



# THE BULLETIN

## 2023 Truck Driving Championship and Fleet Safety Awards

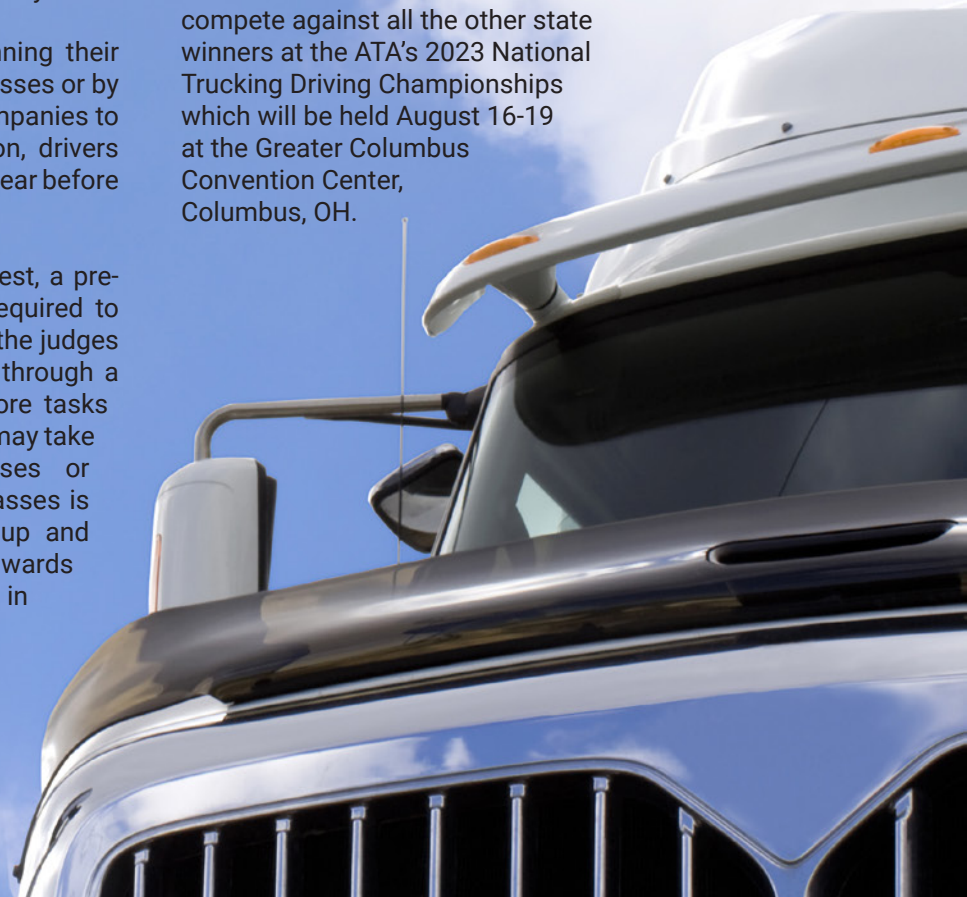
In the spring each year here in Mississippi, drivers from across the state gather to test their mettle, to find out who is the best of the best at the annual Mississippi Trucking Association's Truck Driving Championships on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. This year was no exception as the event was held on May 5-6.

Drivers qualify for the TDC by winning their company championships in their classes or by simply being nominated by their companies to compete. To qualify for competition, drivers must be accident-free for the entire year before the competition.

Competition consists of a written test, a pre-trip inspection where drivers are required to find specific defects known only to the judges and driving their specific class rig through a timed obstacle course. Judges score tasks on the basis of specific criteria and may take deductions for incorrect responses or actions. When competition in all classes is completed, the points are tallied up and champions are crowned along with awards for second and third-place winners in each class. The champions in each class then compete for the top honor: Grand Champion. The Grand Champion is the driver with the highest overall score no matter what class. A Rookie of the Year

award is also presented to the top scoring driver competing for the first time. The competition classes are Straight Truck, 3-Axle, 4-Axle, 5-Axle, 5-Axle Sleeper Berth, and Tanker, Flatbed, Twin-Trailers and Step Van.

