

# The Oklahoma Trucking Association 2017 Year in Review

Like each year, 2017 began with a full plate of activity for the association and never slowed. This is a positive sign of a robust and relevant statewide association. As *“The Voice of Trucking”* in Oklahoma we strive to **Protect, Promote, and Provide** for our members throughout the year. See what your association did in this year in review for 2017.

## Advocacy at the State Capitol

Several legislators left office throughout the year. Some left in disgrace, one due to death, and some to seek opportunity elsewhere. Between this and the normal election cycle, at least 54 legislators have only one or two years experience. This exacerbates an already difficult challenge in affecting policy at the state house. Unless your long-time neighbor or best friend was just elected, it is nearly impossible to develop meaningful relationships in the midst of such continuing turnover. It is imperative for each OTA member to know their legislators. Working together, you truly will matter as an OTA member and a voice of trucking in Oklahoma as we navigate the legislative process. Secondly, contribute to the OK TruckPAC. Dollars invested in the campaigns of trucking friendly legislators matter. In the absence of this, *“The Voice of Trucking”* can be silenced by anti-truck voices.

Approximately 2,500 – 3,000 bills (ideas) are filed at the beginning of each legislative session. This doesn't count the possibility of leftover bills from a previous session. We always ask that you speak up if you become aware of an issue that may affect our industry. Diligence requires all eyes and ears.

Here are some of the key legislative issues the OTA engaged in:

- **HB 1465:** Relates to driver licenses; requires that personal information and biometric data NOT BE shared directly with the federal government except under REAL ID requirements; adds language on car seat placement or drivers with handicap tag. The bill was signed by the Governor June 6, 2017.

What this means: This bill allows a choice of which type of driver's license you wish to possess.

- **HB 1845:** Relates to driver licenses; sets up a dual application process for REAL ID compliant licenses/ID cards and non-compliant licenses/ID cards; increases fees to fund costs; sets guidelines for production and security. This bill was signed by the Governor March 2, 2017.

What this means: This legislation became a political hot potato since 2007 when the Oklahoma legislature passed a law expressly making it illegal for the state of Oklahoma to comply with the demands of a federally uniform driver's license. OK was not alone and at least 27 other states reacted with some sort of non-compliance. The federal collection of biometric data from the holder of said license was the most offending issue. On one side were those who desired the convenience of a federally compliant license to board airplanes, enter federal buildings and military installations and help prevent acts of terrorism. On the other side were those who strongly felt the biometric

data collected by the federal government on their required license was unnecessary, overreach of the federal government into a state issued document, and an invasion of privacy on the equivalent of an unauthorized search. They further felt this would do little in the name of national security and this effort continues to be an attempt to monitor law abiding citizens while doing little to prevent actual terrorism. Ten years later and after several federal extensions, the legislature passed both bills ultimately meeting the requirements of the federal government with one license option, and leaving the other option available to those who do not wish to share their biometric data.

- **HB 2312:** Relates to motor vehicles; limits the use of the left-hand lane on four lane highways to passing other vehicles or for traffic flow. The bill was signed by the Governor May 5, 2017.

What this means: The Speaker of the House carried this bill. The OTA met with and educated the Speaker's office regarding safety and efficiency of logistics for our industry, The OTA prevented this legislation from targeting trucks only and made certain that if it were to pass, it should be fair and equitable for the entire motoring public. The Speaker's office proved to be a friend of trucking and held to our point of view.

- **SB 202:** Relates to autonomous vehicles; requires that DPS establish minimum safety standards, vehicle requirements, testing, and insurance requirements for autonomous vehicles. Dormant pursuant to the rules: March 2, 2017.

What this means: The introduction of this bill began the education process of legislators to prepare for platooning in Oklahoma as is it has in many other states. While the bill did not advance, it will become an ongoing issue for the future. Note: This language should be referred to as "Platooning Technology" unless and until a time comes in the distant future where a truly driverless semi-truck becomes a reality. Other states have demonstrated a natural hysteria associated with this issue and will make it difficult to pass on the first few attempts. Besides citing an increase in safety due to removing driver error, the technology promises the saving of natural resources through combined fuel savings of participating vehicles.

- **SB 426:** Relates to used tires; modifies the disposal and sale of used tires. This bill was signed by the Governor May 16, 2017.

