



**national carriers**  
**the "Elite" fleet**  
**MAGAZINE**

**LIBERAL'S NEW SHOP OPENS FOR BUSINESS**  
**A FACEBOOK GROUP FOR DRIVERS**  
**2020 DRIVER OF THE MONTH DIRECTORY**



# View from the Windshield

## NCI PRESIDENT JIM FRANCK



**Well, 2020 is behind us. What a year it was. Too much happened to even know where to get started. But the**

**one thing that stands out in my mind is the recognition that the American Truck Driver received.**

**You have always been the backbone of the American economy. Anybody in the industry knows that, but now everyone has come to realize it. In a national calamity, you, through selfless efforts kept the supply chain moving and stores stocked. The “Knights of the Road” ride again. I have never been more proud to be a small part of this amazing industry. Thank you for taking me along for the ride.**

**This publication highlights the “Elite of the Elite Fleet”. Choosing Drivers of the Month, and especially Driver of the Year, is one of the most difficult decisions we make. There are so many truly deserving individuals, but of course there can be only one winner. We are not sure that we will be able to get together and celebrate these 12 amazing folks. But we will do the best we can in the virtual world that we are now living in.**

**As we navigate the new year, let’s approach it with a determined optimism that we will emerge with a spirit of unity, faith and determination. We are still the greatest country in the world. Let’s Celebrate that and the “Knights of the Road” that keep us there.**

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# ***LIBERAL'S NEW SHOP OPENS FOR BUSINESS***

"This process started a few years ago when NBP was talking about expanding the plant right into our old shop. But a little over a year and a half ago it became serious," explains President Jim Franck.

"We looked at several locations on plant property and off. But the more we looked at options the more sense the current location made. After all we have owned the property for more than a decade. It is in close proximity to the plant and had all the land we needed in case we want to expand."

"We then looked at a couple different contractors and designs. Once that decision was made the detail work followed."



**Drivers will be allowed in the shop, however for safety reasons they will be asked to remain in designated areas.**



**Left:**  
**Stage 1 - Dirt Work  
and Foundation**

**Below:**  
**Stage 2 -  
Steel Framing**



**Below:**  
**Stage 3 -  
Exterior  
Walls and  
Doors**



**Above: Stage 4 - Facade**

**Left: Interior Hallway**

**Below: Drivers Lounge with Showers**



“It’s been quite an endeavor and Johnny Branstine has done an outstanding job managing the build out. I don’t think I’ve ever seen the Liberal staff as excited as they watched everything come together.”

Director of Maintenance, Johnny Branstine, has been with National Carriers for the past 41 years. He has spent countless hours overseeing the project.



Johnny Branstine

The upper level of the facility will provide office space for our safety, settlements, and additional staff. The lower level office space will accommodate shop supervisors, parts inventory, breakroom, restrooms, a driver’s lounge and our livestock offices. The remainder of the building is devoted to maintenance of National Carriers equipment.

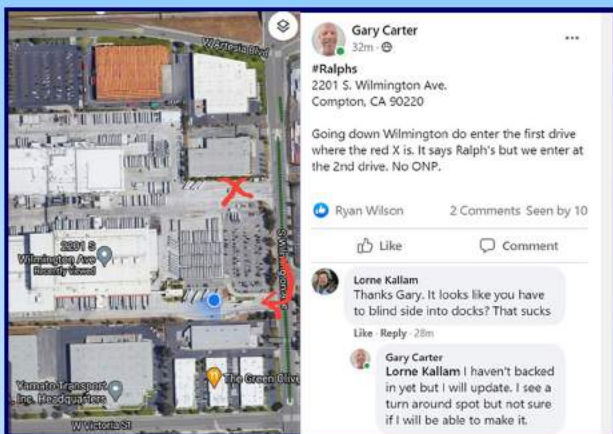
In the shop area, each bay is 160 feet long. This allows for backing equipment from each side while still having a common work area through the middle of the shop. The first bay of the shop will be designated for truck repairs while the remaining bays will be used for trailer maintenance. Drivers will be allowed in the shop, however for safety reasons they will be asked to remain in designated areas. A separate lounge with showers is available for all drivers.

Creating a new yard and building has been a daunting, yet an exciting endeavor. Several needs, such as expanded driver accommodations, have been included. The addition of our new facility in Liberal, Kansas allows National Carriers to have a single location for our employees and drivers.



