

THE VOICE AND VISION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION



MAY 2005

Editor: Bill Carr (Virginia Beach)

A Message from our President, Velera Gammons...

While reflecting on what I wanted to cover in my message to you, the word “hope” came to mind. I believe without hope we are open to a defeatist attitude and a life full of anxiety and stress, regardless of how hard we work. Too often, hope is merely a word to some people, but with a person’s belief - hope is powerful. We need to know the meaning of hope so we can keep it alive in our lives. As professionals in pupil transportation we daily strive to provide our counties and cities with a safe and efficiently run school bus service. In so doing, we work diligently and with hope that our efforts will be successful in meeting the needs of the public.

The annual VAPT/VDOT Pupil Transportation Conference will be held next month in Hampton. This may be the most significant means for you to develop your abilities, share your knowledge and other information, and gain valuable insight from other professionals. You will find this edition of the newsletter to be pretty much dedicated to providing information about the conference. Hopefully, you have already registered on-line via the NAPT web site.

I hope to see you at the conference!

Velera

VAPT website: www.pen.k12.va.us./VDOE/Finance/VAPT

HANOVER COUNTY *NEWS*...



Margaret Gray, Hanover County's school bus driver with the most years of service began her 51st year this year driving school buses. Mrs. Gray loves children and it reflects in her job. She plans to return in September, much to our gladness.



Notice how the Virginia school buses have changed through the years. The top of the page bus has SCHOOL BUS – STOP STATE LAW lettered on the front and rear and only one red warning light at the driver's windshield and on the rear above the left turn signal and brake light. Now, take a look at the above one she drives. Only SCHOOL BUS in 8" high letters on the front and rear of bus, 2 amber and 2 red warning lights (front and rear), crossing mirrors, crossing gate, better visibility, especially the service door.



**2005 VAPT/VDOE
ANNUAL PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE
June 19-22, 2005**

Location:

Holiday Inn Hampton Hotel and Conference Center
1815 Mercury Boulevard
Hampton, VA 23666
Located adjacent to I-64 at the Mercury Boulevard exit

**The theme of this year's conference is;
"A Safe and Secure Pupil Transportation System."**

REGISTERING for the VAPT/DOE Conference may be done one of two ways as explained below:

1. On-line: For the first time, NAPT (National Association for Pupil Transportation) is handling registration for our Annual Pupil Transportation Conference. You may register up to 10 people at a time and using a credit card or Purchase Order (PO) – at NAPT's Web Site NAPT.org then to the VAPT icon at the bottom of the page.
2. Or you may still register by mail. Just fill out all necessary forms; prepare checks for everything, including membership; **make checks payable to NAPT**; and mail everything to the following address:
NAPT
1840 Western Avenue
Albany, NY 12203



Schedule of Daily Events

The following is a brief summary of activities – you should review your conference program for details.

Sunday, June 19th

- Exhibitor's Displays
- Bryan W. Morris, Sr. Memorial Golf Tournament
- Conference Registration AND VAPT Shirt Sale
- NAPT Professional Development Courses
- President's Reception
- Reception [sponsored by VAPT](#)
- VAPT Executive Board Meeting

Monday, June 20th

- Conference Registration AND VAPT Shirt Sale
- Exhibits
- Continental Breakfast [sponsored by VAPT](#)
- Welcome VAPT Members
- Spouses, Guests, and Children will gather in a special room in the Holiday Inn for light refreshments, door prizes, and possible tours. **[This is a new conference activity coordinated by Linda Shaffer and Jeanette Mitchell for Monday and Tuesday mornings.](#)**
- VAPT First Business Meeting presided by President, Velera Gammons
- First Opening General Session
- Keynote Topic and Presenter:
"System Security Awareness for Transportation Employees"
John Green – California State Director of Pupil Transportation
- School Bus Road-e-o
- Lunch [sponsored by COMMONWEALTH BUS SALES/subsidiary of VIRGINIA TRUCK](#)
- Family Night Barbeque Dinner: Buses depart from the Hotel at 5:30 PM. [Sponsored by SONNY MERRYMAN, INC. and THOMAS BUILT BUSES](#)

