

The Voice and Vision for Pupil Transportation in Virginia



VAPT MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bill Carr

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A Message from our President, Michael Ashby...

Dear VAPT Colleague:

Hopefully, we are at the end of the snow season and for those who have the responsibility of getting up early in the morning and driving over all those lonely roads, we will be able to look back at this season and say, hopefully, never again. For those of us in Transportation, our day starts early and ends late. Many times we find ourselves going from one problem to another. We have buses that break down, bus drivers who call in sick, parents who are upset with whatever or children that take the wrong bus home and it is up to Transportation to find them. Now, we must do more with even less dollars for the next school year, which means less school buses and probably fewer Transportation employees.

This past weekend, I heard that some sectors of the economy are starting to pickup. Whenever there is a downturn in the economy, the private sector is affected first followed by the public sector and the opposite is true once the upturn begins. I don't believe that we will ever go back to the days of having pretty much what we want. For now, we will do what needs to be done and that is transporting our students to the best of our ability. As I left for work this morning, the sky was blue and with not a cloud to be found, I turned on the radio and heard the forecast calling for possible heavy snow showers tomorrow night. Will it never end? Have a great day.

Michael Ashby



VIRGINIA'S "BEST" SCHOOL BUS TECHNICIAN

VAPT is pleased to announce **the first statewide competition to identify the "Best" School Bus Technician.** The competition will consist of a Written Exam and a Hands-On Exercise.

WHEN: Wednesday April 7, 2010. Competition starts at 9:00 A.M.

WHERE: Sonny Merryman, Inc,
5120 Wards Road
Evington, VA 24550

ELIGIBILITY: Competition is limited to one participant from each School Division (or City/County/Contracted Maintenance Operation, responsible for school bus maintenance). All participants must be currently employed as a School Bus Technician (or equivalent title), working full time with primary duties of school bus maintenance and service.

COMPETITION:

To Register; complete the Competition Registration Form and return it to:

Mr. Robert Clinebell

1612 New York Ave

Virginia Beach, VA 23454-4623

Registration Forms can also be faxed to (757) 491-3267 or emailed to:
Robert.Clinebell@vbschools.com

Registration Forms must be received by Wednesday March 24, 2010

2010 VAPT School Bus Road-e-o



The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (VAPT) is pleased to announce that the Twenty-sixth annual VAPT School Bus Road-e-o will take place on June 22, 2010. The location site for the event will be James River High School in Chesterfield, Virginia.

VAPT will sponsor all three events Transit, Conventional and Special Needs during the annual state conference in June.

Reminders for this year:

- Please inform your contestants that they will need to register at the road-e-o location site 30 minutes prior to the event starting. **Road-e-o competition will start promptly at 8:00 a.m.**
- Localities with entries in the competition are asked to provide one or more judges.
- Please complete the entry form found on the VAPT web site, www.VAPT.org with the contestant and judge's information and return to Sharon Utley no later than Friday June 4, 2010.

Trophies will be presented to first, second and third place winners from each event (conventional, transit, special needs) following completion of the Road-e-o. The first and second place winners will be eligible to participate in the national event.

Details for the national event will be forwarded to participating localities at a later date.

[Transit Road-e-o](#)

[Conventional Road-e-o](#)

[Special Needs Road-e-o](#)

If you have any question or concerns regarding any of this information please contact a committee member: Sharon Utley (804) 743-3605, Cris Sprouse (757) 263-1563, Joyce Keech (757) 263-1557 and Lonnie Reavis (757) 925-5572

Please contact [Sharon Utley@ccpsnet.net](mailto:Sharon_Utley@ccpsnet.net) for additional or specific information.

DIRECTIONS to Road-e-o Site:

James River High School

**3700 James River Road
Midlothian, VA 23113**

**Telephone: (804) 378-2420
Fax: (804) 379-2695**

IF ARRIVING FROM THE SOUTH:

Take I-95 North to Exit 62, Route 288 North (Chesterfield/Midlothian) to Huguenot Trail/Robious Road (Rt.711) exit. Bear right and go approximately 2 miles. Turn left at the second light, James River Road. James River High School will be the second building on the left.

IF ARRIVING FROM THE EAST:

Take I-64 West to Route 288 South (Chesterfield Exit #288) exit and follow that to the Huguenot Trail/Robious Road (Rt.711) exit. Turn left at light and go approximately 2 miles to the second light and make a left onto James River Road. James River High School will be the second building on the left.

IF ARRIVING FROM THE NORTH:

Take I-95 South to Exit 84B (295/64W to Charlottesville). Take Exit 288 South (Chesterfield) and follow that to the Huguenot Trail/Robious Road (Rt.711) exit. Turn left at light, go approximately 2 miles and take a left at second light onto James River Road. James River High School will be the second building on the left.

IF ARRIVING FROM THE WEST:

Take I-64 East; to Exit 175, Route 288 South (Chesterfield) to the Huguenot Trail/Robious Road (Rt.711) exit. Turn left at light, go approximately 2 miles to the second light and make a left onto James River Road. James River High School will be the second building on the left.



Have you taken the time lately to check out www.VAPT.org web site?
You will find a lot of informative material regarding pupil transportation.



WHY?

1. Why, is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?
2. If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?
3. If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?
4. Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?
5. Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
6. Why do "tug" boats push their barges?

