



Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation

David Pace
Virginia Beach City
President
757-263-1576

Michael Ashby
Hanover County
Vice President
804-365-6520

Dwight Elam
Mecklenburg County
Secretary
434-738-6771

Kermit Shaffer
Spotsylvania County
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540-582-5125

June Eanes
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Standing Committees

Audit- James Lash
Conference –Mike Ashby
June Eanes
Constitution/Bylaws- Tim Parker
Legislative-Michael Puckett
Harold Grimes
Membership-Bertha Thomas
Nominating-Dennis Lewis
Resolutions -Michael Ashby
Scholarship-Linwood Horne

Special Committee

Conference Guest Activities –
Linda Shaffer
Hall of Fame- John Hazelette
Historian-Dwight Elam
Newsletter –Donna Carter
Position Papers- Barry Sudduth
Poster – Anne Pilson
Web Site-Tim Parker
Procedural Manual– Barry
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Rodeo- Sharon Utley
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WOW, where has the school year gone. It seems like just yesterday we were wrapping up the 2008 conference in Virginia Beach . . . here it is December and we are actively planning the 2009 VAPT conference in Roanoke. I hope everyone had a peaceful and wonderful Thanksgiving. The pupil transportation family - directors, supervisors, drivers, trainers, technicians, and, of course our vendors - have so much to be thankful for in keeping the children of the Commonwealth safe in their trip to and from school. The transportation team makes it work and I am personally thankful for all your support, dedication, and professionalism in helping the VAPT be successful.

The Christmas season is upon us. I hope all of you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please give thanks for family and friends who help to make this season so enjoyable and be sure to take the time to relax and rejuvenate yourself for 2009. God bless all of you and may 2009 be one of peace, hope, joy, and success.

David L. Pace, President



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Subject: Region II News

Region II director's met on Tuesday, October 14, 2008. The regional group was hosted by Earl Tyler, Director of Transportation for Williamsburg-James City County Schools at their operations complex/bus garage.

Some of the topics covered were:

- Special Education/Special Services
- The Economy/Budgets
- Fuel Cost
- Alternative Fuels
- Safe Routes to School



The group discussed updating the Region II data information comparison spread sheet which is done on an annual basis. The purpose of this information exchange is to provide director's within the region information about adjacent localities fleet size, number of employees/technicians/supervisory personnel, pay, benefits, etc. The sharing of this information is extremely helpful at budget time when requesting such things as additional personnel or pay adjustments for employee groups.

In addition to the group discussion, Michael Brown attended and provided updates from DOE.

The group also set the date and location of the Regional School Bus Road-E-O. David Pace offered to host the event on May 16, 2009, in VA Beach.

Also, we would also like to thank John Hazelette for his many years of devotion to our profession. John has accepted another position within the Norfolk Public School System as the Director of Planning. He began his new position October 1, 2008.

James Lash

Assoc. Dir. of Transportation & Whse Srv

Transportation

Transportation Operations
York County School Division
Yorktown, VA 23690

505 Cook Road
Yorktown, VA 23690





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Region 3 Events

The Transportation Directors from Region 3 met on October 7 at the Richmond County Bus Garage. There were fifteen people in attendance for the meeting. Malinda Sandhu from Gatekeeper Systems provided a presentation on digital recording for school buses. At the conclusion of the meeting, lunch was provided by Mary Parr and the Richmond County School System.

On November 6 the technicians from Region III met in Spotsylvania County with Scott Hutcherson from Sonny Merryman. Scott demonstrated the Thomas web site and the benefits of its use. Michael Brown concluded the meeting with updates from the Department of Education. The technicians will be having another meeting in the Spring.



Region 6 Events:

Region 6 met on December 4th hosted by Franklin County Public Schools. They were privileged to have Michael Brown from the Virginia Department of Education attend and go over new and proposed legislation that will affect all cities and counties in the State. He also went over the revised specifications for school buses that went into effect October 1, 2008. He told the group he would be making Transportation Operation Assessments throughout the State, and if he hadn't already been to a locality, he would be soon.

Following that, representatives from Sonny Merryman, Inc. made a presentation on 2010 emission requirements for school buses. Thomas will be using the Cummins engine with a Urea injection system to reduce NOx to required EPA levels.

Following the meeting, Franklin County provided lunch and the group enjoyed a time of fellowship with each other. Weather seemed to highlight the conversations! In her absence, Velera Gammons was honored on her upcoming retirement at the end of December. She has been a valued member and friend of VAPT and the transportation community. We wish her the best of luck and hope she enjoys her free time.



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NAPT 34th Annual Conference and Trade Show

The 34th Annual Conference and Trade Show for the National Association of Pupil Transportation was held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina during the last week of October. Featured speakers at the conference included Cal LeMon, Mack Dryden, and Jon Gordon. Each of these speakers covered topics in leadership using both humor and their own life experiences. There were fourteen professional development classes offered along with the usual assortment of blockbuster workshops. The Leading Every Day Initiative (LED) featured twelve workshops dealing with leadership in the field of pupil transportation. The conference concluded on a light note with a Guitar Hero II competition at the last General Session. The grand prize was an acoustic guitar signed by Elton John and Willie Nelson.

