

Bennett Motor Express, Inc. Owner Marcia G. Taylor Has Always Rewarded Her Owner Operators; Now They Have Returned The Favor

To say that Bennett Motor Express, Inc.'s Annual Driver Meeting is a special event would be an understatement. Approximately 375 owner operators and their families were in attendance at the December 1995 meeting, which was held at the Atlanta Motor Speedway.



Marcia G. Taylor, President & CEO Bennett International Group, Inc.

One of the highlights occurred when the Buddy Baker Driving School had cars available that 100 Bennett drivers took four laps around the race track averaging 170 miles per hour. The only thing faster than those cars was the pace of awards given away recognizing Bennett's owner operators for their hard work and safety efforts.

James Cook, Freight Driver of the Year, and Alice Bell, Drive Away Driver of the Year, were presented plaques recognizing their accomplishments. All drivers present were eligible for a drawing for two brand new pick up trucks: one for Bennett's Freight division and one for the Drive Away division. The lucky winner on the Freight side was William Blackwell, while Todd Harrison's name was drawn on the Drive Away side.

Also during the meeting, Mr. William Plemons of Plemons Insurance Company, gave away Nintendo games to the children and diamond tennis bracelets to the ladies. Plemons is Bennett's insurance representative and is also a large donor to their Driver's Relief Fund, which has been set up for the purpose of aiding drivers who have suffered some type of tragic or emergency situation in which they need assistance. After the meeting, they had a Christmas party for all of their

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Alice Bell (right) was presented a plaque as Bennett's Drive Away Driver of the Year.



James Cook received the award as Bennett's Freight Division Driver of the Year.



Allen Kessler, Chairman of Bennett's Driver Advisory Board, reads the inscription on the Eagle Award plaque that was presented to Marcia G. Taylor, owner of Bennett International Group, Inc.



William Plemons, Plemons Insurance Company, (far right) presented diamond tennis bracelets to these ladies at Bennett.



owner/operators and their families, along with everyone from the home office.

Aside from the awards and fellowship, the meeting also gives Bennett's owner operators a chance to get together and discuss various company programs. The company has a constant forum for employees to voice their opinions through their Owner/Operator Advisory Board for both freight side Owner/Operators and Drive Away drivers. These two groups of professionals meet with top management to discuss not only the concerns in the field but about future ideas and plans that will help the owner/operator and the company. These Boards allow the Owner/Operators to voice their concerns, ideas, and talk to other owner/operators in the field to update them on upcoming plans of the company and again hear their thoughts and ideas on the company.



Todd Harrison (left), a driver in Bennett's Drive Away division, was the lucky winner in a drawing for this new pick-up truck.



William Blackwell (right), an owner operator in Bennett's Freight Division, won the drawing for this pick-up truck.



Buddy Baker Driving School had cars available for Bennett drivers to take for a spin at the Atlanta Motor Speedway. More than 100 drivers took four laps at 170 miles per hour.

Prior to the Annual Driver Meeting, Bennett's two Advisory Boards got together and met. During the drivers meeting, the Chairmans of each Advisory Board address the assembly. During the driver meeting Allen Kessler, Freight Chairman of the Advisory Board

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asked Bennett owner, Mrs. Marcia Taylor, to the platform to receive a special award from all of the owner/operators of Bennett Motor Express. The plaque reads as follows:

"In appreciation for your outstanding efforts, you have accepted the challenge to soar above the world and to overcome barriers to success that would have caused others to falter and fall. You have been decisive where others have hesitated. You have taken us to new heights, and have developed Bennett Motor Express into one of the finest owner/operator companies in the country. Because you care, you have touched and enriched all of our lives, and we thank you!"

Mrs. Taylor was recognized for her leadership and for the new programs she has implemented. Bennett's newest program is their Regional Team Dispatch System. It allows their owner/operators to choose the terminal they would like to load for when they have become empty. This allows our agents to know in advance that they have a truck on the way to their terminal, so they can plan a load for that truck. So far, the length of time the trucks are spending at the terminal before they receive another load is less than a half day, which is fantastic. If a truck is headed into an area with no terminal, there are the team members that look for and plan a load for that driver before they arrive. The company is also putting in a separate phone

system where the driver can call in and select from a menu such as check call, settlements, messages, or dispatch. This new phone system will eliminate standing at a phone booth trying to check in and will free up the driver to move more loads instead of being tied up on the phone.

Mrs. Taylor's foresight and the hard work of the company's owner operators and drivers have resulted in Bennett being awarded the contract to move buses from all over the U.S. to Atlanta for the 1996 summer Olympics. The contract is for 1500 buses. This will provide work for the Freight Division Owner/Operators and Drive Away Division as well. After the Olympics, the buses will be returned to the various cities that donated them.

Bennett now has three great recruiting packages available for prospective owner operators. Their Western Package includes the 14 Western States, where you can purchase a Utah plate through Bennett, or have your own apportioned plate. Their 48 State Package can be base plated in Illinois, and their Eastern Package can be plated for either Illinois or Georgia. All packages include an available Major Medical Plan for owner operators and their families and Bennett's Free Permit Incentive for every year you're with the company. For more information on becoming one of the Bennett Bunch, call 800-367-2249. 