



The Voice and Vision for Pupil Transportation in Virginia
FEBRUARY 2010 VAPT NEWSLETTER
Bill Carr

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A Message from our President, Mike Ashby...



Dear Pupil Transportation Colleagues:

The end of the year is fast approaching with the end of the current fiscal year just several days away. It has been a very unsettling year with the economy and its' affect on the budgets of the school systems cross the state and the country. No matter how difficult it gets, the transportation departments across the Commonwealth of Virginia carry out their duties to transport our children safely and efficiently. As I write this letter, the weather forecast for this weekend is snow, starting late Friday and lasting into Saturday. Sound familiar? Unlike the big storm on December 18, 2009, we will be out early in the morning on Monday, checking the roads and making sure it is safe to transport.

Another item that is not far away is the 2010 VAPT conference. We are in the last stages of plan preparation for the conference, which should have something for everyone. The vendor packets are going out this week, with registration for the conference set to begin sometime in February. As we have done for the last several years, our registration process will be done on line through NAPT. Unlike several other states that have cancelled their conferences, VAPT has taken the position that our conference is very important to the organization and the professionals who transport the children of Virginia. I hope you will keep the dates of June 21-June 24 open and we will see you at the Holiday Inn, Koger Center in Chesterfield County.

NAPT 2010 CONFERENCE Call for Presentations 2010

NAPT ANNOUNCES CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS AT 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN PORTLAND, OREGON

*ENHANCE YOUR CAREER BY SHARING YOUR IDEAS, SOLUTIONS AND
INNOVATIONS WITH YOUR PEERS!*

Have you got a new, different or unique way of doing things? Have you accomplished more, achieved greater or done better as a result? Do you think you've got the talent to help others achieve a similar level of success? If so, then we want to feature YOU at the showcase event in the pupil transportation industry.

For a limited time only, the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) is accepting workshop and/or demonstration proposals for its 36th Annual NAPT Conference & Trade Show --- the NAPT SUMMIT --- October 30 - November 4, 2010 in Portland, OR. Winning proposals and speakers will be featured alongside nationally recognized, professional speakers at an event that attracts nearly 2,000 school transportation professionals from around the world.

Proposals should feature practical information and advice although proposals can also be based on formal papers or research. All proposals must be specifically tailored to meet the administrative or operational needs of pupil transportation professionals.

Proposals must be received no later than April 15, 2010. Selected entrants will be invited to participate in the conference no later than June 1, 2010.

Please note: All fields below marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

Presentation Title *

Name of Presenter(s) *

Employer/Business Name *

Mailing Address *

City *

State *

Zip code *

Phone *

Fax

Provide a brief description of the topic to be presented *



James “Jim” Ervin Tucker, age 71 of Henrico, Virginia departed this life on January 5, 2010. He was a long-time former employee of the Richmond City Department of Pupil Transportation. During his tenure, Mr. Tucker served in many capacities within the department and retired as Manager of Pupil Transportation Services. He was a vital member of the Richmond City Public Schools Leadership Team. Jim will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

February is African-American History Month

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.

-- Booker T. Washington

This month could be an opportune time for Americans, regardless of race, to research together our nation’s history to learn of the contributions the ancestors of today’s African-Americans have made to this nation.



WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T LOOKING

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make my favorite cake for me, and I learned that the little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking I heard you say a prayer, and I knew that there is a God I could always talk to, and I learned to trust in Him.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it, and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good, and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw that you cared, and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking I looked at you and wanted to say 'Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking.'





Most states follow the **Uniform Vehicle Code** guidance on stopping for a school bus. The table below indicates if UVC section 11-705 **(a)** and/or **(c)** are reflective of the law in your state and also provides other information on state specific requirements.

<p style="text-align: center;">Section 11-705 (a)</p> <p>The driver of a vehicle meeting or overtaking from either direction any school bus that meets the color and identification requirements of 12-222(a), (b) and (c) ** of this code stopped on the highway shall stop before reaching such school bus when there is in operation on said school bus the flashing red lights specified in 12-222(a) and said driver shall not proceed until such school bus resumes motion or the flashing red lights are no longer actuated.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Section 11-705 (c)</p> <p>The driver of a vehicle upon a highway with separate roadways need not stop upon meeting or passing a school bus which is on a different roadway or when upon a controlled-access highway and the school bus is stopped in a loading zone which is a part of or adjacent to such highway and where pedestrians are not permitted to cross the roadway. <i>(Some states have an exemption for the loading zone. See comments below.)</i></p>
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****** Painted school bus yellow, the words "School Bus" above the windshield and rear Emergency Door, and school bus traffic warning lights on the front and rear of bus.

