

# MISSOURI TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

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## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### MISSOURI TRUCKING ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

**Branson, MO-** The membership of the Missouri Trucking Association held their annual convention October 7-9, 2015 at Chateau on the Lake in Branson, Missouri and elected the following slate of officers to lead the association during the 2015– 2016 year.

**Chairman:** Rocky Griffith, Walmart Transportation, St. James, MO

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman:** Michael Gully, Gully Transportation, Inc., Quincy, IL

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman:** Greg Swift, Swift Carriers Inc., Marshall, MO

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chairman:** Mark Walker, Transland Inc., Strafford, MO

**Treasurer:** Larry Morgan, Gencom Inc., Marshall, MO

**ATA Vice President:** Danny Opie, Opies Transport, Inc., Eldon, MO

During the three-day annual meeting, marking MoTA's 78th year as the voice of the trucking industry in Missouri, over 200 motor carrier and allied industry members and guests, attended business sessions and heard from local and national speakers. The MoTA Mobile Events App offered a complete agenda for attendees to maneuver the convention and contact each other through messaging. Presentations and information from speakers were also made available in the app.

The Wednesday evening "Welcome" reception was followed by a full day of educational programming designed to quickly update the trucking executives. Topics covered in Thursday's presentations included FMCSA Update followed by Questions and Answers; Big Data and the Internet of Everything by Vigillo; MoDOT: Highway Funding; ATA Update and Trucks Move America Forward Presentation from ATA 2nd Vice Chairman and TMAF Executive Committee Vice Chair Kevin Burch; Panels on Food Safety Modernization Act, New trends/update on "misclassification", and The 10x Rule: How to Achieve Your Goals & Objectives.

At the Candlelight Banquet on Thursday night, Brent Witte of Witte Bros. Exchange, Inc., was awarded the prestigious "Frank G. Campbell Award for Outstanding Service".

Robert Eldridge, Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, Springfield, Missouri was awarded the "G. Findley Reed Award" the allied industry's highest service award.

The Ursel G. Lewellen Scholarship was awarded this year to Kayla Jackson-Williams, a Juris Doctor Candidate. This scholarship was established by the Association at the University of Missouri Law School, Columbia, in honor of its first Executive Manager, Ursel G. Lewellen.

At the conclusion of the banquet, singer and impressionist, Mike Walker, entertained with his impressions of many legends in the music business.

The final day of the conference was wrapped up by the Next Generation Panel; "Cultivating the Next Generation of Truckers: From Drivers to Leadership" with Questions and Answers. Golfers proceeded to the Buffalo Ridge Golf Course, to take advantage of the rolling, wooded hills of the Ozarks.