts as a driver mentor for Hofmann's new hires in its Pneumatic Division and is the lead driver for the new Food Grade Division. Trevor Monilaws, Operations Manager at Hofmann Trucking, states "drivers like



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Jason don't come along every day, and when you get one of Jason's caliber it's very special."

Jason's exceptional skills, professional experience, and personal qualities make him a powerful asset to Hofmann Trucking and a great selection for NDMCA Driver of the Year.

The NDMCA staff would like to extend our thanks to Jason and the team at Hofmann Trucking for all you do, and we wish to thank Jason for his service to our great nation!



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# 2019 CHAMPIONSHIPS

## WINNERS NAMED IN 2019 TRUCK DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIP

By Jennifer Greuel

North Dakota's top drivers gathered at the North Dakota State School of Science Skills and Technology Center in Fargo June 1 for the 28th annual North Dakota Truck Driving Championship (TDC) hosted by the North Dakota Motor Carriers Association (NDMCA).

Mark Wolter, NDMCA board member, and past president has been a volunteer for the event since its inception and has served as the TDC chairperson for a decade. He said the event went great with beautiful weather and a great turn out of drivers and industry participation.

Mike Gerhart, NDMCA Executive Vice President said, "The championship encourages professional truck drivers to practice safe driving throughout the year because they must be accident-free for the past year to compete. Many competitors have never been in an accident and others have millions of accident-free driving miles to their credit."

This year's event drew almost 50 competitors, 15 of whom were competing for the first time. Each competitor picks one of nine categories in which to participate, ranging from a step van to twin trailers. Each competitor is given a written test, a pre-trip examination test, and a driving test. A perfect score in all three categories earns the competitor 500 points.

The driving course was made up of six driving problems: a right turn measured at the front steering tire, a front stop, diminishing cones, a rear stop, a right turn measured at the rear tire, and a scale stop measured at the rear drive axle.

This year the NDMCA paid special tribute to Daniel Bartelson, a former competitor who died unexpectedly in February. One of Bartelson's greatest accomplishments was competing in the North Dakota Truck Driving Competition for XPO Logistics and competing in the National TDC a total of five times. He drove more than 2.5 million safe driving miles during his career. "Bartelson represented a fine example to the entire trucking industry and the public in his commitment to safety over the years," says Gerhart.

With the top combination score, FedEx driver Scott Meyers took home the title of TDC Grand Champion for the second time with an overall score of 433 out of 500. Meyers competed for the 15th time this year, and this will be the fifth time he has advanced to the national competition.

Hailing from Fargo, Meyers competed in the tank truck division. He has driven truck professionally for the past 34 years and has been with FedEx Freight for 22 years. He has accumulated more than 2.3 million safe-driving miles and received a 20-year safe driving award from FedEx. Meyers' father-in-law owned his own truck, and riding

along with him is what got Meyers started in the industry. He and his wife, Lois, have three children, Dan, Mike, and Jess.

Meyers says having multiple former state champions as coworkers at FedEx Freight helped him prepare for the competition. He, his coworkers and some friends set up practice courses and found other ways to prepare. "We set up some mock pre-trips, watched each other and gave one another tips on how to do things differently," says Meyers. "We texted each other questions and helped each other out."

Meyers says the competition makes him a better driver. "TDC keeps me informed on changes in the industry," he says. "It helps you learn a lot about the trucking industry that you normally would not know."

This year's TDC Rookie of the Year and the first female to win the five-axle sleeper is Julie Hjelle with Altendorf Trucking. Hjelle has been in the industry for 25 years and has been with Altendorf for the past 12 years.

"At five years old, I rode to the livestock auction in West Fargo, N.D., with my grandpa when he hauled a load of hogs on a straight truck," says Hjelle. "The first book I remember learning to read was 'Big Joe's Trailer Truck' by Joe Mathieu. I always liked trucks and admired truck drivers." At age 23 after joining a friend pulling a reefer to Edmonton, Alberta, Hjelle registered for truck driving school.

Although Hjelle only received the book 17 days prior to the competition, what she had the most difficulty with was airing the seat. "I couldn't get it adjusted; it was either all the way up and my feet were inches from the pedals, or it was all the way down and I couldn't see over the steering wheel or dash," says Hjelle. "Finally, with some help from a volunteer, we got it figured out. I was beginning to panic and wondered if I'd be the only driver who ever scored zero points because of an inability to even start!"

Hjelle's favorite part of the competition was the camaraderie between drivers. She recommends future competitors start practicing, researching and studying with plenty of time before the competition and to ask questions, listen to and learn from the other competitors.

