THE VOICE AND VISION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION



JUNE 2005
Editor: Bill Carr (Virginia Beach)

A Message from our President, Velera Gammons...



It has been a privilege serving you as president this year. My life, as many of you know, has been turned upside-down with the recent death of my husband, my mother's on going illness and now my bout with cancer. I deeply appreciate your prayers and the kindness many of you have shown me during these trying times. My faith has also sustained me through it all. What would I have done without my friends who quickly stepped in to help with my family, my job, and the responsibilities that comes with the position of VAPT President? I especially want to thank June Eanes for taking the reins of president in my absence and Barbara Goodman and the VAPT Board for lending June their assistance. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for everything! Unconditional Love is so wonderful and I have been blessed to have experienced it.

VAPT is constantly moving ahead, keeping abreast of all current news involving pupil transportation, especially regarding school buses operating in this state. Communications is a key to success and our input can be vitally important. Please do not hesitate to let your regional director for your school division know your thoughts on various matters so they can represent their people. Be vocal, be patient, and be kind.

I intend to return when my health permits and I will serve VAPT in whatever capacity needed because I strongly believe in the purpose of VAPT.

VAPT websile: www.hen.k12.va.us./VD08/Finance/VAPT



May 17, 2005

The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (VAPT) respectfully offers the following resolution in support of a postage stamp honoring school bus drivers.

WHEREAS: Pupil transportation departments throughout the entire United States are dedicated to providing the safest and most dependable transportation for our students; and

WHEREAS: School Bus Drivers are a highly trained group of professionals; and

WHEREAS: School Bus Drivers play a vital and often unappreciated role in the educational system and in the lives of our children; and

WHEREAS: School Bus Drivers continually undergo extensive training to maintain and sharpen their skills; and

WHEREAS: School Bus Drivers on a daily basis not only provide the safest mode of transportation but show interest, care, and compassion for the students they transport; and

WHEREAS: School Bus Drivers by virtue of their job, put their lives on the line each day to safely transport children to and from school; and

WHEREAS: School Bus Drivers are the first personal contact a student has with the school system each day and the last as they get off the bus in the afternoon. As such, school bus drivers quite often have a very positive impact on students as they start and end their school day; and

WHEREAS: School Bus Drivers, by necessity, must transport students during good weather conditions as well as during inclement weather; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation does hereby strongly support the proposal of a postage stamp to honor all the hard working and dedicated School Bus Drivers who transport our children to and from school each day, and be it further

RESOLVED: The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation strongly feels that this postage stamp will honor the legacy of men and women who serve or have served their communities and school districts as School Bus Drivers.

Given under my hand this seventeenth day of May in the year of two thousand and five.

Velera Gammons

President, Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Fred Valentine

Inducted into the **VAPT Hall of Fame** at the annual State/VAPT Pupil Transportation Conference held in Hampton!

Congratulations Fred!

Pictured below is Fred with his nice looking family.



REQUEST FROM STAFFORD COUNTY...

Larry Himes is looking for information regarding school walking zones and walking policies for different school systems. If you can share information on what you do, please contact him at the address shown below:

<u>lhimes@staffordschools.net</u>

Old Virginia School Buses





Notice the single **Red** traffic warning light and the left **turn Signal** in the <u>top picture</u> – front of the bus and the one **Red** traffic warning light under the window on the rear of the school bus in the <u>bottom picture</u>. There was one traffic warning light on the front and one on the back of the bus prior to the 1960's with the exception of the early 60's when school buses had one light on the front and two on the rear upper part of the bus. No stop arms back then.

Mr. Raymond Wimbish, first Virginia state director of pupil transportation, is credited with the invention of the first known school bus traffic warning light system on school buses used anywhere in the country.

Does anyone have a clue as to the age of the above school buses? I am still trying to obtain pictures of old school buses, especially from Virginia and neighboring states. Help!

Editor

EVENTS AT THE JUNE PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Nhien Thanh Pho Justin Scott Coffey

Fairfax County Augusta County

Does anyone know how the previous recipients of the VAPT Scholarship have progressed with their scholarships? Please send Bill Carr, Bcarr@VBSchools.com, any information you have regarding the names shown below that may be shared in our newsletter. VAPT members should enjoy reading about them.



