

# Meet the *Women* In Trucking Driver Advisory Committee



## *Ingrid Brown*

Ingrid Brown began her career as a professional driver in 1979 when she started working for her father's road construction company. For her 18th birthday her dad gave her a shiny new orange Diamond Rio, which still sits beside the shop. She began by moving equipment, such as asphalt tankers, and later became an over the road driver, eventually running under her own authority. Today she drives for Forward Air. Ingrid says she fell in love with heavy equipment and truck driving because of her father's and brother's passion for the industry. Plus, her grandfather hauled a gas tanker for 48 years! She loves meeting new people and seeing new places. Her goal is to help others and to experience all that life has to offer.



## *Angel Grider*

Angel Grider has been a professional truck driver since 1999 and is currently driving for Con-way Freight pulling doubles and triples. Trucking is in her family; her grandfather, uncle, and two cousins are truck drivers.

Angel only planned to drive for a year, but fell in love with this profession and says, "I can't believe I get paid to do this!" Angel feels truck driving is an honorable profession and an integral part of our country—keeping Americans supplied with the products they need. One change she would like to see is truck driving classified as a professional occupation.



## *Sandy Long*

Sandy Long is an experienced truck driver who is very active in the trucking industry. She was a long time writer for [www.layover.com](http://www.layover.com) and currently writes for six trucking websites and the Canadian Trucking Magazine. She is a life member of OOIDA. Sandy is the owner of two websites: Trailer Truckin' Tech, a yahoo group dedicated to the education of new and prospective truck drivers and [www.satinandsteel-sisterhood.com](http://www.satinandsteel-sisterhood.com), a site for women in non-traditional jobs. Her first book, *Street Smarts: A Guide for a Truck Driver's Personal Safety*, was published in May 2010. Sandy lives in Missouri and currently works for a regional company out of Kansas City, MO. She travels with her dog Lillian Russell.



## *Susan Durstine*

Susan Durstine is a professional driver employed by Southern Cal Transport, Birmingham, AL, and one-half of a very successful team. She has driven cross-country with her husband and best friend, Rick,

for three years and prior to that they were owner-operators in the household goods industry. She has been licensed for six years and still refers to herself as a rookie, as she learns new things every day, not only from other drivers but people in general. Susan tries to promote a positive, professional attitude not only within herself but also with her fellow drivers. When not driving/working, she enjoys NASCAR, reading and spending time with friends and family.



## *Linda Caffee*

Linda Caffee has been driving with her husband Bob for six years as an owner-operator leased to FedEx Custom Critical. Before becoming a team driver, Linda rode with Bob for four years while he was a driver for US Xpress. She enjoys trucking and staying informed of events. Her passion

is helping new people get into the industry and helping them become a success. Bob and Linda are often the featured speakers at expedite workshops and also at the Expedite Expo. She is a moderator on [ExpediteOnline.com](http://ExpediteOnline.com). She is the chairman of The Trucking Solutions Health Council and a member of The Trucking Solutions Group. Linda also writes a blog for [Expedite Online](http://ExpediteOnline.com) and maintains The Trucking Solutions Group Facebook page. She wanted to become involved with Women In Trucking to bring awareness to other women about this phenomenal group. She believes women bring a different aspect to the industry. Women are a small sector in the industry; through WIT, they can help each other reach their goals.



## Sherri Suzanne Fronko

Sherri Suzanne Fronko started riding along in the truck with her husband Steve in 1987. She left the truck for a few months in 1988 to have a baby.

Infant Heather and Sherri joined Steve in the truck on and off for the next two years. In 1990 Sherri wanted to get her pilots license. Steve asked her, why don't you get your CDL? Right then the "light bulb" came on and from that day on, she was on a mission to get her CDL. She received her permit and drove all the time for Steve. In February, 1991, she got her CDL and has used it ever since. Sherri drove for several years for US Xpress and then as an owner-operator leased to Duplainville Transport. Sherri now works for Wilcox Trucking in Coldwater, MI as a dispatcher. During the summer, she drives truck hauling tomatoes and potatoes in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. Her children, Zachary (age 12) and Shelby (age 10) ride along with her during the summer. They both want to drive trucks when they grow up. Heather is now 22 years old and is also a truck driver and hauls tomatoes.



## Cynthia Kidder

Veteran driver Cynthia Kidder has driven a big rig for 20-plus years. A local, dedicated driver for J.B. Hunt, her previous driving jobs included over the road and regional work. Cynthia achieved

one million safe miles with J.B. Hunt in 2009. Her favorite part of driving is interacting with her customers. Before her driving career, Cynthia was a jewelry salesperson where she learned how to listen and respond to customers in a professional environment. She uses those same people skills in her driving job today, working hard to meet customers' needs and make on-time deliveries. Her biggest concerns in the trucking industry are upholding the current hours of service rules and increasing safety at truck stops. She is taking action now to improve truck stops and has asked her trucker friends to text her the locations of those that are poorly maintained. Mother to an 11-year-old boy, Cynthia has two full-time jobs, one behind the wheel and one at home. She looks forward to coming home to her son every day. The two like to pass the time watching football, playing on the computer and going out for Mexican food during family night once a week.



## Susan Wirth-White

Driving trucks coast-to-coast was a big change in lifestyle for Susan Wirth-White who now drives trucks for Walmart Transportation in Sanger, TX. Susan was

raised on a mountain top in Aspen, CO and donned snow skis each day to get to school! (In fact, her unique story became a "Wonderful World of Disney" movie starring nine year old Susan!) But from the moment she got an "up-close" look at a tractor-trailer, her free spirit couldn't resist the chance to be a professional truck driver. Thirty-one years later, Susan says she's seen the role of women in logistics and transportation change tremendously. Although there are now more women behind the wheel as professional over-the-road drivers, she says it remains a community that takes pride in doing a difficult job. Susan joined Walmart Transportation 19 years ago and calls it "the most empowering job I could have envisioned."



## Jill Garcia

Jill Garcia, San Antonio, TX began her career with Schneider National in 1996. She epitomizes the very definition of Schneider's culture and core values and is a true professional truck driver. Jill shares her experience and skills helping on-

board new female drivers at Schneider in her role as a training engineer. In 2005, Jill achieved one million consecutive miles without an accident and she has been accident-free for the past 11 years. Jill is a van truckload driver based out of Schneider's Dallas Operating Center.



## Veronica Godoy

Veronica Godoy started her career as a professional driver sales representative with Con-way Freight in May 2007. She joined the company as a full-time driver following graduation at the top of her

class from Con-way's Driver Training School, a national program offered through 62 local Con-way service centers. Veronica currently works out of the company's Long Beach, CA service center as a driver sales representative in the P&D operation. She has received awards for one and two-year safe working performance. Considered a leader among the Long Beach workforce, she helps coach and mentor new employees, and also serves as a coach for fellow drivers practicing for and participating in state truck driving competitions. A single mother with two teenage boys, Veronica spends time participating in various volunteer activities and is involved in her children's school and community affairs. She is the second generation of her family to enter professional truck driving as a career, following in the footsteps of her father. She enjoys being able to inspire other women to pursue and enjoy a career in the trucking industry. 🚛