



VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

MARCH 2006 Newsletter

Editor: Bill Carr

The Voice and Vision for Pupil Transportation



VAPT WEB SITE: WWW.VAPT.ORG

***A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT,
June Eanes***



Spring has arrived with the warm weather we have been looking forward to. As a reminder; while everything seems to be “coming alive” again we must be mindful of the affect warm weather has on the children we transport in our school buses and implement a plan to help our school bus drivers.

Often, young children do not think about danger when they are focusing on playing with their friends at bus stops. Too often they are thinking only of the fun they are having and not the hazards of traffic nearby.

School bus drivers report an increase in the activeness of the children therefore; they must be more vigilant in keeping an eye on all of them plus pedestrians, animals, especially pets at the bus stops, joggers and runners, bicyclist, and skateboarders. There seems to be an increase in traffic during this time and with the increase comes the increase of potential accidents. The Transportation Departments should help support their drivers at a minimal of sending out flyers reminding the school bus drivers of the hazards they may encounter during this time of the year.

As we approach spring break we need to take the time to relax and spend time with our families. Once schools reopen, let’s work together with the school administrators and school bus drivers to focus on the thousands of students we transport throughout the state each day. Let’s show our communities we take great pride in our industry and we remain committed to the highest levels of safety for the precious cargo we transport.

VAPT WEBSITE: www.VAPT.org



NETS (Network of Employers for Traffic Safety)
10-Step Program to Minimize Crash Risk, taken from the NETS *Traffic Safety Primer; A Guidebook for Employers*.

The 10-Step Program provides guidelines for what an employer can do to improve traffic safety performance and minimize the risk of motor vehicle crashes. Following these steps helps to ensure that you hire capable drivers, only allow eligible drivers to drive on company business, train them, supervise them, and maintain company vehicles properly. Adherence to these 10 steps can also help to keep your motor vehicle insurance costs as low as possible.

1. Senior Management Commitment & Employee Involvement
2. Written Policies and Procedures
3. Driver Agreements
4. Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Checks
5. Crash Reporting and Investigation
6. Vehicle Selection, Maintenance and Inspection
7. Disciplinary Action System

8. Reward/Incentive Program
9. Driver Training and Communication
10. Regulatory Compliance

You may want to obtain a copy of NETS Traffic Safety Primer for the content of the 10-Step Program by contacting NETS at 1-888-221-0045 or visit: www.trafficsafety.org.



The Overlooked Whole Grain Barley, the oldest cultivated grain in the Near East and Europe, is an overlooked whole grain choice that should be brought back to the table. Like oats, barley supplies significant amounts of the soluble fiber called beta-glucans that effectively lowers cholesterol. This soluble fiber also seems to help control blood sugar and reduce high levels of insulin that are a risk factor for diabetes. The insoluble fiber in barley can promote bowel regularity and help lower the risk of colon cancer. Source: American Institute for Cancer Research, www.aicr.org.

**SLATE OF OFFICERS
2005-2006**

President June Eanes
Vice President David Pace
Secretary Barbara Scott
Treasurer Kermit Shaffer



VAPT HISTORY

1988

OFFICERS

President: Tim Parker
President-Elect: Don Hammond
Secretary: Ray Mulvany
Treasurer: Al Wilson

DIRECTORS

Ralph Farmer
Pauline Griffin
Ralph Hamilton
Linwood Horne

VAPT held its twelfth annual conference October 19-21, 1988 at the Sheraton Hotel and Country Club in Staunton. The keynote speaker for the opening session was John T. Hanna, Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Motor Vehicles. Mr. Hanna's presentation was "School Bus Speeds on Interstate Highways - A Help or Hindrance to Safety." A round table discussion on "Implementing New State Regulations" followed. Members on this panel were Donald G. Travitz, Director of Transportation for Chesapeake

City Schools, Robert A. Devers, Director of Transportation for Loudoun County Schools, and Bob Wilson, Director of Transportation for Washington County Schools.

The second general session featured James H. Bettis, Director of Transportation for Prince William County. Mr. Bettis' topic was "Hazardous Materials Communications for School Bus Operations."