SCHOOL BUS STOP LAWS IN NEIGHBORING STATES

Kentucky:

- 1) If a school or church bus transporting children is stopped on a highway to get on or off passengers while flashing red lights and using the stop arm, a vehicle operator approaching from any direction must stop and not proceed until the bus has completed getting on or off passengers and has been put in motion.
- 2) Vehicles approaching a stopped bus from the opposite direction upon a highway of ≥ 4 lanes need not stop.

Maryland: Reference UVC Section 11-705 (A) and (C)

- 1) Vehicles must stop ≥ 20 feet from the school bus.
- 2) Section C loading zone exemption applies.

North Carolina:

- 1) A vehicle driver approaching from any direction on the same street, highway, or public vehicular area any school bus (including privately owned buses transporting children and school buses transporting senior citizens under §115C-243) must stop while the bus is displaying its mechanical stop signal or flashing red stoplights, and is stopped to get on or off passengers, and not proceed until the mechanical stop signal has been withdrawn, the flashing red stoplights have been turned off, and the school bus has moved on.
- 2) A vehicle driver traveling in the opposite direction from the school bus, upon a road divided into 2 roadways by an intervening space (including a center lane for left turns if the roadway consists of ≥ 4 more lanes) or by a physical barrier, need not stop upon meeting and passing any school bus which has stopped in the roadway across such dividing space or physical barrier.

Tennessee: Reference UVC Section 11-705 (C)

- 1) A vehicle driver meeting or overtaking from either direction any school bus, church bus or youth bus stopped on the highway to get on or off any school children or passengers must stop and not proceed until such bus resumes motion or is signaled by the driver of the bus to proceed or the visual signals on the bus are no longer actuated. This provision also applies to a school bus flashing lights, using stop arm, and stopped upon property owned, operated, or used by a school or educational institution, if getting on or off any school children outside a protected loading zone.
- 2) Applies to church or youth buses that have the same type of safety equipment as school buses.

West Virginia: Reference UVC Section 11-705 (A) and (C)

- 1) Stop law also applies to passenger vans where an adult is outside the van with a red caution flag.

District of Columbia:

- 1) When approaching from any direction a stopped school bus flashing red lights, a vehicle driver must stop ≥ 15 feet away and not proceed until the lights are off.
- 2) When approaching a stopped school bus flashing red lights from the opposite direction on a street with a median strip divider, a vehicle driver shall not stop.

Note: These various state school bus stop laws vary and possibly have been changed.



Have You Checked the VAPT Web Site Lately?



USDOT NHTSA, Office of Defects Investigation

Here is a list of issues we are evaluating. If you have any information that you can share, please include the make, model, and VIN and a short narrative.

Thank you.

2009-2011 IC School Buses RIBS loose or missing bolts on rear track bar, frame to rear housing.

2005-2011 D series MCI motor coaches Wheel chair lift slides out of the stowed position.

2009-2011 C2 Thomas School Buses under light brake pedal application the brake lights fail to illuminate

2010-2011 C2 Thomas School Bus all 8-way warning lamps cancel upon opening the door

Recent recalls.

10V-010

IC is recalling 2003-2004 IC CE buses and School Buses, to inspect for chafing of the battery cables and the parking brake cable. This came in as a fleet complaint, thank you.

Please provide whatever you can. Thanks so much.

Sonny Murianka

Senior Investigator

USDOT NHTSA

Office of Defects Investigation

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Washington. D.C. 20590

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SCHOOL BUS SAFETY and PUPIL

TRANSPORTATION LINKS:

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <http://nhtsa.org>
- School Transportation News: <http://schooltransportation.com>
- School Bus Fleet Magazine: <http://schoolbusfleet.com>
- School Bus Information Council: <http://schoolbusinfo.org>
- National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT): www.napt.org
- National School Transportation Association: www.schooltrans.com
- National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Service:
www.nasdpts.org
- North Carolina School Bus Safety: www.ncbussafety.org



Material for school bus driver newsletters.

* Each of us (parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, friend, teacher or school bus driver) influences the life of a child.

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. But, for your protection you should not hug the children on your school bus or allow them to hug you. Such action could be misinterpreted.

* What kind of respect do you get from the children who ride your school bus? What kind do you give them? How is their behavior? How is yours? Who has control over the atmosphere in your bus, you or the children? Why is that? How do you communicate with the children and how well do you get your messages across to them. Does their behavior show the response you want from them? These questions are presented to you to think about and help you determine if your communications are effective in your maintaining the proper behavior for students riding your school bus.

