



SCHEDULE FOR ATTENDEES

MTA's 94th Annual Conference – Shifting Gears to Opportunity

Cragun's Resort on Gull Lake

11000 Craguns Dr, Brainerd, MN 56401

Aug 4-6, 2026

TUESDAY, AUG 4, 2026

- 6:00 AM – 8:00 PM **Conference Registration Open** (Main Resort Lobby) – Lauren Grady
Pickup Your Badge for Conference Access
Sign Up for WTLC Pontoon Ride
Sign Up for Shuttle Ride to Golf Course
Registered Kids Pick Up Kids Goody Bag
- 6:00 AM **Sponsor EXPO Booth Set-up Starts** (Tamarack Event Centre)
- 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM **Golf Hole Booth Sponsor Set-up** (Check-In Legacy Courses Outside by Carts)
- 8:00 AM **Tractors & Trailers begin to arrive for Truck Expo** (parking lot adjacent to
Tamarack Event Centre) - Peter Provost managing arrivals
- 8:30 AM **Golf Registration Opens** – Cash Bar
- 9:00 AM **Boxed Lunches Served for Golfers & Sponsors**
- 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM **Shot-Gun Start** - Golf at Tom Lehman Course
***Golf Winners announced at the Welcome BBQ** (must have conference
ticket to attend - Tuesday Only Ticket available)
- 12:00 – 2:00 PM **Nisswa Shopping Event for Non-Golfers & Spouses**
Meet at Noon Stonehouse Coffee & Roastery (25346 Main St, Nisswa, MN
56468) for complimentary beverage before you start shopping
- 1:00 - 4:00 PM **Hospitality Lounge Open** – (Lakeside Dining Room) – Complimentary
Beverages
- 2:00 – 4:00 PM **PONTOON Event Women's Trucking Leadership Council** (Marina) - open to
all registered MTA members and spouses – No kids on the boat
Sign up on Tuesday at Conference Registration (24 spots available)
- 4:00 – 5:00 PM **Leadership Networking Reception: MTA Board of Directors, MTA Foundation
Board, Safety Council, Women's Trucking Leadership Council, Committees** –
Complimentary Beverages
- 5:00 – 5:30 PM **First Time Attendee Gathering** (Lakeside Dining Room) – Complimentary
Beverages *If this is your first time attending the conference, be sure to
attend this gathering.
- 5:30 – 7:00 PM **Welcome BBQ – CASH BAR** (North Beach)
Golf Winner Announcements

ATTENDEES MOVE TO TAMARACK EVENT CENTRE (Shuttle or Walk)

- 7:00 – 9:30 PM **Welcome Party & EXPO** - (Tamarack Event Centre & Adjacent Parking Lot)
Complimentary Beer & Wine
Sponsor Expo, Truck Expo, Door Prizes, PAC Silent Auction Begins, Dessert Special Music Performance
- 9:30 – 10:00 PM **Sponsors NOT exhibiting on Wednesday** (remove contents from booth)
- 9 PM – 11:00 PM **Hospitality Lounge Open** – (Lakeside Dining Room) - Complimentary Beverages/Food

WEDNESDAY, Aug 5, 2026

- 6:00 – 7:00 PM **Conference Registration OPEN**
- 7:00 – 8:00 AM **MTA Board Meeting & Breakfast** (Pine Ballroom 1)
- 7:00 – 8:15 AM **NEXTLEADER Council & Breakfast** (Pine Ballroom 3)
- 7:00 – 8:15 AM **Attendee Breakfast** – (Lakeside Dining Room)

ATTENDEES MOVE TO SPORTS CENTRE

- 8:00 AM **Exhibits Open** (Tamarack Event Centre)
- 8:30 – 8:45 AM **Morning Education Sessions Begin** (Tamarack Event Centre)
NEXTLEADER SPEAKERS
- 8:45 – 9:40 AM **Opening Session: Vantage Point - A New Perspective on Leadership & Retention** (Tamarack Event Centre)
Jack Stahlman
With the speed of change in this world, our roles can shift without warning. And for those of us in new positions the road ahead may look daunting. But if you're in the right role and you're able to surround yourself with the right team, it just might be the adventure of a lifetime.