What this means: With the used tire recycling fund in jeopardy and the threat of a return to the days of tires being reclaimed from creek beds and country sides, critical and immediate funding was provided at minimal cost.

In other news, a possible .06 cent per gallon fuel tax was discussed in the legislature a few times. It likely will continue to be a conversation next year. The Oklahoma House of Representatives does not have the ability to garner the 3/4 majority votes (76) to increase this or any other tax at present. The OTA's position supports a fuel tax increase if the money is invested in roads and bridges. A 1.25% upward adjustment on vehicle taxes left heavy trucks (power units) exempt but not commercial trailers. Key legislators have said it was never intended to include commercial vehicles but none the less it caught commercial trailers. While this inconveniences carriers, most can purchase and tag this equipment in other states leaving the State of Oklahoma's revenue as the biggest loser. The Governor and key leaders in both the

House and Senate have been made aware of this issue. For the good of the state, the OTA will support rectifying this unintended consequence.

Outside of the Oklahoma Legislature, here are some other highlights:

### **Continued Involvement with the American Trucking Associations (ATA)**

The ATA Federation appointed OTA CEO Jim Newport to serve on four important ATA Committees for the year 2017. They include the Communications & Image Policy, Highway Policy, Labor & Regulatory Policy, and Safety Policy committees. These committees meet periodically throughout the year at ATA meetings and occasional conference calls. An enormous amount of relevant trucking material is vetted through this process.

### **Midwinter Conference**

The 2017 conference was held at the beautiful Skirvin Hilton Hotel located in downtown Oklahoma City. Attendees were given the opportunity to learn about issues important to the industry. In a new meeting format panels were featured on the following topics: Road & Bridges, Enforcement & Regulatory, and Trucking: 2027 “A Look into the Future.” The following Safety Banquet honored our heroes of the highway with the Chairpersons of both the House and Senate Transportation Committees attending and participating. With excellent food and fellowship, a streamlined program made for both an efficient and enjoyable evening for all in attendance.

### **Truck Day at the Capitol**

The morning following the Midwinter Conference, OTA member companies John Christner Trucking, Miller Truck Lines, Freymiller Inc., UPS, and United Petroleum Transports (UPT) were proud to take part in a first-time unique opportunity to advocate and educate many elected officials at the State Capitol. After coffee and continental breakfast many multimillion safe mile professional drivers from the previous evening were given a standing ovation from both the House and Senate Chambers. Freymiller and UPT donated drivers and new equipment loaded with the latest trucking technology for exhibit on the lawn of the Capitol for legislators and visitors to experience. This positive image of Oklahoma trucking directed toward our state policy makers was priceless.

### **Continued Affiliations with State Departments**

The 2017 Oklahoma Department of Transportation State Freight Plan held a series of meetings throughout the year at their headquarters. The OTA was invited to participate in identifying economic development areas, as well as bottlenecks and chokepoints in Oklahoma. Representing the interest of Oklahoma’s trucking industry at the table continues to be important. These meetings addressed the increasing importance of trucking and all modes of freight transportation. Freight is projected to grow and the state needs to be prepared for that growth. Without the completion of these plans, Oklahoma would not be eligible for federal highway grants.

ODOT requested and received letters of support from the OTA for Federal funding targeting specific road and bridge projects in Oklahoma. These letters were directed from the OTA to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Some of those projects have since been granted with others anticipated in the future.

In addition to the ODOT Freight Plan, a *Stakeholder Committee Meeting for Oklahoma Statewide Rail Plan* was held in March and June. Jim Newport was invited and participated in the review and prioritization of passenger and freight rail projects and studies needed in Oklahoma. Trucking remains the predominate mode of freight transportation representing over 70% of freight movement among all modes of transportation. By participating, the OTA recognizes the important logistical partnerships involving rail and other modes of shipping.

### **Political Action Committee (PAC) Contributions**

A special thank you goes out to Greg Price in his leadership for nurturing PAC involvement during 2017. Even prior to taking the helm as OTA's Chairman, Greg began creating an environment highlighting the importance of political contributions. In politics, "if you're not at the table, you're probably on the menu" is one of his often-repeated truths. Beginning with himself and the OTA Board of Directors, Greg began requesting and receiving personal PAC donation commitments for the OTA. Your board has responded and now it's every member's turn. While the account dollars need to grow exponentially to equal the importance of our industry, Greg and the board are leading the way. This effort has just begun in earnest and deserves your consideration. Please make a commitment at any level for this important cause.