* What is the MAXIMUM speed a school bus may travel in Virginia, not to exceed the posted speed limit, when the school bus is covering the daily route transporting students to and from school? (A) 35 mph (B) 45 mph (C) 55 mph (D) 60 mph (Ans. B)

*Riding in the school bus with you are children whose lives are in your hands and who depend on your good judgment.

* What is the MINIMUM distance a driver is required to activate the school bus traffic warning lights when approaching a passenger stop, if the posted speed limit is 10 mph? _____ 55 mph? _____ 30 mph _____ 35 mph? _____ 45 mph? _____ 60 mph? _____ **Note: (At Least 100 feet or 200 feet)**

* This question is one for group discussion to determine what everyone agrees would be the proper thing to do and share the answer first with the principal of the school you serve. Another driver may have already experienced the situation and can share in the discussion what they did.

Now, here's the question! What would you do if while on your take home route a 5 year old told you that he or she had to go to "potty" and you are 15 minutes from school and 25 minutes from his or her house?

* Always walk your school bus after completing each route to make sure no student was left on the bus. Failure to do so could result in disciplinary action including dismissal.

Note: The following is an update to last month's newsletter article pertaining to David Pace receiving the following award.

David Pace named Administrator of the Year!



David Pace accepts the Administrator of the Year award from School Bus Fleet magazine's Publisher Frank Di Giacomo.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Overseeing a fleet of more than 700 school buses, David Pace certainly has his hands full, but he has still made time to serve two terms as president of his state association and to mentor many new people entering the pupil transportation field.

Pace, longtime director of pupil transportation services at Virginia Beach (Va.) City Public Schools, has also been a dedicated member of the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) and has been participating in the annual conference for the past 20 years. And he has served as a delegate for his state to the National Congress on School Transportation.

For his tireless efforts, Pace became *SBF's* 36th Administrator the Year at NAPT's annual awards banquet in Louisville on Sunday night.

As he accepted the award from *SBF* Publisher Frank Di Giacomo, Pace noted that when he was new to the industry, becoming involved in associations and reading *SBF* was key in learning the ins and outs of pupil transportation.

Over the years, Pace, himself became an invaluable resource to the industry, constantly sharing his expertise on such issues as budgeting, interpreting legislation and bus stop criteria.

With the Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation, Pace has held every office, including the two terms as president. He said that one of the advantages the group provides is its close working relationship with the state Department of Education.

Pace's operation is one of the larger district-owned fleets in the nation. To optimize efficiency, he has devised an innovative five-tier transportation system. He continually develops new training components and resources for his school bus drivers, students and the motoring public. And he has pushed to secure funding for the latest safety technologies and for equipment to reduce emissions.

Pace has also been instrumental in administering state and local school bus rodeos and technician competitions. A profile of David Pace and his operation appeared in the January 2010 issue of *SBF*.

Diesel price projected to climb over next 2 years

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The average price of on-highway diesel fuel in the U.S. is expected to rise about 28 percent from 2009 through 2011, according to a government report.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) projected that diesel will average \$2.98 per gallon this year and \$3.14 in 2011, up from \$2.46 in 2009.

Still, the projected 2011 price of diesel would be well below the record-high average in 2008, which was \$4.02.

On the gasoline side, the EIA expects regular-grade prices to average \$2.84 per gallon in 2010 and \$2.96 in 2011. Monthly gas prices increased from \$1.79 in January 2009 to \$2.61 in December.



HAVE YOU CHECKED THE VAPT WEB SITE LATELY?

Information on all three 2010 Scholarship Program Opportunities is now available at our website www.VAPT.org. This year it looks like there will be eight scholarships as shown below:

- 1 - \$2500 Clyde
- 5- \$2500 Sonny
- 2 - \$1000 Buster

[Check out the rules and dates for submitting your information](#)



A little humor.....

One Sunday morning everyone in one bright, beautiful, tiny town got up early and went to church. Before the services started the town's people were sitting quietly in their pews, praying or whispering greetings to each other. Suddenly, Satan appeared at the front of the church. Everyone started screaming and running for the front entrance, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away from the evil incarnate. Soon everyone was evacuated from the church, except for an elderly gentleman who sat calmly in his pew, not moving, seemingly oblivious to the fact that God's prime enemy was in his presence. Now this confused Satan a bit, so he walked up to the old man and said, "Don't you know who I am?" The man replied, "Yep, sure do." Satan asked, "Aren't you afraid of me?" "Nope, sure ain't," said the old man. Satan was a little perturbed at this and queried, "Why aren't you afraid of me?" "The old man calmly replied, "Been married to your sister for over 48 years."