Next year's conference will be held in Louisville, Kentucky from October 31 through November 5. If you have never had the experience of an NAPT Conference next year will be a great time to start!



Sonny Merryman, Inc. Receives Gold Award

Lynchburg, VA

For the twentieth consecutive year, Sonny Merryman, Inc. – has been recognized by Thomas Built Buses as a top level Gold Award dealer. The announcement was made recently at Thomas 2008 Dealer Sales Meeting in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Gold Award recognition is presented only to exemplary dealers who exceed sales goals and achieve the highest standards for customer satisfaction. Sonny Merryman, Inc. is also the bus manufacturer's only dealer to have received the prestigious Thomas Dealer of the Year award four times.

Virginia Based Company Is Helping Fleets Protect Environment

STAUNTON, VA – NOVEMBER 17, 2008 -

Spill-free is the newest advancement in the spin-on oil and fuel filter industry, thanks to an innovation from Clean Planet Mfg., Inc. (CPMI), a Virginia-based, woman-owned manufacturing company that produces a line of environmental products for automotive and heavy equipment waste fluids management.

After more than a 100 years of mechanical pollution stemming from spin-on oil and fuel filters during the servicing process, CPMI has teamed with Zinga Industries, a large North American filtration manufacturer, to produce a clean, environmentally safe alternative method for changing oil and fuel filters without the spills and threats to human health that the current, gravity-drain based method poses.

In a time of environmental and GREEN stewardship domination of the world stage, this environmental technological breakthrough for replacing the contemporary method for servicing spin-on filters is of significant value to mechanical shops and companies that conduct in shop and work-field servicing of not only vehicles and buses, but also of heavy and agricultural equipment and marine vessels.

“Despite the tough economic times plaguing the globe, environmental groups and the governmental regulatory agencies continue to work to clean up the environment. Costs associated with an organization’s preventing and cleaning up pollution are of little consequence to the EPA or the Sierra Club,” said Judy Williams, owner and CEO of CPMI “

Companies are experiencing more and more governmental regulations and higher public expectations for sound environmental practices and procedures in all aspects of operations.

Past practices are no longer acceptable practices for today’s environmental stewards. The days of breaking an oil filter’s seal and letting the used oil run into a pan placed on the ground, in hopes of catching the draining fluid, are no longer acceptable. Today, we know that not only do these flowing, used fluids often miss the drain pan placed several feet below the filter, they also result in residual drips and streams of oil and fuel that flow over other vehicle parts and later drip onto the land and highways,” she said.



Messy spills and threats to human health from oil and fuel filters can now be a thing of the past.

The CPMI filter design, which Zinga produces for Clean Planet, encompasses a port placed in a filter canister that serves as a fluid passageway and a fitting that plugs into the port for attachment to an evacuation hose. The fitting is interchangeable from filter to filter.

The problem of spilled fluids during mechanical servicing and repairs extends beyond the spin-on oil and fuel filters. Drain pans that are typically used when servicing vehicles and heavy equipment are falling under close scrutiny from the EPA, OSHA, and environmental organizations such as the Nature Conservancy, The Environomics Foundation, and the Sierra Club. These agencies and organizations know that wherever a drain pan is used - in the field, on a shop floor, or in a pit – they are prone to polluting spillage,” she said.

In the industrialized world, oil and other fluids are necessary for operating the transportation vehicles and equipment that keep the world's commerce moving; however, once used, these products are also major destructive elements for the environment. Just one quart of spilled oil will contaminate 1 million gallons of fresh water.

Today's current environmental conditions make it necessary for mechanical technicians and their employers to think in different terms. The economic and eco-centered needs and demands of vehicle and equipment-centered companies are prompting original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to design and deliver products that strike a reasonable balance between economic necessity and environmental sensibility.

In addition to the spill-free oil and fuel filters, CPMI produces an oil evacuation valve that replaces the manufacturer's drain plug and provides an enclosed, clean, and contained method for safely removing oil and protecting the environment.

The Oil Evac Valve Kit™ - consisting of a vacuum-actuated valve placed in a banjo bolt, fittings, a hose, and a mounting bracket - features a patent-pending, break-away safety check-valve that ensures continued retention of oil, even if the valve is severed from the oil pan. The valve is also used for removing fluids from other reservoirs, such as transmissions, differentials, and coolant systems.

Both the spill-free filters and the Oil Evac Valve Kit are available through Kingmor Supply, Inc.

Just one quart
of spilled oil
contaminates
1 Million
Gallons of Fresh
Water.



CPMI's filter design evacuates used oil and fuel from filters before removal, resulting in clean, spill-free servicing.