The champions in each class move on to the National Truck Driving Championship Aug. 14-17 in Pittsburgh, Pa., where they will represent North Dakota. The last time a North Dakota driver won a national championship came in 2004 when Randy Anton was crowned.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ***Growing Safety and Reducing Liabilities in the Trucking Industry***

August 6th Fargo, ND

August 7th, Bismarck, ND

August 8th, Williston, ND

This seminar will provide an overview on how to conduct a proper pre-trip inspection, hours of service rules to include updates on any changes, and safety management policy development. Training is provided by the North Dakota Highway Patrol.

## ***NDMCA Foundation Golf Tournament***

August 27th Fargo, ND

Join us in Fargo at the Oxbow Country Club for a great day of golf, all to support the NDMCA Foundations scholarship program.

## ***Safety and Compliance Seminars***

October 15th Mandan, ND

October 17th Fargo ND

October 22nd Williston, ND

DOT Compliance, HOS, CSA, and regulatory guidance training provided by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

## ***Truck Maintenance Seminars***

October 16th Mandan, ND

October 18th Fargo, ND

October 23rd Williston, ND

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# 2019 CHAMPIONSHIPS

## 2019 TRUCK DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

### 2019 ND Truck Driving Championship Results

Place	First Name	Last Name	Company	Class
1	Cameron	Janousek	FedEx Freight	3 axle
2	Luke	Groen	Old Dominion	3 axle
3	Jason	Harrington	XPO Logistics-Bismarck	3 axle
1	Christopher	Scholand	FedEx Freight	4 axle
2	Dave	Schafer	Ruan	4 axle
3	Jon	Simonson	XPO Logistics	4 axle
1	Steve	Johnson	XPO Logistics	5 axle
2	Brendan	Klocke	Old Dominion	5 axle
3	Richard	Hartleib	FedEx Freight	5 axle
1	Edward	Oliver	Magnum	Flatbed
2	Travis	Ewell	FedEx Freight	Flatbed
3	Carlos	Salazar	FedEx Freight	Flatbed
1	Julie	Hjelle	Altendorf Trucking	Sleeper
2	Ronald	Ackerland	FedEx Freight	Sleeper
3	Al	Humphrey	Ruan	Sleeper
1	Josh	Metzger	Fedex Express	Stepvan
2	Kent	Peterson	FedEx Express	Stepvan
1	Jamie	Ackerland	FedEx Freight	Straight Truck
2	Robert	Benson	Fedex Express	Straight Truck
1	Scott	Meyers	Fed Ex Freight	Tank Truck
2	Bryan	Wold	XPO Logistics	Tank Truck
3	Johsua	Olson	FedEx Freight	Tank Truck
1	John	Janousek	Fed Ex Freight	Twin Trailers
2	Drew	Bartelson	Old Dominion	Twin Trailers
3	Steve	Krogen	XPO Logistics	Twin Trailers

#### Rookie of the Year

Julie	Hjelle	Altendorf Trucking	Sleeper
-------	--------	--------------------	---------

#### Fed Ex Freight Hot Shots

Driver		Class	Company
Jamie	Ackerland	Straight Truck	FedEx Freight
Carlos	Salazar	Flatbed	FedEx Freight
Christopher	Scholand	4 axle	FedEx Freight
John	Janousek	Twin Trailers	FedEx Freight
Scott	Meyers	Tank Truck	FedEx Freight

#### Team Score (Top 3)

#### Grand Champion

Scott	Meyers	Fed Ex Freight	Tank Truck
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3 axle – Jason Harrington  
Cameron Janousek  
Luke Grooen



5 axle sleeper – Al Humphrey  
Julie Hjelle  
Ronald Ackerland



Twin Trailers – Steve Krogen  
John Janousek  
Drew Bartelson



4 axle – Jon Simoson  
Christopher Scholand  
Dave Schafer



Step Van – Kent Peterson  
Josh Metzger



Team – Jamie Ackerland, Scott Meyers,  
Christopher Scholand, Carlos Salazar,  
John Janousek



5 axle – Richard Hartleib  
Steve Johnson  
Brendan Klocke



Straight Truck – Jamie Ackerland  
Robert Benson



Rookie of the Year – Julie Hjelle



Flatbed – Carlos Salazar  
Edward Oliver  
Travis Ewell



Tank truck – Joshua Olson,  
Scott Meyers  
Bryan Wold



Grand Champion – Scott Meyers

# INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The North Dakota Motor Carriers Associations Industry Partnership Program is designed to provide for opportunities and recognition for levels of support to the Association. Sponsorship is open to both Allied and Carrier members. Levels are based on annual investments in Association sponsorship opportunities by an annual contract paid in full, quarterly or monthly or can be done on an event by event basis. Registration fees, booth fees and membership fees are not included in the calculation.



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