# Join us! facebook®

## NCI Driver Solutions now on Facebook



NCI Driver Solutions is a new private Facebook group exclusive for National Carrier's drivers and staff. This group was created to share with and help fellow NCI Drivers, specifically, going to and from the shipper and cosignee with regards to overnight parking, check in procedures, directions etc.

Having Trouble  
Finding Us?  
Follow the  
Directions below:



1. Log into your Facebook Account.
2. Type "NCI Driver Solutions" into the Search Bar at the top of your screen.
3. Under "Groups", click on NCI Driver Solutions
4. Join other "Elite" Fleet Drivers in our community



## **DRIVER OF THE MONTH**

Billy Gilbert

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National Carriers was pleased to announce that Billy Gilbert was named Driver of the Month for January. He and his wife, Tamra, live



in McFarland, KS. Joining National Carriers Hide division seven years ago, Gilbert quickly became a top producer. This award is given to drivers who are proficient in multiple areas laid out by our company.

“When I joined National Carriers, I chose to drive in the Hide division. Previously, I had been hauling farm chemicals and just scraping by financially. I was referred by a friend at National who was pulling hides. I was skeptical of going on a dedicated route, but I figured I would give it a couple months and see how I liked it. As time passed I began to know the people along my route and the folks I worked with. The scenery constantly changes and, frequently, I notice new landscapes for the first time. I found a dedicated route was not boring at all,” Gilbert shared.

He went on to say, “My dispatcher is Phil Eade. He is the best driver manager I have ever had. He is dedicated to his drivers and will bend over backwards to help. What I appreciate most about him is the fact that he has always been truthful with me.”

Billy served in the Kansas Army Reserve where he retired on September 11, 2020. Even though he is retired from the military, he has no plans to retire from trucking anytime soon.



# DRIVER OF THE MONTH

Andre Stanton



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Driver of the Month for February was company driver, Andre Stanton. Stanton was recognized for his outstanding customer service, safety performance and professional attitude. He is a resident of Byram, MS. He has driven trucks for over 33 years - the past four years with the “Elite” Fleet.

Stanton accepted this award with appreciation, but felt it was necessary to share praise for his dispatcher as well.

“My dispatcher at National Carriers, Debra Haley, is quick to address any problems I may have while out on the road. I left NCI for a short period of time and when I came back I requested to return to her board. She knows I like to run and she goes out of her way to help her drivers,” Stanton shared.

NCI spokesman Ed Kentner stated, “Andre and Debra have formed one of our top producing driver/dispatch teams at National Carriers. Together they were in the top 20 percent of our fleet as far as paid miles. With an excellent safety rating, combined with an outstanding pick-up and delivery record, these two professionals epitomize the “Elite” Fleet.”

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## DRIVER OF THE MONTH

Anthony Olvera



Anthony Olvera, an NCI truck lease operator from Houston, TX, was selected for the honor of Driver of the Month in March. Driving trucks for the past 29 years, Anthony has transported freight for National Carriers the last five years on our Southwest Regional Fleet. During this time, he has had an excellent safety and customer service record. Any observer will quickly note his professional appearance and demeanor.

“My father was a driver. When I was eleven- or twelve-years-old, I would ride with him. It was the ‘70s, diesel was 60 cents a gallon, the speed limit was 55 miles an hour, and I learned how to drive while with him. Dad emphasized backing, and as I grew older, he taught me how to back into any dock situation,” Olvera shared.

Driver manager Kenny Scott commented, “I have known Anthony since 2019. He is always a pleasure to work with, a good family man. His goal is to make sure his family is happy. It is what he works for. I have nothing but positive things to say about him. He is very professional and is always willing to help NCI when needed. He exhibits excellent character.”

# DRIVER OF THE MONTH

Charles Ware

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Charles Ware of Sylacauga, AL, was selected as Driver of the Month in April. He joined National Carriers in October of 2011, and now operates his company truck on our 48 State Fleet. He began his



trucking career driving locally in the cotton mills of his hometown of Sylacauga. Later, he decided to expand his experience into hauling refrigerated goods throughout the nation.

“During my nine years here, I have never been sick or taken a vacation day. My dispatcher is great and everyone treats me with respect. The best thing about National Carriers are the loads. The freight has good miles and adequate time to get to the delivery point,” Ware said.

Driver manager Kenny Scott stated, “Trust me when I say, Charles is always ready to help out. He is a team player and an all-around good person. The thing I admire about him the most is his longevity and old school attitude. If he is asked to do the work - you can put money on it - the job will be done. He always exhibits good character and pride in what he does.”