Tuesday, June 21

- Technicians' Workshops (badge required)
- Conference Registrations
- Topics and Presenters during Second General Session:
 1. "Industry Outlook – New Technology, New School Buses"
Claude Reid, Bus Sales Mgr. Commonwealth Bus Sales, Blue Bird;
Gary Vandermolens, Director of Product Development, IC Corp;
Tom Schaaf, National Sales Mgr., Thomas Build Buses
Moderator: David Pace
 2. "Homeland Security and School Buses"
Ken Clark, Terrorism Training Manager Emergency Management Services (EMS)
Moderator: Michael Ashby
 3. "School Buses and Natural Disasters"
William Sammler, Warning Coordination Meteorologist National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and National Weather Service
Moderator: Kermit Shaffer
 4. "Power Lines – What School Bus Drivers Should Know"
Dominion Virginia Power
Moderator: James Day
 5. "Gangs in Virginia – What You Need to Know"
Investigator, Randy Crank, Norfolk Police Department
Moderator: Barbara Scott
 6. "Bullying"
Karl Kalber, Chesterfield Department of Mental Health
Moderator: James Ransom
 7. "Edulog 'Users Group' Workshop"
Edulog Staff
Moderator: Tom Williams
- VAPT Shirt Sale
- Continental Breakfast [sponsored by SURE-LOK, TRANSPEC, BRAUN, TRANSAIR, and VAPT](#)
- Second day for Meet and Greet Activity for spouses, guests, and children
- Second VAPT Business Meeting

- Ice Cream Social during lunch sponsored by WESTERN BRANCH DIESEL and ALLISON TRANSMISSION
- Break Out sessions
- Reception sponsored by KINGMOR SUPPLY, INC. and IC CORP
- Banquet:
 - Dinner
 - Presentation of Contest Winners
 - Dance sponsored by KINGMOR SUPPLY, INC and IC CORP

Wednesday, June 22

- Breakfast sponsored by KINGMOR SUPPLY, INC and IC CORP
- Remarks by Gary Vandermolens, Director of Product Development, IC Corporation
- Topics:
 1. “National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures” Update
 2. “Lessons Learned” VCU, Crash Investigation Team
 3. Department of Education, Pupil Transportation Service Updates
- Announcements and Door Prizes
- President, Velera Gammons will adjourn conference

The above information is subject to change prior to the conference, so please review your copy of the conference program for details regarding daily presentations and other events.

Hand washing for Health

The most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick is to wash your hands often. By frequently washing your hands, you wash away germs that you have picked up from other people, contaminated surfaces, or from animals or animal waste. It is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of colds and infectious diseases.

Source: CDC National Center for Infectious Diseases

NEWS from REGION VIII...



Jim Wagner, Director of Transportation for Halifax County Schools is retiring this June. He was awarded the plaque shown in the above photograph at the recent Regional VIII meeting in appreciation for his 19½ years service. Congratulations Jim!

VIRGINIA BEACH *SHAREP* - - -

The Virginia Beach City Public Schools Transportation Department utilizes the following information received from the document school bus drivers submit to the office for reporting violators of the school bus stop law. The completed form is copied upon receipt for our records and forwarded to the Virginia Beach City Police Department for their response.

- Bus #
- Date of incident
- Location of incident
- Time violation occurred (include AM or PM)
- Direction vehicle approached stopped school bus
- Description of the vehicle
- School bus completely stopped?
- Amber warning lights activated the prescribed distance before the pupil stop?
 - 150 feet if posted speed limit is less than 35 mph
 - 300 feet if the posted speed limit is 35 mph or greater
- Stop arm extended and Red, flashing warning lights in operation immediately upon stopping?
- School bus driver sound the horn before the motorists failed to stop?
- Comments
- School Bus driver's signature
- Date violation document was submitted to Transportation
- The school bus driver is responsible for obtaining all information contained on this report.

National Weather Service Hurricane Outlook for 2005

NOAA's [2005 Atlantic hurricane season outlook](#) indicates a 70% chance of an above-normal hurricane season, a 20% chance of a near-normal season, and only a 10% chance of a below-normal season. This outlook is produced by scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center (CPC), Hurricane Research Division (HRD), and National Hurricane Center (NHC). See [NOAA's definitions](#) of above-, near-, and below-normal seasons.

The outlook calls for 12-15 tropical storms, with 7-9 becoming hurricanes, and 3-5 of these becoming major hurricanes. The likely range of ACE index is 120%-190% of the median. This prediction reflects a very likely continuation of above-normal activity that began in 1995.

The predicted 2005 activity reflects 1) an expected [continuation of conditions associated with the tropics-wide multi-decadal signal](#), which has favored above-normal Atlantic hurricane seasons since 1995, and 2) an expected continuation of [warmer sea surface temperatures in the tropical Atlantic Ocean](#) than can be accounted for by the multi-decadal signal alone. The outlook also reflects the expectation of ENSO-neutral conditions (no El Niño or La Niña) during August-October, the peak months of the hurricane season. An updated Atlantic hurricane outlook will be issued in early August.

You can go to the full website @ <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/outlooks/hurricane.html>

Web Curator Still Needed

If you or a member of your staff are savvy with HTML or other Web handling tools, VAPT could use your help to keep our web site up to date. Contact Tim Parker in Fairfax t tparker@fcps.edu if you are interested.