Following Mr. Bettis was Dr. Max Skidmore, Director of the Office of Coordination & Management for the Department of Student Services & SE, Fairfax County. Dr. Skidmore spoke on "Addressing the perceived Threat of Communicable Disease in the School Transportation Environment."

Finally, Ron Campbell of Q-Strait, Inc. spoke on "The Evolution of Wheelchair Tie Down Systems - The Forward Facing Issue."

Supervisory personnel and vehicle maintenance personnel were treated to separate sessions during the afternoon. Supervisors heard a panel of presenters speak on "Driver Recruitment - Problems & Innovations." Serving on this panel were Dr. Richard Hartley, Personnel Coordinator for Fairfax County, David L. Pace, Director of Transportation for Virginia Beach City Schools, Chauncey L. Logan, Director of Transportation for

Roanoke County Schools, and Dennis K. Lewis, Director of Transportation for Chesterfield County Schools. Following this, Dr. Eddie L. Kolb, Director of Pupil Personnel Services and Special Education for Roanoke County Schools presented a session entitled, "Discipline and the Special Education Passenger."

Vehicle maintenance personnel were treated to James Thornton, Field Service Representative for Sturdy Controls speak on, "The Sturdy Road Speed Governor – Improvements and Trouble Shooting Techniques." Following Mr. Thornton's presentation was Bryan W. Morris, President of K & M Supply, Inc. and Floyd W. Morris, President of Kingmore Supply, Inc. These gentlemen spoke on "Seat Repair and Innovations – Cutting Costs or Cutting Safety."

The maintenance personnel session was concluded by J.E. Latta of Specialty Manufacturing, Inc. who spoke on "Crossing Control Arms – Retrofitting and Trouble Shooting."

Chuck Dabney with Cummins Atlantic was invited to discuss the possibilities for adapting their speed and cruise control device for school bus application as an alternative for the Sturdy Road Speed Governor. It was agreed that interest by VAPT, VDOE, and the manufacturing company would result in a pilot test during the next year. This product later became the Econocruise Road

Speed device used on many school buses until the introduction of more sophisticated internal electronic engine controls.

The conference was concluded with a round table discussion with school bus body and chassis manufacturers. Participating on the panel were representatives of Amtran, Bluebird, Thomas, Wayne, Detroit Diesel/Allison, GMC, and Navistar.



SCHOOL BUS DRIVER SAVES CHILD'S LIFE

There recently may have been three fatalities involving elementary school children if it had not been for their King and Queen County school bus driver, **LISA McGLOTHLIN**.

She properly activated the school bus traffic warning lights prior to making the passenger stop on Highway 14. The stop arm and red traffic warning lights were in operation and all traffic appeared

to have stopped, but “something” told her to check the right mirror again and at such time she saw a loaded logging truck bearing down on the school bus. The truck driver avoided ramming the bus by swerving onto the right shoulder of the highway and sped by the school bus service door where the children were lined up to leave the bus. The first child preparing to exit the school bus was on the bottom step and Ms. McGlothlin grabbed the child by her coat to prevent her and the other two children behind her from being hit by the loaded logging truck.

Lisa McGlothlin gives God the credit for saving these children’s life by directing her to check the mirror again.

Thanks to Alice Matthews, DOE, and Ken Amrhein, Director of Transportation for King and Queen County for this article.

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SCHOOL BUS



DRIVER TRAINING

As Transportation Supervisors it falls upon us to make sure we either train new drivers or have

competent, state approved trainers to teach the school bus driver training classes for us. One of the many things that comes up frequently during training, as well as with experienced drivers is how far can they go in stopping a fight, dealing with threats, etc. We are often asked by our drivers if they are allowed to use force when dealing specific incidents.

A fairly new video titled “Defensible Use of Force On the Bus” by STS – Strategies Training Systems does a very good job of explaining to school bus drivers exactly what steps and actions they may take.

The video presentation and guide will instruct drivers on the legal liabilities of the use of force with students. The training will help reduce their exposure to excessive use of force claims by parents.

School Bus Drivers will learn:

- What constitutes the use of force
- When force may be legally used
- What makes force necessary and reasonable
- How to document the use of force
- Alternatives to consider instead of force

The video cost approximately \$125. running time is about 20 minutes. It is full of good information for school bus drivers and is very professionally done. I

believe you will find it well worth the time and money. This video is available from STS – 1-800-600-5636.

