

## MISSOURI TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1247—102 East High Street  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102

# NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Tom Crawford  
Telephone: (573) 634-3388

For Immediate Release

### MISSOURI TRUCKING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE AWARDS

**Branson, MO** --The 2014 Missouri Trucking Association (MoTA) Annual SuperTech Competition, Safety & Maintenance Conference, Expo and Golf Outing was attended by more than 300 Safety and Maintenance Professionals and included 35 speakers. The two day event was sponsored by both the MoTA Council of Safety Supervisors and the MoTA Technology and Maintenance Council at the Hilton Branson Convention Center, Branson, Missouri, April 22 - 25, 2014. The event featured more than 70 exhibit booths as well as 9 specialty exhibits including tractors and trailers.

The conference was highlighted by the 67<sup>th</sup> annual Safety Awards Banquet honoring the trucking industry's finest safety, maintenance and driving professionals with over 275 company officials in attendance.

For thirty-three of the last thirty-four years, the **Missouri Trucking Association** has received the coveted Summa Cum Laude Award from American Trucking Associations' State Association Recognition Program for effectively fostering and promoting highway safety programs within Missouri for the greater good of the trucking industry and all highway users. Accepting the award was Dave White & Steve Page, who served as Past Chairmen of the Council of Safety Supervisors.

Four major fields recognized -- the Fleet Safety Contest; the Missouri Drivers of the Month and 2013 Driver of the Year; the Safety Director of the Year; the Missouri Technicians of the Month and 2013 Technician of the Year; and the Maintenance Professional of the Year -- shared the spotlight at the banquet.

The 2013 Missouri Driver of the Year is **Roy Wakefield**, a driver for **Transport Distribution Company of Joplin, Missouri**. Mr. Wakefield has been a professional driver for 36 years and has amassed over four million miles. The 2013 Missouri Technician of the Year is **Larry Disser**, a technician from **Gahr Truck & Equipment in St. James, MO**. Mr. Disser has been in the maintenance profession for 41 years. Lt. Colonel Sandra Karsten of the Missouri State Highway Patrol presented Mr. Wakefield and Mr. Disser with custom designed keepsake rings and framed certificates from the Missouri Trucking Association for their excellence in highway safety and maintenance operations.

The drivers and technicians recognized for outstanding performance, each were presented with a commemorative engraved Browning Knife from the Missouri Trucking Association. Introducing

each of the drivers and technicians was Troy Robertson of Con-way Truckload in Joplin, MO and Chairman of the MoTA Board of Directors.

The drivers of the month, their company, *hometown* and lifetime miles are listed below:

January	<b>Duane Grimme</b>	<b>Prime, Inc.</b>	<b>Satsuma, FL</b>	<b>2.6 Million Miles</b>
February	<b>Jack Lovan</b>	<b>Walmart Transp.</b>	<b>Willow Springs, MO</b>	<b>3.9 Million Miles</b>
March	<b>John Goossen</b>	<b>TCSI-Transland</b>	<b>Ava, MO</b>	<b>1.5 Million Miles</b>
April	<b>Sid Naramore</b>	<b>Buchheit Trucking</b>	<b>Chaffee, MO</b>	<b>1.5 Million Miles</b>
May	<b>Randall Mullins</b>	<b>St James Transp.</b>	<b>Rolla, MO</b>	<b>3 Million Miles</b>
June	<b>Glen Horack</b>	<b>Prime, Inc.</b>	<b>Elkland, MO</b>	<b>3.5 Million Miles</b>
July	<b>Dale Passow</b>	<b>Con-way Freight</b>	<b>Elkland, MO</b>	<b>1.9 Million Miles</b>
August	<b>Thomas Miller</b>	<b>Prime, Inc.</b>	<b>Bunker Hill, IL</b>	<b>2.4 Million Miles</b>
September	<b>Bob Miller</b>	<b>Transport Dist.</b>	<b>Miami, OK</b>	<b>3.9 Million Miles</b>
October	<b>Steve Fields</b>	<b>YRC Freight</b>	<b>Independence, MO</b>	<b>3 Million Miles</b>
November	<b>Roy Wakefield</b>	<b>Transport Dist.</b>	<b>Joplin, MO</b>	<b>4.5 Million Miles</b>
December	<b>Allan Raffay</b>	<b>Prime, Inc.</b>	<b>Hawley PA</b>	<b>3.9 Million Miles</b>

The maintenance technicians of the month, their company and *hometown* are listed below:

