



## **Veriha Trucking President Karen Smerchek to Lead Truckload Carriers Association as New Chairman**

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Truckload Carriers Association (TCA) is proud to announce that Karen Smerchek, President and Owner of Veriha Trucking, has been named TCA Chairman for the 2025-2026 term. With a deep commitment to the trucking industry and a passion for safety, innovation, and advocacy, Smerchek is poised to lead TCA through a year focused on strengthening industry sustainability, driver support, and regulatory advancements. She also makes history as the first woman to hold this prestigious leadership role. Smerchek was officially appointed Chairman during the closing banquet at TCA's Annual Convention last night in Phoenix, AZ.

With nearly two decades of experience in the truckload sector, Smerchek has been an advocate for safety, technology, and operational excellence. As Chairman of TCA, she aims to drive initiatives that support roadway safety, driver job improvement, fiscal sustainability, and environmental stewardship—all while ensuring the industry remains financially strong and well-positioned for the future.

"I am truly honored to step into this role as Chairman of TCA," said Smerchek. "This organization has been instrumental in my growth as a leader in trucking, and I look forward to working with my peers to address critical industry challenges. From predatory towing and truck parking to hair follicle testing and sustainability, TCA remains focused on advocating for policies that support our carriers and professional drivers."

Smerchek's journey with TCA began when she attended her first conference as a 21-year-old junior in college, where she was inspired by an educational session on succession planning. Now, as Chairman, she is eager to give back to the organization that helped shape her career, encouraging members to

take advantage of TCA's networking and educational programs, including the Profitability Program, Benchmarking, and various industry conferences.

Veriha Trucking was founded in 1978 as a one-truck operation by Smerchek's father. Over the years, the company has grown into a respected carrier, emphasizing driver safety, training, and operational efficiency. Since Smerchek purchased a majority stake in the business, her leadership has been integral to this growth, and she is committed to fostering a culture of continuous improvement and professionalism in trucking.

"I believe trucking thrives when we invest in our people, our safety, and our industry's future," said Smerchek. "Stepping into the role of TCA Chairman, I'm committed to ensuring that carriers and drivers have the tools, policies, and support needed to succeed, from regulatory reform and infrastructure improvements to driver job satisfaction and financial sustainability."

Smerchek remains dedicated to ensuring TCA continues to provide value to its members. She encourages industry leaders to engage in upcoming educational and advocacy events, including the Safety & Security Conference in June, the Refrigerated Meeting in July, and the Call on Washington in September.

As TCA Chairman, Smerchek's priorities will include:

- Advocating for policy improvements, including hair follicle testing, truck parking expansion, and predatory towing reform.
- Expanding industry education, encouraging fleets to participate in benchmarking and leadership programs.
- Championing practical sustainability, aligning with TCA's Clean Freight Coalition to promote achievable environmental goals.
- Enhancing trucking's public image, ensuring the industry is recognized for its critical role in the economy and workforce development.

With an industry facing technological change, regulatory shifts, and economic challenges, Smerchek's leadership at TCA will focus on ensuring truckload carriers remain resilient and prepared for the future.