



At the steering committee meeting, ATA President Tom Donohue addressed the HOS issue and other matters of importance to the agricultural transporters. He reported on the numerous obstacles confronting the industry in seeking modifications to the HOS rules. He reported ATA was working on the issue and attempting to identify a legislative solution that would remove the Congress, federal regulators and the industry.

An organizational meeting for the proposed conference was held Sept. 27, 1995, in Dallas, Texas. The 12 founding member companies attending were: Inland Fruit Company, Kings County Truck Lines, Lester Coggins Trucking Company, Ed Rocha Livestock Transportation, Inc., Rodriguez Trucking Transportation, Inc., Cherokee Freight Lines, Sward Trucking, Inc., J.C. Trucking, Inc., Teresi Trucking, Inc., Wallace Transport, Walpole, Inc. and VY Truck Line.

At that meeting, Bud Wallace, Wallace Transport in Planada, Calif., was elected the first chairman of the Agricultural Transporters Conference, and Tom Donohue addressed the group on efforts in Congress regarding the hours of service agricultural exemptions and other issues.

In November 1995, ATA, working with ATC members, secured enactment of the agricultural exemption to the federal HOS regulations, in Section 345 of the National Highway Designation Act of 1995. Enactment of this key piece of federal legislation was essential to the agricultural transportation industry and one of the basic reasons for the formation of the ATC.

In October 1995, the ATA Executive Committee approved the Bylaws of the Agricultural Transporters Conference to operate within ATA. The Conference held its first Board of Directors Meeting in Chicago on Oct. 29, 1995. ATA President Thomas Donohue, in keeping with the ATC Bylaws, designated Paul Stalknecht, ATA senior vice president, as the ATA staff contact for the Conference, while the Conference sought to hire an executive director. The Conference adopted a dues structure for the or were required to be ATA members.

On Jan. 6, 1996, Kent Van Amberg was hired as executive director of the ATC. He was part of iated conferences.

Bud Wallace. Mr. Whittington became active in AFTC in 1995, when American Trucking Associations Senior Vice President Paul Stalknecht recommended he join the Conference to enhance his membership benefits in the American Trucking Associations. Also, in 1998, Fletcher Hall, was selected as Executive Director to replace Kent Van Amberg, who had resigned.

In March 1999, a meeting of ATA officials and ATC officials was held in San Francisco to discuss the decision of the ATC to endorse the Wren Report Plan on the reorganization of ATA and to adopt the new ATA dues schedule. ATC agreed to immediately adopt the new ATA dues schedule for all ATC membership classifications, thus becoming the first and only Conference to adopt the Wren Report Plan. The separate dues schedule, previously required for ATC members, was eliminated.

As a part of the 1999 ATA reorganization, and after a substantial reduction in the staff of the Operations Department.

In 2000, the Conference was instrumental in making sure the agricultural exemption to federal HOS regulations was retained, unchanged, in the new HOS rules. ATC was able to secure the support of the Secretary of Agriculture in this effort.



AFTC worked hard in 2009 to defend flexible work hours during agricultural seasons.

AFTC spent a lot of effort educating farm organizations about the importance of the Ag HOS exemption leading up to the transportation reauthorization bill debate so that they can help us defend it. That effort really paid off in the form of a letter of support sent to Congress, cosigned by a total of 50 agricultural organizations. That letter showed substantial support and a strong signal to any member of Congress considering an amendment to abolish the exemption that they would face a very tough fight.

In April AFTC rolled out an effort to educate the agricultural industry about the importance of safe trucking operations during busy seasons.

Trucking During Agricultural Planting and Harvest Season.

agricultural industry maintain safe operations under challenging operating conditions. AFTC made a substantial effort to spread the message about our safety promotion effort in the agricultural industry by working with a coalition of over 30 different agricultural organizations to promote it in their communications vehicles, such as newsletters to their membership.

Following the release of a study by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) alleging safety issues in agricultural trucking operations ATA hired an independent consultant to write a

The officers serving AFTC for 2010 are: Rick Yost, Chairman, John Whittington, First Vice Chairman, Tom Lee, Second Vice Chairman, and Mike Miller, Secretary.

In 2011, AFTC experienced a number of changes at both the staff and leadership levels. Russell Laird stepped down as Executive Director early in the year, and Jon Samson was then selected as the new Executive Director in October. In the same month, Rick Yost stepped down as the AFTC Chairman, and John Whittington of Grammer Industries took over at the

practices, but fell short in the initial proposal by requirements unnecessary burdensome regulations on training and recordkeeping. However, due the communication of the working group with FDA and the comments submitted, the final rule (published April 6, 2016) made drastic changes that provided the needed flexibility to the industry. The majority of the rule places the