

CONVENTION SPEAKERS



Charles (Shorty) Whittington has been in the transportation industry for over 30 years. Growing up in the heart of an agricultural community in Indiana, he naturally developed an agri-business career. The diversity of farming, grain elevator operations and the need he saw for specialized transportation, prompted Shorty to establish Grammer Industries in 1977. Grammer started as a small fertilizer and grain trucking company and has now grown to an industry leader in specialized hazardous material transport. Grammer provides safe, reliable transportation of; anhydrous ammonia, propane, nitric acid and compressed gases. Although trucking is Whittington's passion his other business ventures involve real estate, renewable fuels and equipment sales.

Shorty is very active in the American Trucking Association (ATA) where he currently serves as Chairman. He also serves on boards for; the Indiana Motor Trucking Associations (IMTA), the Agricultural & Food Transporters Conference (AFTC), the National Tank Truck Carriers (NTTC) and is active in many state propane and fertilizer trade associations. He recently served on a Government Negotiated Rule Making involving a safety issue with tanker trailers, one of only five successful such missions of the Department of Transportation.

Shorty is a graduate of Purdue University. In 2007 Purdue named him Distinguished Agricultural Alumni. In 2008 he received the Indiana Agri-Vision Award from the State Department of Agriculture.

He and his wife Ro Anne reside just outside of Columbus near the small town of Grammer. They have two children Kristin and John



Dan Baker is the most sought-after and asked-back speaker in the trucking industry for one very good reason: Dan Baker talks trucker. It's his first language. His father drove a truck. Dan understands trucking on an emotional level born of waiting on the front porch for his Daddy to come home in the big truck. The sounds and smells and attitudes of trucking have been part of his life for as long as he can remember. Trucking is in his blood.

Dan Baker has a lot of interesting things to say. Dan's message is the people side of trucking. His presentations are fun, funny, full of jokes, stories and one-liners. But he never departs far from his basic theme that if you're in trucking today, first of all you're in the people business and secondly, you're in the trucking business. Regardless of the trucking industry's business cycle, Dan is in big demand throughout the country.



JOE STODDARD

One-man Show or Comedy Show Band

If you were to clone Danny Kaye, Jim Stafford, Tommy Smothers, Red Skelton and Steve Martin, you would find **Joe Stoddard** bubbling out of your test tube?

Influenced by the great entertainers of the past and present, Joe has developed his own unique blend of music and comedy.

Joe's truly amazing vocal power and a razor sharp wit, takes the audience on an unforgettable journey of laughter and song as he keeps them laughing and singing along with Country Music, Oldies, Bluegrass, Western, Comedy Songs and more. His hilarious impersonations of famous artists like John Denver, Bob Dylan, Fats Domino, Johnny Cash and yes, even an outrageous impersonation of an Elvis impersonator, draws huge crowds and always keep them laughing!

Joe has worked as a warm-up act for big name acts such as The Beach Boys, Ricky Nelson, Joe Nichols, Keith Urban, Sara Evans, The Oakridge Boys and more. He is recognized as one of the very best entertainers performing in the U.S. and Canada at Fairs, Festivals, Comedy Clubs, Colleges and Corporate Events.

75th Annual Convention 2009
Tentative Schedule
Boise, Idaho

Wednesday, August 12th

11:30 a.m. Early Bird Golf – Quail Hollow Golf Course
5:00-7:00 p.m. Registration – The Grove Hotel Lobby
6:00-8:00 p.m. Opening Reception – “Meet With Past Chairman”
The Grove Hotel, Evergreen Room, 2nd Floor

Thursday, August 13th

7:00 a.m. Registration – The Grove Hotel Lobby
7:30 a.m. Opening Breakfast, Evergreen Room, 2nd Floor
• Keynote Speaker – ATA Chairman, Shorty Whittington
• Welcome first-time attendees
9:00 a.m. General Session I: Boise Centre on the Grove
“People Side of Tough Times” presented by Dan Baker
10:30 a.m. Break – Boise Centre on the Grove
10:30 a.m. Spouse Activity – “Humor Therapy” presented by Marty Downey with BSU
Grove Hotel, Clearwater Room, 3rd Floor
10:45 a.m. General Session II: Boise Centre on the Grove
“People Side of Tough Times” presented by Dan Baker (continued)
12:00 p.m. Buffet Lunch at Boise Centre on the Grove
Governor Butch Otter (been invited)
1:30 p.m. General Session III: Boise Centre on the Grove
SmartWay Presentation
1:30 p.m. Spouse Activity–“Interactive Pottery Demonstration” presented by Margie Tomiko
The Grove Hotel, Clearwater Room, 3rd Floor
3:00 p.m. Membership Meeting
4:00 p.m. PAC Meeting
4:30 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
6:00 p.m. Suppliers Night Banquet – Boise Centre on the Grove
7:30 p.m. The Joe Stoddard Show

Friday, August 14th

8:00 a.m. Safety Awards Breakfast
9:30 a.m. General Session IV: Boise Centre on the Grove
“Legislative Panel Discussion” – moderated by Skip Smyser, ITA Lobbyist
11:00 a.m. Break for Activities
12:30 p.m. Golf Tournament – Falcon Crest Golf Course
1:30 p.m. Sporting Clay Activity – Black Dog Clays
Optional Boise River Float Trip, Old Penitentiary, Botanical Gardens, Zoo
6:00 p.m. Closing Dinner – Falcon Crest Golf Course



*We are coming back to Boise for the
75th Annual Convention.*

*Don't miss out on all that will be
offered this year!*

Five Reasons to Avoid the ITA's 75th Annual Conference

- 1) **You don't need a break:** The only way to be successful in trucking is to run full throttle 24/7. Yes, you are tired and overworked, but getting away to clear your mind and refresh your body would only make you less productive. You don't really deserve a relaxing golf game or an opportunity to have a shooting contest with your fellow comrades.
- 2) **You know it all already:** You already know everything you need to keep your company running safely and profitably. You know what regulations are coming down the road and have it all figured out how to face the challenges coming our way in the future. Hearing informed speakers prepare you for future success or how your peers are dealing with the issue would only be a waste of time.
- 3) **You are better off not having friends in the industry:** People who attend the annual conference are the type of people who like talking to other truckers. Sharing ideas, telling war stories or just exchanging information for possible joint efforts down the road are the real value of a conference. ITA members encounter a real sense of belonging and camaraderie in this relaxing conference environment. Still, you are probably better off if you view everyone else as a competitor and don't get too close to anyone.
- 4) **Talking directly to folks setting the rules is not important:** Why talk face to face with the people who create the laws and regulations that govern your business? They are going to do what they want anyways, right? How valuable could it really be to let them know how such rules and legislation can help or hurt your operation? Letting other people see the agenda for you is a much better business decision.
- 5) **The ITA can get along without you:** Members are really not very important to the ITA. Our staff can do everything it needs to without direction and input from members like you. Your leadership, input and contributions of time and money will have no effect on how successful the ITA is advocating for the needs of the trucking industry.



Final thoughts: Of course I am being facetious here and in no way intend to offend any of our fine members. Running a trucking firm is a demanding job and the time pressures are immense. But I am convinced that our Annual Convention Committee has put together an event that will bring real value to your personal, business and family life. Come and join us in Boise on August 12-14. You will be glad you did.