

The activism and advocacy work of the REAL Women in Trucking (RWIT) organization on behalf of commercial drivers has been constant since the driver led movement was formed in as an informal protest group in 2010. By 2013, when RWIT received their IRS Determination letter for 501 (c)(6) trade association status, they had already been leading the way to raise the alarm on major safety issues related to truck driver training in regards to commercial driver’s license programs, gender-based violence and harassment in entry-level driver fleets and had become an active outspoken partner in the Jason’s Law Safe Truck Parking movement that effected a bill to become a law and the subsequent



Federal Highway Administration Trucking Parking Coalition Working Groups at which, RWIT was the only driver association to have an experienced truck driver at each and every meeting. Today, several RWIT Board members are appointed members and volunteers at various State Freight Advisory Committees that study truck parking in order to develop capacity solutions for drivers.

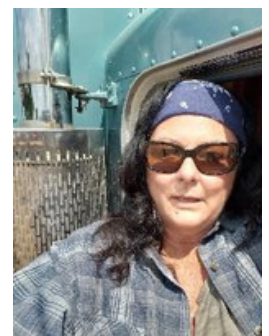
RWIT President Desiree Wood, who is an experienced truck driver with over 1 million safe miles and 15 years in the industry was appointed in 2022 to the prestigious Transportation Research Board National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine – Freight Planning and Logistics Committee and has been asked to speak two years in a row on the TRB Women and Gender in Transportation panel in



addition to offering insight and feedback from the driver’s perspective for researchers who work to improve freight mobility and reduce truck parking challenges.



In 2020, Desiree became an expert witness for cases that affect women who work as truck drivers involving sexual assault, pregnancy discrimination and a consultant for television and motion picture productions. Her 1st expert witness case resulted in a landmark \$5 million settlement for the Plaintiff in Jane Doe v CRST in 2021 and her 1st Movie gig called “Paradise Highway” starring Academy Award Winning Actors Juliette Binoche and Morgan



Freeman was released in the Summer 2022. Desiree worked with the screen writer/director of the film since 2013 and did a ride a along with both her and lead actress Juliette before teaching her to drive a commercial motor vehicle for the movie. During the filming, Desiree sometimes acted as a driving stunt double for Juliette in difficult driving scenes, consulted on various aspects of the trucker



lifestyle for character development and also play the part of “Patty” in the film. Another RWIT member and owner of 3 Girls Trucking Academy in Magee, Mississippi Dianne Smith also appears in the movie as the character “Dotty”.



Summary of Initiatives and Achievements

RWIT launched a 2nd organization in early 2020 just as the Pandemic began, Truckers Emergency Assistance Responders, Inc a 501 (C)(3) charity was created to help truck drivers affected by carrier abandonment who have no resources to get home with their belongings and pets. For six months, RWIT Board members distributed PPE in care packages to truck drivers nationwide and since then has helped at least 100 commercial drivers with short-term assistance to get food, motels, gas money, and transportation home with their pets and belongings



The Queen of the Road and Trucking Industry Trailblazer awards were launched in 2017 as the 1st dignified recognition for women who work as truck drivers, over 78 notable individuals have been nominated and 2023 will be its 6th year, the event will be held during the Mid-America truck Show in Louisville, Kentucky.

As, RWIT has grown to become the most credible and outspoken advocacy organization tackling gender issues in trucking, we have been interviewed, quoted and included in research documents produced by Yale University, The TimesUp Foundation, and the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

In April 2022, RWIT President Desiree Wood was invited to the White House for the Biden-Harris Trucking Action Plan event. This was followed by the 1st ever Day of Action to Address Sexual Violence in the Trucking Industry hosted by the Department of Labor Women's Bureau. This event kicked off a series of invitations to RWIT members to attend events and to speak on this subject matter both in Washington DC and virtually for the Cornell University ILR Worker Institute – Equity in Focus Summit and the International Labour Organization - Uniting to End Gender-Based Violence and Harassment in the Workplace Summit.



At least six RWIT representatives are currently appointed members of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Subcommittee (MCSAC) and the Women of Trucking Advisory Board (WOTAB).





Summary of Initiatives and Achievements



Finally, in December 2022, RWIT announced it was filing a gender and age hiring discrimination complaint against Meta, the parent company of Facebook for algorithm bias. This news has been covered by almost every major media outlet including NPR, Washington Post, USA Today, Bloomberg, The New York Post, and this has raised the exposure of all the other work we are doing

at RWIT related to driver wage theft, misclassification of workers, lease-purchase schemes, truck parking, and gender-based violence and harassment. Our ultimate goal is to improve this industry for all commercial drivers regardless of gender.

Looking forward to 2024, we are looking forward to the release of a feature length documentary about our organization that has been in the works since 2017. The film called "Driver" has already received recognition through awards to complete its production.