Please send Bill Carr, feb945@yahoo.com, input for future newsletters; i.e. promotion, wedding, birth, death, retirements, and special events announcements, photographs, school bus safety articles, and anything else you believe may be of interest to the members. If you would like to include your name it will be mentioned as submitting the information otherwise, no name will be given.

Sweet and Crunchy Nuts



- Serves: 8
- Prep Time: 5 Minutes
- Cook Time: 30 Minutes

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees F. Spray a 15- x 10- x 1-inch pan with cooking spray.
2. Combine pecans, walnuts, and almonds in a mixing bowl; add egg white, tossing to coat.
3. Combine SPLENDA[®] Granulated Sweetener and cinnamon; sprinkle over nuts, tossing to coat. Spread mixture evenly in prepared pan.
4. Bake 30 minutes or until nuts are toasted, stirring every 10 minutes. Cool on waxed paper. Store in an airtight tin.

Ingredients

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup pecan halves
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup walnut halves
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup whole blanched almonds
- 1 egg white, lightly beaten
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup SPLENDA[®] No Calorie Sweetener, Granulated
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Did you know? Because celery is so low in calories, chewing and digesting just one stalk can burn slightly more calories than you ingest.

Sweet Hot Chocolate

Prep Time: 5 minutes Cook Time: 5 minutes Serves: 2

INGREDIENTS:

8 packets Splenda, 3 tablespoons of cocoa, 2 cups 2% reduced-fat milk



Husband Down!

A husband and wife are shopping in their local Wal-Mart. The husband picks up a case of Budweiser and puts it in their cart.

'What do you think you're doing?' asks the wife.

'They're on sale, only \$10 for 24 cans,' he replies.

'Put them back, we can't afford them,' demands the wife, and so they carry on shopping.

A few aisles further on along the woman picks up a \$20 jar of face cream and puts it in the basket.

'What do you think you're doing?' asks the husband.

'It's my face cream. It makes me look beautiful,' replies the wife.

Her husband retorts: 'So does 24 cans of Budweiser and it's half the price.'

On the PA system: 'Cleanup on aisle 25, we have a husband down.'

VIRGINIA BEACH'S NEWEST SCHOOL BUS (GREAT IN SNOW)



And then it is Winter

You know, time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years.

It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. And yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went.

I know that I lived them all..

And I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams... But, here it is -.the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise... How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well...seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like... But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting gray...they move slower and I see an older person now. Lots are in better shape than I... but, I see the great change... Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant... but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore...it's mandatory! Because if I don't on my own free will, I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so, now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!!

But, at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last...this I know, that when it's over...it's over....Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done, the things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime....

So, if you're not in your winter yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!!

Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life...so, live for good today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember... and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!! 'Life is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after.

Make it a fantastic one.' **LIVE IT WELL!!----ENJOY TODAY!!!!-----**

DO SOMETHING FUN!!!---- BE HAPPY!!!----BE THANKFUL!!!!!!



We were saddened to learn of the passing of Richmond T. Zehmer, Jr. on Saturday, February 13, 2010. Rich worked at the VDOE for a period of his work career. He helped to develop and implement the original PM manual during his tenure with Pupil Transportation.

Richmond Thweatt Zehmer, Jr., 75, of Petersburg, passed away Saturday, February 13, 2010. Born and raised in McKenney, VA. He attended Randolph-Macon College and graduated from Virginia Tech in 1957. A retired Virginia Department of Education employee, he was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, a former member of the Petersburg Rotary Club, and a devoted Virginia Tech sports fan. Rich is survived by his wife and sons and grandchildren, brother, numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. A funeral service was conducted at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 110 Union Street, Petersburg. Interment was followed at Asbury Memorial Cemetery, McKenney, VA. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund, P. O. Box 10307, Blacksburg, VA 24062-0307. Condolences may be registered at www.jtmorriss.com.

He will be missed.

\$2,500 SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE

While Virginia public school seniors planning ways to finance tuition, books or fees for their upcoming post-secondary education this fall are discovering that “money doesn’t grow on trees”; children of parents or grandparents employed in the public school pupil transportation field (past or present) are discovering they have a source of scholarship money available **EXCLUSIVELY** to them.

For the 15th consecutive year the Clyde W. Morris Memorial Scholarship is again available to a deserving student in the Commonwealth to cover education expenses at a postsecondary educational institution.

Established in 1995, funded by **VAPT** and named in memory of a former Virginia public school Supervisor of Transportation, the Clyde W. Morris Memorial Scholarship is this year providing \$2,500 to one student whose parent or grandparent may be a school bus driver, aide, monitor, mechanic, parts clerk, foreman, manager, trainer, supervisor, inspector, or director.

Eligibility for the Clyde W. Morris Memorial Scholarship requires local school division elimination. Applications must first be submitted to local school divisions where a local finalist shall be selected. The local finalist’s application is then submitted to the VAPT Scholarship Committee no later than Friday, April 30, 2010 for judging. Only one application from each school division will be judged at state level.

“Let’s get the word out about this scholarship” says Linwood Horne, VAPT’s Scholarship Committee Chairperson. “Talk it up around the office and in the field. Write about it in your local newsletter and post it on your office bulletin board. Let’s make getting the word out a real priority”, says Horne.

More information about the Clyde W. Morris Memorial Scholarship, together with an application, may be downloaded from the VAPT website, www.VAPT.org

Scholarship questions may be directed to Linwood Horne at 804-365-6520.