In this presentation Jack Stahlmann creatively weaves in life lessons, challenging you to think outside of yourself and see the world through the eyes of others. By taking that perspective shift, you will gain a new appreciation for decision making at any level within an organization. Along this journey, we'll examine a new approach to workplace retention away from "holding on" and instead thinking of "developing forward."
- 9:40 – 9:50 AM NEXTLEADER SPEAKERS
Official Tax & Accounting Sponsor (Tamarack Event Centre) – CliftonLarsonAllen
- 9:50 – 10:05 AM Break (**Exhibits Open** – Coffee will be served in Exhibit Area)
- 10:05 – 10:15 AM **Legislative Update** – Jeremy Estenson, North Star Government Relations
- 10:15 – 11:00 AM **Session 2: Managing Risk in a Volatile Environment** (Tamarack Event Centre)

MINNESOTA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

6160 Summit Dr. N #330, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430
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Noel Perry, Chief Economist, Truckstop.com

In today's unpredictable freight market, staying ahead of risk isn't optional; it's a competitive advantage. This session delivers a clear-eyed macroeconomic outlook focused on emerging risks, explores how evolving supply chains and AI-driven disruption are reshaping operations, and unpacks the latest regulatory developments. You'll also gain expert forecasts on capacity utilization and pricing to sharpen your strategy. If you're making high-stakes decisions in a rapidly changing market, this session will equip you to act with confidence.

11:00 – 11:10 AM

NEXTLEADER Speakers (Tamarack Event Centre)

Official Truck Stop Sponsor – Kwik Trip

Gold Sponsor Spotlight – Platform Science

11:10 – 11:25 AM

Break (**Exhibits Open** – Coffee will be served in Exhibit Area)

11:25– 12:10 PM

Session 3 Keynote – (Tamarack Event Centre)

Beyond Resilience: Turning Supply Chain Uncertainty into Opportunity

Ari Silkey, COO, TEN Logistics

In this keynote, Ari Silkey, Chief Operating Officer of TEN, draws on more than two decades of experience in technology and transportation to share what it takes to build and operate high-performing transportation networks and fleets-powered by operational excellence and enabled by technology. He will highlight how leading organizations are leveraging data and discipline to drive efficiency, resilience, and customer value. He will share his perspective on today's freight landscape— the pressures suppliers, vendors, and carriers are navigating — and offer practical insights on how to optimize fleet performance. He will also cover the critical importance of equipment up-time and the impact of well-optimized maintenance and repair operations in a world where customer expectations for delivery predictability have never been higher.

12:30 – 1:30 PM

Safety Awards Luncheon – (Tamarack Event Center)

Emcee – Jeff Reeves (Safety Council Chair)

Keynote Speaker: Derek Barrs, FMCSA Administrator

NEXTLEADER SPEAKERS

1:30 – 2:30 PM

Sponsors Remove Contents from Expo Booths [EXPO CLOSED]

1:30 – 1:45 PM

Break

ATTENDEES MOVE TO MAIN BUILDING – LOWER FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOMS (DOWN STAIRS LOCATED IN MAIN LOBBY)

1:45 – 2:35 PM

Session 4: Defending Your Identity: The New Front Line in Freight Theft
(Pine Ballroom)

Panel: Mike McDonough – McDonough Truckline, Dale Prax – Freight Validate, Nate Johnson - GLCS

Facilitator: Todd Waldron, RePowr

Freight theft today isn't just about stolen loads; it's about stolen identities. Criminal networks are impersonating carriers, brokers, and drivers to gain access to freight and exploit gaps in verification. This executive panel explores how identity-based theft is reshaping the risk landscape, the warning signs carriers should be watching for, and practical steps to protect your company, your drivers, and your reputation.

2:35 – 2:45 PM

Break (Coffee Served in breakout rooms)

2:45 – 3:35 PM

Session 5 – Peer to Peer Best Practice Discussions (Pine Ballroom)

Pick 3 Topics. Three 15-minute facilitated discussion sessions.