- 2004 Ryan Yost (Giles County)
- 2004 Anthony Sanford (Franklin City)
- 2003 Shavon Seaborne (Greensville County)
- 2003 Kenneth Seals (Surry County)
- 2002 Mary Ellen Jones (Smyth County)
- 2002Jessica Sarvay (Henrico County)
- 2001 Jessica Williams (Chesterfield County)
- 2001 Melisa Brady (Gloucester County)
- 2000 John Cosnor (Powhatan County)
- 1999 Gretchen Meissner (Appomattox County)

School Bus Safety Poster Contest



Congratulations to the following Winners

<u>Division</u> I Grades K-2	Winner 1st Jayquan Johnson 2nd Cintia Samaha 3rd Anthony Perales	School Division Petersburg Fairfax County Fairfax County
II Grades 3-5	 1st Teresa Johnson 2nd Denisha McIntosh 3rd Stuart Robertson 	Middlesex County Newport News Bedford County
III Grades 6-8	1 st Veronica Ecimovic 2 nd Lindsay Thompson 3 rd Andrew Trongone	Goochland County Russell County Goochland County
IV	1 st Ariel Johnson 2 nd Amanda Evans 3 rd LeSean Vinson	Goochland County Goochland County Surry County

SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2005-2006



Officers

President: June Eanes (VDOE)

Vice-President: David Pace (Virginia Beach)

Secretary: Barbara Scott (Campbell County)
Treasurer Kermit Shaffer (Spotsylvania County)
Past President: Velera Gammons (Henry County)

Directors:

Region 1 Jim Ransom (Petersburg)
Region 2 Steve Washington (Hampton)

Region 3 Michael Ashby (King William County)

Region 4 James Day (Arlington County)
Region 5 Mary Eppard (Greene County)

Region 6 Rebecca Mummau (Montgomery County)

Region 7 Tom Williams (Washington County)
Region 8 Dwight Elam (Mecklenburg County)

Winners of the State School Bus Road-e-o for 2004-2005



Congratulations

School Division

Transit

1st Place - Montgomery County

2nd Place -Wmsburg-James City Co.

3rd Place - Virginia Beach

Conventional

1st Place - Accomack County

Driver

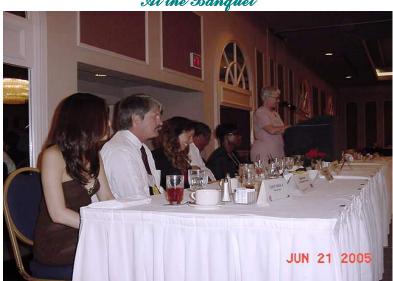
Josh Simpkins Sharon Bradby

Tyler Reynolds

Jeremy Click

Memories of the 2005 conference

At the Banquet



Head Table

Homeland Security and School Buses



Ken Clark, Terrorism Training Manager Virginia Department of Emergency Management

Vendor Registration



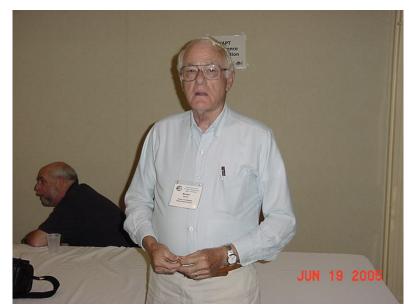
Fred Valentine and Harold Grimes

Industry Outlook



Claude Reid, Bus Sales Manager Commonwealth Bus Sales

Vendor Registration



Buster Bynum - Retired State Director for Pupil Transportation.

Industry Outlook



Randy Hountz Product Manager, Bus Product Center, International Truck and Engine Corporation

Power Lines - What School Bus Drivers & School Personnel Should Know



Dennis Settles, Virginia Power

System Security Awareness for Transportation Employees



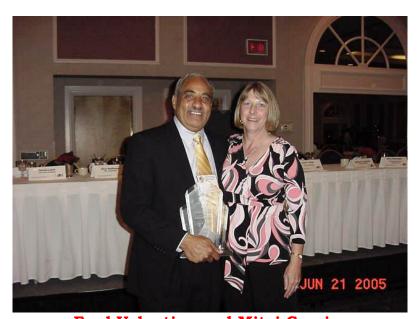
John Green, State Director of Pupil Transportation California

Industry Outlook



Tom Schaaf, National Sales Manager Thomas Built Buses

Former and Current Transportation Directors Hanover County



Fred Valentine and Mitzi Crozier

School Buses and Natural Disasters



William Sammler, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NOAA and National Weather Service



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Coordinator of Transportation – Portsmouth City Public Schools

Ending Date: Open until filled Starting Salary: \$57,000 - \$71,000

GENERAL DEFINITION AND CONDITIONS OF WORK:

Performs difficult professional and administrative work supervising the overall school transportation system; does related work as required. Work is performed under the general supervision of the Director of Operations. Supervision is exercised over all transportation personnel. ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS/TYPICAL TASKS:

Planning, scheduling and supervising the school bus transportation system; Observes on-the-road school bus operations for unsafe traffic situation and/or unsafe driving practices; Responds, investigates and reports accidents involving School Board vehicles and school buses; Oversees the contracted maintenance for all School Board vehicles including school buses; Coordinates the scheduling of field trips; Reviews and updates school bus routes and stops, publicizes routes and

