

The Voice and Vision for Pupil Transportation in Virginia



November

2014

President's Message



Pupil transportation is an interesting and complex industry, filled with fun, joy and challenges on a daily basis. I am excited and honored to serve as the President of our premier state organization. As we embark into another school year, let us show the world our excellence in our profession; learn from past mistakes and set forth to provide safe transportation to the thousands of students in the Commonwealth.

The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (VAPT) serves as the voice and vision for pupil transportation in the state of Virginia and is a valuable resource for personal development, networking to solve problems and issues that arise, making efficiency improvements in your organization and collaborating with fellow colleagues on projects that benefit all of those in the transportation field. VAPT works closely with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to provide its members the most recent, up to date information and training to keep us prepared and ready to deal with the multitude of changes and challenges that may come our way. Our success relies heavily on our membership and the skills and talents they bring to the organization. If you are not already a member, I ask that you do consider becoming one. Your ideas and contributions will make our organization stronger and your service will help ensure that we continue to provide the safest mode of ground transportation on the planet.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you. Thank you for all that you do for our children. Have a safe and productive school year.

Lonnie Reavis

VAPT President

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VAPT Hall of Fame-Thank You

Dr. Barbara Goodman

In a moment, I lost what little composure I usually possess and I don't believe I thanked Fred Valentine, chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee and its members, the VAPT Board and the VAPT membership for their support of my induction into the Hall of Fame. Most importantly, I want to thank Cheryl Fisher publically. She had enough confidence in my accomplishments and the role I have played in VAPT to nominate me for such a prestigious award.

VAPT is a vibrant organization and I, along with other members, have been with VAPT during the lean years and can attest to how far we've come. VAPT truly is the Voice and Vision of pupil transportation in Virginia. I am humbled and honored to be the 2014 recipient of the VAPT Hall of Fame honor and I pledge my continued support of the organization in any way possible. The best is yet to come.

Pupil Transportation Leader Don Carnahan Passes

Source: School Bus Fleet 10/06/14



RENTON, Wash. — School bus industry stalwart Don Carnahan, a Zonar executive who was serving his second term as president of the

National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT), has passed away.

Carnahan, 75, died suddenly at his home in Renton on Friday night.

In an interview with *SBF*, NAPT Executive Director Mike Martin described Carnahan as “not just a great president, but a great mentor.”

Few people in pupil transportation could claim such diverse experience in the industry as Carnahan. He served as a state pupil transportation director for Washington, then as a regional director for school bus contractor Laidlaw.

While at Laidlaw, Carnahan served his first term as NAPT president, from 1997 to '99. Also, in 1990, he chaired the 11th National Congress on School Transportation.

Most recently, Carnahan worked for fleet management solutions supplier Zonar as vice president of business development for pu-

pil transportation.

At last year’s NAPT Summit in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Carnahan began his second, two-year term as president of the association. During both of those terms — as well as during the years in between, as Carnahan continued to attend every NAPT board meeting — Mike Martin worked closely with Carnahan as the association’s executive director.

“When you reflect on Don as not just a transportation professional but as a human being, he was kind of larger than life,” Martin told *SBF*. “Don was thinking and talking about issues that we’re still talking about today, 30 years ago. He was always in the vanguard.”

As an example, Martin said, Carnahan recognized early on how technology like that developed by Zonar could be used to improve efficiency and safety in pupil transportation. Carnahan was also an early adopter of Apple Inc. products and attended some of the influential tech company’s first few conferences.

Carnahan was also credited for his commitment to building bridges across the school bus industry’s various sectors.

“Don had probably the broadest appreciation for collaboration of anyone I know,” Martin said. “That was one of the things he tried to teach me early on — the importance of all parties in the industry and of collaborating to make the industry stronger. That may ultimately be his greatest contribution to the industry.”

In 1990, while he was Washington’s state pupil transportation director, Carnahan was named *SCHOOL BUS FLEET*’s Administrator of the Year.

