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1701 K Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

402-476-8504
www.nebtrucking.com



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Sheila O'Connor | Vice President
402-476-8504

Nebraska Truck Driving Championships winners announced

Nine drivers advance to Nationals

(Grand Island, Neb.) The Nebraska Trucking Association announces the winners of the 2018 Nebraska Truck Driving Championships, held June 8-9 in Grand Island, Neb.

This annual event offers Nebraska's best professional truck drivers a chance to demonstrate knowledge, talent and skills in a competition highlighting what it takes to be a safe driver on today's streets and highways. 100 drivers participated in this year's championships in eleven classes. Additional awards were presented based upon scores in the four separate test areas: written examination, personal interview, pre-trip inspection and driving test. Team awards are also given to the company with three or more drivers competing with the highest overall score.

The 2018 overall **grand champion** is **Tim Dean with Werner Enterprises** in Omaha, NE

The **professional excellence award** was presented to **Rebecca Hick from Werner Enterprises**. This award goes to the individual with the highest score on the written test.

Nebraska Trucking and the championships have a long tradition of a positive working relationship with the Nebraska State Patrol Carrier Enforcement troopers. The **Buck Buchholtz Top Driver Award**, named in honor of Buchholtz, a former officer and long-time championship committee member, goes to the driver with the highest score on the driving course. This year's honoree is **Clinton Rast from ABF Freight System, Inc., Omaha, NE**

The **Kurt Everett Vehicle Condition Award**, named in honor of Everett, a long-time championship committee member, goes to the driver with the highest score on the pre-trip inspection. This year's award winner is **Toby Kort from FedEx Freight, Inc., Aurora, NE**

The **Jerry Wessel Award**, named in honor of long-time committee member, is awarded to drivers who have competed or volunteered at the Championships for at least five years and are rated on professionalism, industry knowledge and attitude. This year's winner is **Larry Derr from Werner Enterprises, Omaha, NE**

The **Rookie of the Year Award** is given to a first-time participant for having the highest overall score in all four parts of the competition. This year, **Jeremiah Saffold from FedEx Express-Omaha**, took home the award.

The first-place winner in each of the first nine classes may advance to the American Trucking Association's (ATA) National Truck Driving Championships in Columbus, Ohio, while the mixer truck first place winner advances to the National Mixer Driver Championship.

Also, held during the championships was the Nebraska State Patrol Inspector Championships, consisting of a personal interview, a tabletop exercise and various hands-on inspections. Nebraska State Patrol Trooper Kris Hunzeker took first place honors and Trooper John Hadaway received runner-up honors. A 14-year veteran of the Nebraska State Patrol, Hunzeker is stationed in Nebraska City and assigned to the Carrier Enforcement Division. Hunzeker will now represent Nebraska in the North American Inspector Championships (NAIC) in Columbus, Ohio, August 15 – 18, 2018

2018 NTDC class winners:

Straight Class:	Clinton Rast	ABF Freight System, Inc.	Omaha
	Christina Gaines	FedEx Express-Lincoln	Lincoln
	Robert White	Werner Enterprises	Omaha
Three-axle class:	Paul Badgett	FedEx Freight, Inc.	Aurora
	Larry Derr	Werner Enterprises	Omaha
	Joseph Busch	ABF Freight System, Inc.	Omaha
Four-axle class:	Tom Canning	Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc.	Omaha
	Kevin Zelasney	ABF Freight System, Inc.	Omaha
	John Poppen	FedEx Freight, Inc.	Aurora
Five-axle class:	Toby Kort	FedEx Freight, Inc.	Aurora
	Sam Wilson	XPO Logistics, Inc.	Aurora

	David Vance	Crete Carrier Corporation	Lincoln
Five-axle sleeper class:	Tim Dean	Werner Enterprises	Omaha
	Paul Smith	ABF Freight System, Inc.	Omaha
	David Standing	Hill Brothers Transportation, Inc.	Omaha
Tank truck class:	Pat Crumb	Fremont Contract Carriers, Inc.	Fremont
	Philip DeLauder, Sr.	Werner Enterprises	Omaha
	Scott Stroup	YRC Freight	Omaha
Flatbed class:	Daryl Johnson	YRC Freight	Omaha
	Shane Bushousen	Sunrise Express, Inc.	Grand Island
	George Chaney	FedEx Freight, Inc.	Aurora
Twin-trailer class:	Terry Durham	Werner Enterprises	Omaha
	Lawton Biddle	Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc.	Omaha
	Rich Boyd	Crete Carrier Corporation	Lincoln
Step van class:	Jeremiah Saffold	FedEx Express-Omaha	Omaha
	Chris Cherry	FedEx Express-Lincoln	Lincoln
	Theresa Trively	FedEx Express-Omaha	Omaha
Mixer truck class:	Daniel Zeibig	NEBCO - Beatrice Concrete	Crete
	Steven Kelley	Lyman-Richey Corporation	Omaha
	Nicholas Siracuse	Lyman-Richey Corporation	Omaha
Truck and Pup:	Bob Duff	Lyman-Richey Corporation	Omaha
	Mike LeMay	Greater Omaha Express, LLC	Omaha
	Scott Neben	NEBCO - Kearney Crete and Block	Kearney
Team winners:	ABF Freight System, Inc.		Omaha
	Werner Enterprises		Omaha
	Fremont Contract Carriers, Inc.		Fremont

The Nebraska Trucking Association's Safety Management Council and the Nebraska Truck Driving Championship Committee organizes the championships.

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The Nebraska Trucking Association is the provider of effective information, services and advocacy to Nebraska trucking companies and affiliated businesses.