March	<b>Derek Dillon</b>	<b>D &amp; D Sexton</b>	<b>Lamar, MO</b>
May	<b>Mark Williamson</b>	<b>American Central Transport</b>	<b>Kansas City, MO</b>
June	<b>Landon Barton</b>	<b>Steelman Transportation</b>	<b>Springfield, MO</b>
July	<b>Tommy Bates</b>	<b>Kansas City Freightliner</b>	<b>Norborne, MO</b>
August	<b>Larry Disser</b>	<b>Gahr Truck &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>St. James, MO</b>
September	<b>Jordan Andrews</b>	<b>Joplin Freightliner Sales</b>	<b>Baxter Springs, KS</b>
October	<b>Allen Dougless</b>	<b>Joplin Freightliner Sales</b>	<b>Carthage, MO</b>
November	<b>Neal Putney</b>	<b>Joplin Freightliner Sales</b>	<b>Joplin, MO</b>
December	<b>Ryan Pennell</b>	<b>Steelman Transportation</b>	<b>Aurora, MO</b>

**Bruce Aden** of **Buchheit Trucking Service, Scott City, MO** was presented the "Safety Professional of the Year" award for his outstanding leadership in safety related programs designed for the trucking industry, his company and the community. The "Missouri Maintenance Professional of the Year" for outstanding leadership in the ever evolving field contributing to reduction of accidents and roadside breakdowns as well as highway safety, was awarded to **Wes Gahr** employed by **Gahr Truck & Equipment in St. James, MO**. Presenting the winners' each a plaque and an engraved clock from the Missouri Trucking Association was Chuck Gohring, the Assistant Director of Motor Carrier Services Unit of Missouri Department of Transportation.

The Grand Trophy winner in the "Fleet Safety Contest", a competition among motor carrier

fleets for the best safety record on a fleet-wide basis during the 2012-2013 contest period, was **ABF Freight of Fortsmith, AR**, with an accident ratio of .13. Accepting the trophy on behalf of ABF Freight was Victor Skaar.

Plaques were presented to the winners in each of four divisions of competition by John Uhl assisted by Mike Bohon of Great West Casualty, sponsor of the fleet safety contest awards. The winner in the "Local Division" was **ABF Freight System, Fort Smith, AR**. Honorable mention in the local division went to **D & D Sexton, Carthage, MO**

In the "Over the Road, Up to One Million Miles" category, the winner was **Twehous Excavating Company, Jefferson City, MO**. Honorable mention in the Up to One Million Miles category went to **Hull Trucking, Inc., Old Appleton, MO**.

The plaque winner in the "Over the Road, One to Five Million Miles" category was **D & D Sexton, Carthage, MO**; honorable mention in this category went to **Rollet Bros. Trucking, Perryville, MO**.

In the "Over the Road, Over Five Million Miles" category, the plaque winner was **ABF Freight System, Fort Smith, AR.**; honorable mention in this category went to **Walmart Transportation, St James, MO**.

The Missouri SuperTech Competition for full-time heavy-duty truck technicians included an ASE-style written test, the 20 top scorers of which advanced to the finals held at this event. They competed in the hands-on challenge with multiple skill stations, presenting equally challenging problems to both fleet maintenance and service shop pros. The SuperTech Competition Chairman, John Hunn presented plaques in eleven categories honoring the best.

Winners in the competition stations are listed below with employer-company and location.

Highest Written Score;

**Kevin Fricke, Clarke Power Services, Inc., Wentzville, MO**

Engine Station;

**Richard Davis, Hogan Transports Inc., St. Louis, MO**

HVAC Station;

**Travis Buhr, Steelman Transportation, Springfield, MO**

PMI Station;

**Mark Williamson, American Central Transports, Kansas City, MO**

Foundation Brake Station;

**Mark Lammert, Walmart Transportation, St. James, MO**

Brake Station;

**Danny Schubert, Prime, Inc., Springfield, MO**

Tires Station;

**Mark Williamson, American Central Transports, Kansas City, MO**

Wheel End Station;

**Richard Davis, Hogan Transports Inc., St. Louis, MO**

Electrical Station;

**Richard Davis, Hogan Transports Inc., St. Louis, MO**

Starting/Charging Station;

**Keith Johnson, MHC Kenworth, Kansas City, MO**

Fifth Wheel Station;

**Richard Davis, Hogan Transports Inc., St. Louis, MO**

John Hunn, the 2014 SuperTech Chairman, presented trophies to the three Overall Winners in the SuperTech competition as follows:

Third Place Winner;

**Aaron Tucker, Hogan Transports Inc., St. Louis, MO**

Second Place Winner;

**Keith Johnson, MHC Kenworth, Kansas City, MO**

2014 SuperTech Champion;

**Richard Davis, Hogan Transports Inc., St. Louis, MO**

The 2014 Champion also received a 56" Matco Toolbox in recognition of his achievement.

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