

June 17, 2008
VAPT Conference
First Business Meeting
Virginia Beach, Virginia

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by David Pace, President. At that time, David Pace indicated the purpose of the meeting which was to hear from several of the committees and to provide information to VAPT members for the purpose of voting for officers and the Board of Directors.

David Pace indicated that we would dispense with the reading of the minutes from last year's Roanoke Conference. They are not available at the present time due to the passing of Barbara Scott, the previous VAPT Secretary. When they are available, they will be placed on the web site.

Kermit Shaffer presented the Treasurer's report; he stated that overall it was a great year. Total VAPT assets as of June 11, 2008 were \$196,057.23. This amount included \$64,638.28 in the business economy checking account, \$27,646.43 in the business interest maximizer account and \$103,772.52 in the Allstate treasury linked annuity. The annuity grew by \$11,025.00 during the previous year and earned \$3,684.57 dollars worth of interest.

David Pace told the audience that the Scholarship Account is off limits for general use and the amount in the scholarship fund cannot be used for anything except scholarships. David Pace went on to name those that were responsible for the monies that have been deposited in the fund over the years with the primary benefactor being Sonny Merryman, Inc. and other donations were from Kingmor Supply, Commonwealth Bus Sales and others in the bus industry. Even if VAPT were to go out of business, the fund will stay in tact and continue to function as intended.

David Pace announced that the Treasurer's Report would be filed for audit.

June Eanes – DOE Report. Bus regulations are being acted on. Individuals in the Commonwealth will have a period of time to read and make comments on the proposed changes. June indicated that this is the time when changes will be considered and if people see something that needs to be changed then they need to act. These regulations will include the maintenance manual. If changes are deemed necessary, then a committee will be called to act on those changes. Input from individuals is needed and necessary.

David Pace mentioned that Dr. Billy Cannady, Virginia State Superintendent of Education will be the key note speaker at the first opening general session.

John Hazelette – Future Meeting Sites. The conference for next year will be in Roanoke. The hotel has changed hands and the new owners are spending a lot of money to upgrade the rooms and meeting spaces.

The 2010 conference has been proposed for Northern Virginia. Jim Day and Tim Parker will provide suggestions for a conference site in that part of the state. Other suggestions include Chesterfield or Richmond City. David Pace stated that if any of the membership had suggestions for other sites, please make those ideas known. Planning for conferences is usually two years out.

The Sonny Merryman sponsored barbecue will be held tonight at the Oceana Naval Air Station from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Because security is tight, it was suggested that everyone plan on riding the Virginia Beach School Buses and bring their identification along.

Tim Parker – By Laws, there are no changes.

Bertha Thomas – Membership, there are 292 total members, 60 new members and 27 new vendor members. The new premium membership was quite popular with members joining both the VAPT and the NAPT.

Dennis Lewis – Nominating Committee, read off the names that were nominated for various positions. Dennis Lewis asked if there were any proposed changes to the slate of nominees, being none, Mr. Lewis announced that the membership would have the opportunity to vote on the nominations at the next meeting.

Michael Ashby – Resolutions, announced that as of July 1, 2008 bus drivers in Virginia would be prohibited from using cell phones while they were driving a school bus. In an emergency, they could use a cell phone provided their school bus was over to the side of the road, the school bus was properly secured and the call was related to the operation of their school bus.

David Pace mentioned that the Special Needs Road-E-O had been incorporated into the conference Road-E-O this year because the Special Needs Symposium had not held this year. Because of this change, the Road-E-O took much longer to run as compared to past years.

There were approximately 85 persons in attendance.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by David Pace, President, VAPT.