stops through newspaper articles and provides to building principals; Oversees development and use of computerized routing system; Supervises the training of new school bus drivers; Makes recommendations on the purchase of replacement buses and vehicles; Ensures that School Board, State and Federal school transportation regulations are met; Files all local, state and federal school transportation reports; Establishes and monitors maintenance programs and cost control programs; Oversees hiring, payrolls, purchasing, record keeping and filing system for Transportation; Prepares annual operating budget, Determines feasibility of opening and closing schools during inclement weather; Reviews and evaluates equipment specifications; Performs related tasks as required.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Comprehensive knowledge of the principles and practices of school transportation and automotive repair facility management; comprehensive knowledge of the hazards and safety precautions of large scale operations; comprehensive knowledge of business practices applicable to transportation and garage management; comprehensive knowledge of school bus routing systems; ability to plan and supervise the work of others; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with officials, employees and the general public. EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university supplemented by course work in school transportation and equipment maintenance, and considerable experience in transportation including some supervisor and administrative experience.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Please apply on-line at www.pps.k12.va.us or submit a letter of interest, along with your resume, three (3) letters of references and copies of supporting credentials to: Portsmouth City Public Schools, P.O. Box 998, Portsmouth, VA 23705-0998.

The Portsmouth City Public School Division is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Human Resources Office phone (757) 393-8433, Fax (757) 393-5238. Email: HumanResources@pps.k12.va.us

VAPT HISTORY - 1981



President: Jack H. Jones – Chesterfield County

President-Elect: Earl F. Stanley – Virginia Beach

Secretary: Robert A. Devers, Jr. Loudon County Treasurer: John Mothershead – Henrico County

Past President: Roy Hopkins – Louisa County

Directors: Rudolph Hull – Augusta County

A. Ray Wimmer – Tazewell County Chauncey L. Logan – Roanoke City

John W. DuVall - Winchester

The fifth annual VAPT Conference was held at the Holiday Inn South in Richmond. Dr. S. John Davis, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education served as keynote speaker for the opening session. Virginia is one of two southern states showing an improvement in College Board scores while the national average remains stable. Special education services are expanding rapidly. Pupil transportation services have been most responsive in this area. In 1980-81, 9,100 school buses transported 750,000 students. The pupil transportation safety record is a source of pride. A 20% reduction in accidents has been achieved even though traffic increased during this period. Injuries have been drastically reduced. The dedication, concern and skill of school bus drivers are impressive.

Tom Bagby, Zone Sales Manager for Western Branch Diesel discussed the cost benefits of diesel vs. gas engines would increase fuel mileages by approximately 90%.

Edward Atkins, Supervisor of Transportation for Chesterfield County gave a presentation of how to set up a school bus roadeo. All aspects were covered from initial planning to presenting awards.

Nathan Young, Director of Transportation for Henrico County Schools gave a presentation concerning the school bus driver's handbook. Mr. Young stated that is through this medium that policies, rules and regulations, and procedures are set down and placed in the hands of the school bus driver.

Dr. John Finkler, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Chesterfield County Schools, discussed a number of court decisions from several states that involved the transportation of special education students. It would appear that common sense and logic does not always prevail in

these cases. They are often won or lost on technicalities and, in the majority of cases, the decision is against the school system.

Milton Weatherhead, Fleet Sales Manager for AC-Delco, brought the group up to date on the latest developments in computer controlled engines.

Buster Bynum, VDOE Supervisor of Pupil Transportation, gave an update on issues his department has been dealing with. Among these were updated standards for school buses, chassis specifications for 1982, the driver awards program, fuel conservation, and changes in the monthly inspection intervals. He shared that an approximated 10.5% increase has been projected for the 1982-84 state budget and costs are expected to be increased approximately 15% so it is obvious the localities will be absorbing more of the expenses. The safety records of the localities were praised and the Safe Driving Awards Program was mentioned and the types of awards available to participating localities were displayed. Noticeable efforts have been made to conserve fuel on the local level. Alternative fuels are being tested on pilot projects in several localities but test results are not in as yet.

During the VAPT business meeting, Earl Stanley, Membership Chairman reported there were 135 regular members and 7 honorary members on the roll. VAPT also adopted a resolution dated October 13, 1981 urging that certain actions be taken to improve pupil transportation for students enrolled in Virginia public schools. John Mothershead, Treasurer reported a balance on hand after conference expenses of \$1,980.12. Sixty-two members registered for the conference.

Jack Jones, President, met with the State Board of Education on June 26, 1981 for the budget hearing. He pointed out that twenty years ago the state reimbursed the localities at a rate of 60% of the operating cost of transportation. Ten years ago the state reimbursed the localities at a rate of 43% of the operating cost of transportation. Last year, the figured dropped to a low of 27.8% from the state funds. If this figure included the capital outlay and the replacement of school buses, the figure would be lowered from 27.8% to the state only furnishing 23% of the operating costs of school buses to the localities. The average cost per special education child transportation is \$1,000 a year and \$78.35 for a regular education student's transportation. He expressed a concern regarding the age of some school buses within the state and felt a study should be done on the age of school buses and a mandatory age be required to replace school buses. He had read in the newspaper the Governor stated the next biennial budget for education would be increased by 17% and urged VDOE to consider raising the localities allocation for pupil transportation from state funds to at least 40% of the localities cost.