### **Technology & Maintenance Council (TMC) SuperTech Competition**

Oklahoma Trucking Association's TMC is a super star among all state association TMCs. The SuperTech Competition is held annually at the Francis Tuttle Diesel Center. Participants rotate through 15 stations, 14 of which are hands-on, plus a written test. Each individual competed for the honor of representing Oklahoma as our State Champion in the National SuperTech Skills Competition. On more than a few occasions, Oklahoma's TMC competitors have been some of the top contenders and have even won national honors. 2017 was another great SuperTech Competition and special thanks to Bonne Karim and Lew Flowers for their great leadership year after year.

### **Truck Driving Championships (TDC)**

The Oklahoma TDC took place on June 2 and 3 in Oklahoma City. 100 drivers competed during this event and approximately 400 people attended the awards banquet to honor the winners.

### **Summer Shoot-Out**

This year's event was held at the Silverhorn Golf Club in Oklahoma City. Over 70 golfers enjoyed the camaraderie of the tournament. A long drive wearing oven mitts and rolling a giant inflatable die for a chance to tee off closer were part of the '*FUNdraiser*' games to help the association. Perfect weather, a great lunch, fellowship, and winning prizes topped off another success for your association on a great golf day. As always, thanks to our non-golfing members

for volunteering with registration, manning special events on the course, and being great help for the OTA staff.

### **Trucking Association Executive's Council (TAEC)**

July of 2017 found the TAEC Region III electing Jim Newport as their Chairman. From Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota to Texas, Region III of the TAEC represents most of the Midwestern states from Canada to Mexico. Jim has and will continue to coordinate and preside over the Region III meetings through July of 2018. The meetings involve best practices specific for state trucking associations. The exchange among these great trucking association executives is a tremendous benefit not only for the state associations but also for the entire trucking industry. From policies, practices, and positions this interaction strengthens trucking in the individual states as well as the nation.

### **85<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

85 years. It should not be lost of the significance of the largest statewide association for trucking being present for 85 continuous years. This was celebrated at the annual convention and something we should all be proud of. It represents the heritage of who we are. Added this year for the Welcome Reception was an off-site event that brought a new fun element. OTA kicked off the first night of convention at The Dust Bowl in Tulsa. The Dust Bowl was rented out exclusively to OTA and provided fantastic food, beverage and 8 lanes of bowling. Reacquainting with friends and fellow members mixed with food, drink, and vintage bowling was a huge hit.

The Annual Convention was held at the Hyatt Regency in Tulsa. It was jam packed with nationally recognized speakers from HELP Inc., Peloton Technology, Vigillo, ATRI, ODOT, Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, INSURICA, Driver iQ, National Tank Truck Carriers, the ATA Truck PAC Chairman, and the 2017 Chairman from ATA. This lineup was the envy of other state trucking associations in the country.

### **Updated By-laws with Index**

The Oklahoma Trucking Association Board of Directors met and approved updated by-laws on August 23, 2017. These by-laws reflect the current environment specific to our association. They allow for effective governing of the association with built in flexibility for growth and a dynamic future. The new attached index allows for quick reference by subject and page number to a particular by-law.

### **Audit**

The annual audit was presented and approved by the Board. The findings of the audit demonstrated another year of efficient operation as a 501(c)(6) non-profit association.

### **Event Site Visits**

OTA staff members visited various sites for upcoming and future OTA events. This included visiting Silverleaf Shotgun Sports where our first clay shoot tournament took place, the River Spirit Resort in Tulsa where the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention will take place in 2018, and the Embassy Suites Downtown location where the 2018 Midwinter Conference will be held. By viewing what different locations have to offer, the staff was able to make informed budget decisions with actual experiences at each location.

### **Events Committee**

Another first for OTA, an Events Committee was appointed to review the research completed by the OTA to help make determinations on where we go and what we will be doing with the many events the OTA hosts throughout the year.

### **National Truck Driver Appreciation Week (NTDAW)**

NTDAW allows the OTA staff to become involved with carrier members and drivers from across the country. Several OTA member companies celebrated their drivers. A long time OTA member, John Christner Trucking, hosted the OTA staff during their driver appreciation and gave OTA staff a tour of their facility and their new truckers lounge. That week also found OTA staff at a member company's Travel Plaza to hand out donated gift cards to the hardworking truckers of America.