The nine class winners are invited to compete against all the other state winners at the ATA's 2023 National Trucking Driving Championships which will be held August 16-19 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH.





## MTA's DRIVER OF THE YEAR 2023: Theo Carouthers, Morgan Van Lines

Theo Carouthers has 35 years of driving experience, with the last 13-1/2 for Morgan Van Lines in Booneville, MS, where he is considered a Senior Driver Trainer. He serves as the Driver Mentor assisting all new CDL drivers hired by Morgan Van Lines to integrate seamlessly with the company.

Theo travels all states East of the Mississippi River and has accumulated over 3.6 million accident-free miles over his driving career. He attributes his success to an early education in the trucking business from his father, also a driver, who taught him that every accident is preventable, and to treat every vehicle on the road as if it is carrying one of his loved ones inside.

He resides in Okolona, MS with his wife Barbara, and they have two children, Erwin and Thomas. Theo enjoys cooking during his time off the road. Especially as part of a ministry of his church, *Meals for Many*. He creates the menus as well as cooks the meals. His pastor affirms

the successfulness of the program comes from Theo's determination to serve, his love for others, and his desire to give back to his community.

This gentle giant stood out among the other nominees with his honorable display of respect for his friend and fellow driver, Jackie, "Road Hog", Greer, whom he lost in a tragic accident in October 2021. Shortly after the accident, he immediately asked Bill and Steve Morgan of Morgan Van Lines if he could make the trip to Illinois to pick up the remains of his dear friend, who had started at Morgan Van Lines the same day as Theo, back in 2009. Theo's wish was to give his friend 'one final ride' as a tribute to their friendship. Led by a police escort from the Tennessee state line to the funeral home in Corinth, MS, their last ride concluded with a memorial service led by Theo.

Mr. Carouthers was presented a crystal truck trophy, donated by **Great West Casualty**, and a \$1,000 check from **Tri-State Truck Center** for his accomplishment!

# AND THE WINNERS ARE:



## 3 AXLE WINNERS

1st – Stephen Johnson, FedEx Freight  
2nd – Jackie Reed, FedEx Freight  
3rd – John Turner, FedEx Ground



## 4 AXLE WINNERS

1st – Daniel Camachomagana, FedEx Freight  
2nd – Adam Graves, FedEx Freight  
3rd – Lance Barker, Ergon Trucking



## 5 AXLE WINNERS

1st – Christopher Crabtree, Ergon Trucking  
2nd – Christopher Gaston, FedEx Freight  
3rd – Jonathan Jacobs, Walmart



## FLATBED WINNERS

1st – Anita Lee, Total Transportation  
2nd – Carl Lloyd, Ergon Trucking  
3rd – Larry Davis, FedEx Freight



## SLEEPER WINNERS

1st – Rickey Oliver, Walmart  
2nd – Joshua Feathers, FedEx Ground  
3rd – Danny Mackey, FedEx Freight



## STEP VAN WINNERS

1st – Corey Smith, FedEx Ground  
2nd – James Luckett, Walmart  
3rd – Jarrod Moree, FedEx Ground



## STRAIGHT TRUCK WINNERS

1st – Rodney Davis, FedEx Freight  
2nd – Keith Reynaud, Walmart  
3rd – Calan Turner, Total Transportation



## TANKER WINNERS

1st – Jason Matte, Walmart  
2nd – Billy Marshall, YRC  
3rd – Scott Osborne, FedEx Freight, and  
John Smith, Jr., FedEx Ground



## TWINS WINNERS

1st – James McNeil, FedEx Freight  
2nd – David Wrenn, FedEx Ground  
3rd – Charlie Corley, YRC