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## DRIVER OF THE MONTH

James Irvine

Company driver James Irvine was selected as May Driver of the

Month. Irvine has driven for National Carriers since April of 2015. Calling Tomball, TX, home, he works within the regional southwest lease. He is dispatched by Jeff Chance. During 2020, he traveled over 117,000 total miles on behalf of NCI.



Chance shared, "James approaches work at NCI deliberately and in a determined fashion. He is patient, but he knows no one is making any money when his truck is not moving.

James is a good communicator on any delays to the schedule. His Transportation Performance Inc. rating is the highest level possible at 4. This program is used to evaluate our drivers work."

"James has a 100 percent on-time service record, averages 8.03 miles per gallon and keeps his idle under eight percent. For these reasons, James was selected as Driver of the Month and is a solid candidate for Driver of the Year," Chance concluded.

Prior to beginning his transportation career, Irvine was involved in the heating and cooling business for 25 years. His first trucking job was with a mega-carrier, after which he vowed in the future he would only drive for a Texas based company. He recalled his NCI recruiter did not exaggerate or lie concerning what he could expect if he came to National Carriers.

# DRIVER OF THE MONTH

Averial "Will" Williams

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Averial (Will) Williams was named as June Driver of the Month for National Carriers. He joined NCI in October of 2007.



He operates his company truck on our 48-state fleet - and he will go anywhere, including New York City. Will lives in Wyoming, MI, with his wife Kathy. He has three grown children, all of whom are girls.

Driver manager Michael Ritchie related, "Will is the type of driver that I wish every driver could be, very dependable and reliable. If National Carriers has an issue, I start to look for a solution to service our customer. If I see Will's truck number in the area, he's going to be my go-to guy. He's the type of driver you can preplan and guarantee he's going to take the load with no questions asked. He's also a driver that you can dispatch and know our customer's load will be taken care."

"I enjoy every conversation I have with him. There's always excitement in his voice which is contagious and brings your spirit up if you're down and out. There's one story he has told me about how he came about being a man of God, which will stick with me forever. It is so moving that it gives me chills. If you want to hear more about that, you'll have to ask Will for the story."

"Whether it's traveling, just staying home or working on his vehicles, he enjoys his family during his time off. Every time I see Will in the office or on the yard, he'll greet you with a great smile and a firm hand shake or, since the Corona virus, a fist bump."

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## DRIVER OF THE MONTH

Gene Solis

Company Driver, Gene Solis, was named Driver of the Month for July. Gene makes his home in Corpus Christie, TX. He is married to Brenda and together they have two adult children, Shelby and Andrew. He began driving at National Carriers in June of 2018.



“If I could clone truck drivers, Gene Solis would be the guy I’d choose,” said his driver manager, Aaron Donbar. “He’s an ‘if there’s a will, there’s a way’ kind of guy, who always arrives on time (or before) and keeps rolling if he’s got time on the clock. Whenever he can deliver early, he’ll call ahead and ask for his next move. And besides all that, he’s got a cool head and positive attitude.”

“What I do at NCI is what I’ve done for a long time,” said Solis. “I deliver my loads safely, and as quickly as I can, to see what load is next. When I first saw the “Elite” fleet logo on NCI trailers I was intrigued. The equipment looked comfortable and well maintained. I am happy to say there were no surprises when I got here. Aaron is a damn good driver manager. I would not have been recognized for this award if not for him. We have good communication, and I was honored to win Driver of the Month.”

# DRIVER OF THE MONTH

Sam Moore



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Sam Moore was selected as August Driver of the Month. Moore joined NCI as a company driver in June of 2016. He and his family reside in Chula Vista, CA. He is joined on the road by his faithful Dachshund Finn. Together they travel throughout the lower 48 states, delivering freight for National Carriers customers.

Driver manager Aaron Donbar said, “Sam is best described as “dedicated.” A former Navy seaman who brings his military discipline to the job, He often - literally - goes the extra mile and is always willing to cover another load. With his armed forces background, Moore represents NCI as a proud supporter of Wreaths Across America, which honors United States service veterans. He’s also a devoted family man providing for his own. Sam’s a great guy to work with. He stays positive even when things go wrong, and I’m grateful to have him on my board.”

Moore responded, “I will tell you right now, I would not want another driver manager. Aaron and I think alike and are always on the same page. I enjoy delivering the wreaths each year, being able to take my dog with me, and getting home time with my family. NCI has been a great fit for me.”