Pedestrians Most Likely Victims in Bus Crashes

Source: Richmond Times-Dispatch October 15, 2014

While the death of Tayshaun Gregory Glenn Jackson is tragic, it’s sadly not uncommon. In the United States, there are 500,000 school buses transporting more than 25 million students every day, according to AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Of those students, close to 19 school-aged children are killed in school transportation-related traffic accidents every year.

Two-thirds of those children killed—13—are pedestrians. Jackson, who was 20 months old, was struck and killed by a Danville Public Schools bus around 4 p.m. Monday on Martin Avenue. The bus, which serves Gibson Elementary School, had

dropped off two children in the neighborhood before the accident occurred, according to a news release.

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that from 2003 to 2012, there were more than 340,000 fatal motor vehicle accidents in the United States. Of those accidents, only 1,222—less than 1 percent—were related to school transportation, according to the study.

“Since 2003, 119 school-age pedestrians [younger than 19] have died in school transportation-related crashes,” according to the report. “Sixty-five percent were

struck by school buses. On average, eight school-age pedestrians are killed by school bus transportation vehicles each year.”

Danville Public Schools has bus transportation guidelines in place. According to the transportation plan, each driver must have a valid Virginia CDL license, a class B with air brake endorsements, pass drug and alcohol testing, pass a physical every year, complete both classroom training and behind-the-wheel training and complete a minimum of eight hours of in-service yearly.

According to the policy, any accidents involving “school buses, pupils and personnel

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who ride school buses" have to be reported within five days to the state supervisor of pupil transportation and it has to "give the apparent cause of the accident, the extent of the injuries to pupils or others and the amount of property damage."

In response to Jackson's death, interim

schools superintendent Kathy Osborne said in a written statement, "We express our deepest sympathy to the family who suffered this loss, and all of us in the Danville Public Schools' family share the grief associated with this tragedy."

The manner in which the toddler died

would be determined after the investigation was concluded because that is determined with a joint investigation between the police department and the medical examiner's office, Lt. Mike Wallace of the Danville Police Department said.

Virginia Beach School Bus Director is Approaching His Stop Source: PilotOnline.com



es transport more than 50,000 students daily, also has experienced the opposite end of the spectrum: no change at all.

The same struggles plague him year after year.

For Virginia Beach, like many divisions around the country, hiring bus drivers has been the biggest challenge.

Retirement is still three months away for David Pace, but his office is already packed up. No pictures or knickknacks adorn his desk, and the walls are bare. It may seem too soon to put things away, but in light of how long he has overseen the city's vast fleet of school buses, Jan. 30 is right around the corner.

Since Pace, 64, started as one of two transportation supervisors for the school division in July 1983, things have changed a bit.

Routes are no longer planned on cork-board with pins. School buses now have overhead hatches, two-way radios and cameras. That's part of the reason why the cost of what he affectionately calls a "yellow submarine" has more than tripled during his tenure. And now there's just one transportation director.

"It's night and day from how it used to be," he said.

Pace, who runs a system in which 750 bus-

Virginia Beach lost 83 of its 630 drivers last spring to other jobs and retirement.

"That has been a battle since I first got in this chair," he said. "It takes a special person to drive kids around."

The situation has eased since last year's shortage, he said. But as one problem gets solved, another pops up. Luckily, Pace may dodge one of the biggest ones - he's leaving right around when the chance of snow is highest in Hampton Roads.

Determining a weather delay is a routine Pace has mastered. Each supervisor in his office is assigned an area of the city on days when the weather is considered hazardous.

He heads into his office on Harpers Road around 3 a.m. while the others check road conditions. The final decision is almost bound to leave some people unhappy.

"We would rather err on the side of caution than doing something to endanger the

students," Pace said.

Days when school is canceled get the most attention, but the hardest decisions for Pace are the ones involving bringing students home from school early. He checks the weather and has to figure out if conditions will worsen or stay the same. After the call is made, he must take into account bus routes normally staggered over a two-hour period.

As careful as Pace is in his decisions, Beach school buses travel around 10 million miles per year, and accidents are bound to happen.

A man was struck and killed by a bus last year as he stood outside of his car after it broke down.

It wasn't the first time someone was killed in a crash involving one of Pace's buses.