# AND THE WINNERS ARE:



## TEAM CHAMPIONS – FEDEX FREIGHT

*Team:* Daniel Camachomagana, Larry Davis, Rodney Davis, Christopher Gaston, Adam Graves, Stephen Johnson, Danny Mackey, James McNeill, Jackie Reed



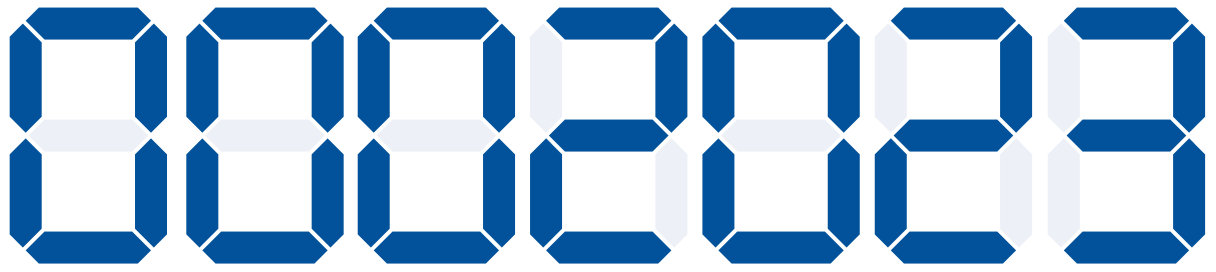
## ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

John Turner, FedEx Ground



## GRAND CHAMPION WINNER

Stephen Johnson, FedEx Freight



# MTA is proud to announce its Fleet Safety Award winners.

**INTERCITY .5 TO 2,000,000 MILES**  
1st Place Holmes Company

**LOCAL 0 TO 1,000,000 MILES**  
1st Place ABF

**INTERCITY OVER 2,000,000 MILES**  
1st Place Wal Mart  
2nd Place Big M Transportation  
3rd Place FedEx Freight

**LOCAL OVER 1,000,000 MILES**  
1st Place FedEx Freight  
2nd Place FedEx Ground

# Thanks to our sponsors.



# SCENES FROM THE SHOW



Getting Registered



Waiting Our Turn to Register



Orientation



Getting Ready



Concentration



MTA President, Hal Miller, addresses the participants and volunteers!

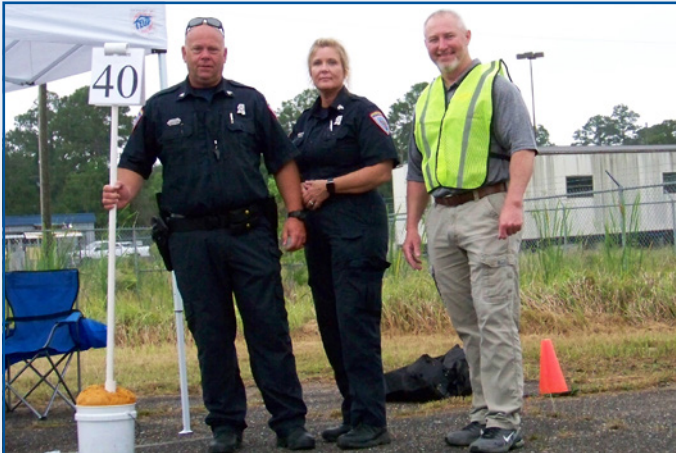
# SCENES FROM THE SHOW



Enjoying some crawfish after the workday!



Thursday Crawfish Boil



We appreciate our volunteers!



Thank you to our volunteers!



Lunch Time



Waiting to Go

# SCENES FROM THE SHOW



A little rain won't dampen our spirits!



Under the Watchful Eye



Back in Action



Running the Course



Nothing gets past these guys!



Here we go!



# SCENES FROM THE SHOW



Making the Turn



Let's do this!



Precision



Passing all the Tests



National Anthem