Session Facilitated by: Jana Schindele, CEO, Spee-Dee Delivery

- 1) Human Resources – Paid Leave, Work Comp
- 2) Recruitment & Retention
- 3) Cargo Theft & Fraud
- 4) Lease v. Buy Equipment /Equipment Acquisition /Lease Buyout Agreements/Bonus Appreciation/ Financing Options
- 5) AI & Labor Outsourcing
- 6) Communicating with Customers
- 7) Re-engaging Your Team
- 8) Maintenance
- 9) Contracts
- 10) FMCSA – Matt Marrin
- 11) Commercial Enforcement – Cpt. Robert Zak
- 12) MnDOT – Laura Roads

3:35 – 3:45 PM

Break (Coffee served in breakout rooms)

3:45 – 4:30 PM

Session 6 – Option A: (Pine Ballroom)

The Leadership Power Behind Safety Outcomes

Panel of Safety Directors

This session explores how embracing full responsibility across people, processes, and outcomes creates the authority to drive meaningful change. Attendees will learn how to translate accountability into influence; empowering them to challenge unsafe practices, align cross-functional teams around shared priorities, and elevate safety from compliance to culture. Participants will walk away with practical approaches to strengthen decision-making under pressure, leverage data to shape leadership conversations, and foster an environment, where doing the right thing consistently leads to better operational and human outcomes.

Session 6 – Option B: (Truck Expo)

Return on Investment (ROI) Best Practices in Maintenance

Panel of Maintenance Experts: Tires, Brakes, Oil

Q&A from Audience

3:45 – 5:00 PM

Session 6 – Option C: WORKSHOP (Cedar Ballroom)

Ease Over Force: The Internal Edge That Changes What's Possible for Your Business

The trucking market is relentless, freight rates, fuel costs, driver retention, regulatory pressure. If you're waiting for external conditions to change before your business gets easier, you could be waiting a long time. Meanwhile, the stress compounds and the next level feels further away. But here's what the most resilient business owners in any industry have discovered: the market is not the primary variable. You are. Not your capital, not your fleet, not your rates...the internal operating system you're running determines how you lead under pressure, how you make decisions in uncertainty, and how much your business is actually capable of producing even in the most difficult conditions. In this breakout session, Jerrid Sebesta, best-selling author, and creator of The RE:CEIVE Formula™, takes business owners beyond motivation and surface-level strategy into the internal work that actually produces lasting change. This is a hands-on, direct session for people who are done waiting for the market to fix their stress and are ready to change the one variable they actually can control.

4:45 – 5:45 PM

TruckPAC Event: Meet the Candidate (Lakeside Dining Room)
Complimentary beverages

4:30 – 6:00 PM

Conference Attendee Free Time

ATTENDEES GATHER IN TAMARACK EVENT CENTRE PARKING LOT

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Truck EXPO Cocktail Reception (parking lot adjacent to Tamarack Event Centre) [Complimentary Beverages]

7:00 PM

Registration Closes

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Evening Banquet (Tamarack Event Centre)

Volunteer & Industry Awards, Pass the Gavel, NEXTLEADERS, PAC Silent Auction

9:00 – 9:30 PM

PAC Auction Pickup, Formal Pictures of NEXTLEADERS & Award winners after Banquet

9:00 – 11:00 PM

Banquet After Party (Outside Sun Deck) – Complimentary Beverages/Food

THURSDAY, AUG 6, 2026

ATTENDEES GATHER IN TAMARACK EVENT CENTRE

8:00 AM

Breakfast Buffet (Tamarack Events Centre)

8:15 – 9:00 AM

All Member Business Meeting (Tamarack Events Centre)

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9:00 – 10:00 AM

Learn what MTA is working on, share your voice on issues impacting your business, and learn how you can impact the industry and your business.

Closing Session: Impact Leadership – Influence Through Purpose, Persistence, and Passion (Tamarack Events Centre)

Speaker: Joe Schmit

In this high energy, high-impact presentation loaded with humor, Joe Schmit inspires and helps you discover how to ramp up the profound power of your influence. When you become more aware and intentional with the impact you have as a leader, it will improve your bottom line and your R.O.I.– Return on Impact. Through research, Joe has discovered that, “we make our biggest impressions when we are not trying to be impressive.” Impact Leadership is a blueprint to help you improve company culture, help you develop a high-performance team and make you a leader of significance. The impact can also be seen on the bottom line.

If there were a going away party today, who would the most people show up for? That person is having a "Silent Impact" on everyone around them, but what is their secret? Who would you place on your personal Mt. Rushmore of Influence and why would they be there? Explore what “Impact Resolutions” can you make to become a leader of leader of purpose, persistence and passion?

10:00 AM

Adjourn