Thanks Jim Slye, Director of Transportation for the Rockingham County Public Schools for providing this article.

VAPT HAS EIGHT TRANSPORTATION REGIONS. EACH REGION HAS A REGIONAL DIRECTOR WHO SERVES IN THAT CAPACITY FOR A TWO YEAR TERM.

Region 1 Jim Ransom
Region 2 Steve Washington
Region 3 Michael Ashby
Region 4 James Day
Region 5 Mary Eppard
Region 6 Rebecca Mummau
Region 7 Tom Williams
Region 8 Dwight Elam

DRIVER ATTITUDE



Tips for maintaining a good driver attitude –

- Get a good night's sleep. Keep alert physically and mentally.

- Try to leave personal problems at home. Seek help if you need it.
- Greet everyone with a smile and by name.
- Be patient, even-tempered, and understanding. Show respect if you wish to receive it.
- Bring a sense of humor. Be able to laugh at yourself.
- Learn to relax. Closing your eyes; breathe evenly; think about the tension draining from your body. Repeat "I'm calm" and "I'm good at what I do."
- Be free from the effects of alcohol, illegal drugs, and medications.
- Extend a helping hand to new school bus drivers.
- Watch for stressful symptoms in others and alert a supervisor or school administrator.
- Be a positive part of the team. Join with other school bus drivers to help solve problems. Participate at safety meeting.
- Ask questions if you are unsure about something.

CHECK OUT THE

National Association for Pupil Transportation's website

<http://www.NAPT.org> then

click on “About NAPT” followed by clicking on “Board of Directors.” Now scroll down to “Region 2”. Do you recognize this person?



Please send your current email address to our Membership Committee Chairperson Mitzi Crosier, mcrosier@hcps4.hanover.k12.va.us, Tim Parker, VAPT newsletter distributor, tim.parker@fcps.edu and Bill Carr, Editor of the newsletter, bcarr@vbschools.com.



SHARING CORNER

Does anyone have anything they would like to share in future editions of the newsletter? If so, please email the article(s) to Bill Carr, Editor of The Voice and Vision for Pupil Transportation bcarr@vbschools.com.

There is no key to Happiness. The door is always open.



South Carolina Recipe for Peanut Butter Cake



½ cup butter
½ cup peanut oil
2 cups granulated sugar
5 egg yolks
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup buttermilk
1 cup crunchy peanut
butter
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 can (3 ½ oz) coconut
5 egg whites

Heat over to 350 degrees.
Grease three 9-inch round
cake pans. Into large bowl,
measure all ingredients
except egg whites. Beat on
medium speed until well
mixed. Whip egg whites
until stiff and fold into
batter. Pour batter into
pans and bake 25 minutes.
Cool layers in pans on wire
rack for 10 minutes.
Remove from pans and cool
on rack.

Icing Ingredients:

1 8 oz package cream
cheese
½ cup butter
1 box confectioner's sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla

1/3 cup chopped parched
(roasted) peanuts

Whip cream cheese and butter
until fluffy, gradually add
confectioner's sugar and vanilla.
Ice cake layers, and garnish top
with peanuts.

--- Author unknown

Driving a School Bus on School Grounds



The school bus driver should
always stay alert and proceed
slowly (not to exceed 10
mph) and cautiously while
driving a bus on school grounds.
If an emergency occurs, an alert
driver may be able to prevent a
disaster by bringing the slowed
vehicle to a quick stop in a short
distance.

Bus drivers should not deactivate
traffic warning lights and stop
arm when loading or unloading
pupils on school driveways.

Driver shall not pass other school
buses while they are loading or
unloading.

School bus drivers should leave the school in a safe and orderly manner without following other school buses too closely.

Tailgating is unsafe and illegal.



Congratulations Chesterfield County!

Chesterfield County has been notified that it will be receiving the 2006 Governor's Transportation Safety Award in the category of Pupil Transportation Safety. The award will be presented in Blacksburg on May 10, 2006, during the Annual Conference on Transportation Safety.