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## DRIVER OF THE MONTH

Randy Holbrook



National Carriers selected NCI truck lease operator Randy Holbrook as September Driver of the Month. Hailing from Flat Gap, KY, he began driving for NCI in January of 2018. His wife, Berneda, takes care of things at home as he operates his truck throughout the southwest region of the United States. Randy has been a professional driver for most of his adult life. He is joined on his truck by his dog, Rose.

Director of Safety Jill Maschmeier explained, "In my books, he is off the radar- and that's a great thing. He is one of those AWESOME drivers, who minds his own business and takes care of things. He is one of our drivers that we can say belongs here within the "Elite" fleet."

"Randy operates extended periods of time when he's on the road. He will run anywhere, helps anyone in need and is very good at communicating. That is very normal for him. He's always happy. You can barely catch him in a bad mood, and if you do, he'll be happy by the time you get off the call. Randy is just an all-around, good ole boy," declared his driver manager Aaron Donbar.



# DRIVER OF THE MONTH

Astolfo "Ace" Ordonez



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Astolfo "Ace" Ordonez was named Driver of the Month for October by National Carriers, Inc. Competing with 700 seasoned driving veterans, Ordonez was selected for his outstanding safety, delivery and service record for the past 12 months.

Ordonez and his wife, Elvira, live north of Garden City, KS. He has been an owner-operator with National Carriers, Inc., since September of 2015. Prior to trucking, he was involved in the oil industry. The Ordonez's are very family oriented. Ace and Elvira have four children and two grandchildren.

NCI Livestock Director Jason Greer commented, "Ace is simply the best of the best. He has no log violations, no safety issues, no fuel violations, is on time and has had no cattle downers. In the livestock world, what he has accomplished is next to impossible!"

"Living in Garden City, KS, allows me to pull cattle to both the Dodge City and Liberal plants. This is a good location for me to live and work at National Carriers. To keep my expenses down, I do my own repairs on my truck. The only time I use a shop is if it is something major," Ordonez shared.

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## DRIVER OF THE MONTH

Walter Lee

Professional driver Walter Lee of El Cajon, CA, was announced as November Driver of the Month for National Carriers, Inc. Lee has driven at the "Elite" Fleet since October 2014, and focuses on freight in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.



"I chose NCI for a couple reasons, primarily that we have maintenance on the equipment that is second to none in the industry. In a close second, I saw less National trucks sitting around truck stops waiting for loads than most other companies. NCI has longevity and financial security and knows drivers by name most of the time. Drivers are not treated like a truck number, but as individuals."

"When I hired on, I was looking for a company that could get me a paycheck I'm not embarrassed of, get home regularly and never lose sight of the fact we have a life outside the truck. I want to live life, not just get by and survive."

"Why do I stay? Because I learned very early on being employed here, NCI actually follows the do unto others as you want them to do to you motto, yet it's not written anywhere that I've seen. After 26 years and better than 2.5 million miles of trucking, NCI treats me like I expect to be treated," stated Lee.

# DRIVER OF THE MONTH

David Baugher

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David Baugher was chosen as December Driver of the Month. A native of Florida, he now makes his home in Alabama. Having begun his professional driving career with National Carriers a year earlier, he was a surprise winner.



“Since David graduated our training program, he has shown a level of excellence that some of the most experience drivers are still looking for. He qualified for the Presidential Bonus for the first two quarters he was eligible. It is not too often that we have a driver perfect in every category we track for Driver of the Month. David is in the top five percent of his pier group when it comes to utilization. He has taken the tools NCI provided him and uses them to the best of his abilities. We are proud to have David on our team and we look forward to watching him grow with NCI,” summarized James White, Director of Driver Services.

Baugher commented on why he chose National Carriers, “They run the lanes I wanted to operate in, they were transparent when talking to recruiting and I found no negative information about them on the internet. While on the phone with recruiting, Dena and Justin were clear on what NCI had to offer. They were clear in what they were offering, allowing me to be confident in my decision.”

“Once I completed orientation, Jeff Turner was my trainer. We have a good relationship and he continued to answer my questions after I went solo. My dispatcher, Logan Tenopir helped me so much with understanding paperwork, macros and how to communicate with him. Not every situation came up during training, so it was nice to have people to call for help. Professionally, we each have responsibilities. Together we have blended well and have good professional working relationships.”

## February Specials



**\$10**



**\$13**



**\$22**

**SALE**

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