



**William “Lewie” Pugh
Executive Vice-President
Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association**

Lewie Pugh began his career in trucking as a motor transport operator for the U.S. Army Reserve in 1992. He joined the commercial trucking ranks as a company driver in 1994, but soon bought a truck and made the leap to owner-operator in 1996.

He was leased to several motor carriers throughout his career, but was most recently leased to Landstar Ranger. In his 13 years with Landstar, he pulled a flatbed trailer, hauling various goods under his company name, Bum Steer Trucking. During this time, Lewie received Landstar’s *Star of Quality Award* as well as the *Million Miles Safe Drivers Award*. In his more than 25 years as a successful owner-operator, he accumulated more than 2.5 million safe, accident-free miles behind the wheel.

Lewie joined OOIDA in 1996 because he was looking for an organization to represent his interests in Washington, DC. He was later nominated and elected as an alternate to the OOIDA Board of Directors in 2004. In 2006, Lewie was seated as a director - a position he holds to this day. In 2017, he (reluctantly) parked his truck and moved from his home state of Ohio to Grain Valley, MO, to work fulltime at OOIDA. He was elected Executive Vice-President in 2018.

Lewie regularly travels to Washington, DC to meet with lawmakers about issues affecting small-business truckers. He attends numerous Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) meetings as an industry representative. In 2020, he testified before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation. In 2023, he testified before the House Subcommittee on Highways & Transit. He also serves as the Chairman of the OOIDA Mary Johnston Scholarship Committee.

He resides in Holden, MO, and enjoys maintaining his farm, riding motorcycles, working on antique tractors and trucks, tractor pulling, hunting and fishing. His border collie and trucking companion Bandit used to ride with him in the truck while on the road, but is now a farm dog. Bandit’s name is of course inspired by the famous trucking film *Smokey and the Bandit*, Lewie’s favorite movie.