### **Management Conference and Exhibition (MC&E)**

The OTA was represented at the ATA's MC&E conference in October. This conference allows participants to remain current on national trucking issues and trends. It includes important committee meetings our members and Newport are assigned to as well as ATA's Executive Committee and full board member meeting.

### **Fall Golf Classic aka Frozen Foursome Golf**

The Fall Golf Classic was unpaired from the Annual Convention this year for concerns of the potential Oklahoma heat in August. It was presented as a stand-alone event for fall. Ironically, with the tournament moved to October, the weather at that time was uncooperative with colder than normal temperatures. The good news for your association was the sponsorships for this event was at an all-time high! Participants enjoyed the outing and were good natured about the cold temperature.

### **Fall Clay Shoot**

OTA's first ever Clay Shoot was held in November at Silverleaf Shotgun Sports in Guthrie. It was met with overwhelming success and requests for it to continue next year. This request was unanimous among our participating members. Oil up grandpa's shotgun and come bust a sporting clay with us next year!

### **OSMC Fall Seminar**

Chairman Greg Price and Jim Newport met with 20 of OTA's safety council members in November. They stressed appreciation to the safety professionals, the importance of safety first, and the value of being "*The Voice of Trucking*" for Oklahoma to the safety members.

### **TMC Fall Tech Workshop**

Once again OTA's Technology Maintenance Council showed up in a big way. The Fall Tech Workshop helped educate future technicians on the importance of proper trucking maintenance in everyday life. New advances in equipment components and their maintenance requirements demand constant training. Bonne Karim brought in nationally known ASE presenters for the students and technicians attending this workshop. This event was well attended and greatly appreciated.

### **Board of Directors Updates**

The December 2017 Board of Directors meeting took on several new positive updates. A newly created board member information packet was introduced for the convenience of OTA's Board of Directors at their meetings. For the first time, members have immediate access during the meeting to a copy of the by-laws, previous meetings minutes, financial information, and the OTA budget. This book will be available to all board members during board meetings. This readily available information equips board members with the best use of time and duties.

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

The Oklahoma Trucking Association's Executive Committee met prior to the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting on December 12, 2017. This new format mirrors the ATA's format and that of other state associations. The purpose is to vet possible broad issues, when necessary, to best utilize the time and resources of the overall board. The executive committee is not intended to circumvent the OTA board but may bring recommendations to the board for consideration when necessary.

### **New Board Meeting Agenda Structure**

Like many gatherings, board meetings now begin with a prayer and The Pledge of Allegiance, remaining true to the American trucking family traditions.

### **Board Orientation**

The Oklahoma Trucking Association held its first ever orientation for both current and new board members. This orientation guide provides information about the governing roles of a board member. While confirming the duties of current and new board members, the orientation educates the member of the history, current importance, and vision of the Oklahoma Trucking Association's future.

### **Budget**

Financial management is important to any organization. It's especially important to non-profit association like the OTA. This year a budget was devised and implemented. It was presented

and accepted by the board on December 12. This financial roadmap will help guide the association throughout future years.

### **Trucking 101**

Information specific to trucking in Oklahoma makes up the content of the newly created Trucking 101. It is basic in design and geared toward the novice who may be unaware of trucking's important role in our state. This can be useful for circumstances such as educating new Allied partners of the OTA or newly elected officials. Some of the Trucking 101 content has a dual purpose and is shared in the new board member orientation conveying to the participant what the OTA and trucking is all about.

### **Local Regulatory Authorities**

The OTA continues to build and strengthen relationships with statewide regulatory authorities. This is a tremendous value for OTA members. Members of the Department of Public Safety, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, the Oklahoma Tax Commission, the Labor Department and the regional office of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration are all vital liaisons to the Oklahoma Trucking Association.

### **New Membership and Carrier Visits**

The Oklahoma Trucking Association continues to reach out and bring onboard new members. Your OTA strives to bring value to our current members every day with an emphasis on carriers. As schedules allow we continue site visits to our members and prospects. While this must be balanced with limited resources, visiting locations and getting to know our member companies brings mutual value to both the member and the OTA.

As we move on to 2018, the Oklahoma Trucking Association will continue to work hard being *"The Voice of Trucking."* We once again would like to acknowledge and thank each member for your continued support as we strive to be the BEST association for the trucking industry.