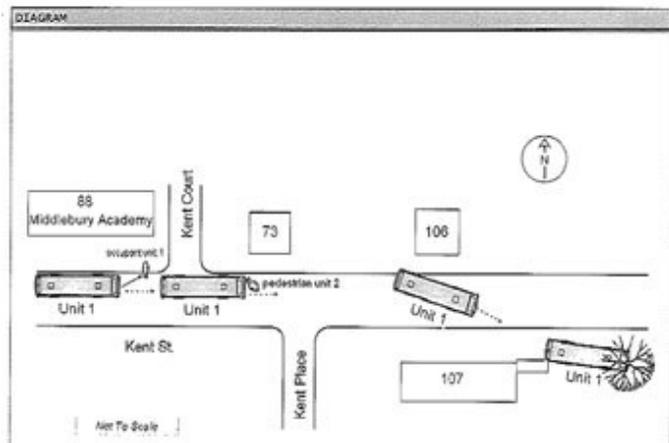
"That's what tears me apart," he said. "Those are the things you think about when you're retiring."

Pace formally leaves his position at the end of January, but he will be involved in the training of his successor.

"There's no way I could just walk away," he said. "I'm not going to just disappear."

Police Cite ‘Human Error’ in Drill Mishap That Killed Ohio Bus Driver

Source: School Transportation News October 28, 2014



One month after police began investigating the death of a school bus driver, they have concluded that “human error” by a student caused the bus to run over Laura Zborowski during a routine safety drill.

According to the Akron Police Department’s Oct. 22 traffic crash report, the accident occurred at 8:13 a.m. local time on September 16 Zborowski, 51, was treated at the scene, where she succumbed to her injuries.

Investigators previously said the other three bus drivers participating in the bus evacuation drill had already finished and departed the training site, located just outside of Middlebury Academy, a K-8 charter school. The report also states the bus was parked westbound in front of 88 Kent Street on a “straight” grade (see police diagram, above).

“The bus driver (victim) was having students participate in required evacuation drills from the rear emergency door. One occupant was on the bus when the brakes released and the bus started rolling backwards (eastbound). The student jumped

from the rear door and made it to the north sidewalk. The driverless bus continued eastbound when the victim, at the rear of the bus, was knocked to the ground at which time the right side wheels rolled over her,” according to the report.

Police believe a 10-year old student accidentally released the bus’ parking brake before exiting through the rear door. Zborowski has been hailed as a hero after witnesses and police said she threw the girl to safety before being dragged under the bus.

The police report also indicates Zborowski was outside the bus during the drill, which does not comply with the Ohio Revised Code. It also noted the bus drivers conducted the emergency evacuation drill on the road, rather than on school property as the state code requires.

The bus drivers work for Petermann Leasing, a subsidiary of National Express Corporation, which provides transportation for thousands of students statewide. A Petermann representative told STN the company has no comment at this time.

The Ohio Revised Code mandates schools conduct three emergency bus evacuation drills every year. Other ORC requirements include:

- The drill should take place on school grounds, not on a bus route.
- The bus driver must stay in the bus during evacuation drills.
- All drills must be supervised by at least one other staff member other than the bus driver.
- The parking brake must be on, the ignition off and the transmission set to gear or park.

VAPT Remembers



James “Jim” Jerome Ransom, Sr. passed on October 6, 2014. Jim was a familiar face at conferences and meetings over the years prior until his retirement in 2008. He was active in our association serving on the executive board and committees representing Region 1 and the City of Petersburg. He leaves an indelible mark of respect and admiration on those who were fortunate to work and serve alongside him. He was an innovative manager and became known state-wide for his efforts championing student and driver safety.

Dr. Goodman Retires from CCPS

Source: Village News August 20, 2014



Dr. Barbara Goodman has been an asset to Chesterfield County Public Schools Transportation Department for over 15 years. She retired in June of this year as the Associate Director of Pupil Transportation. This year alone, she had received the Hall of Fame award from the Virginia Association of Pupil Transportation and the 2014 Governor's' Safety Award in Pupil Transportation.

Dr. Goodman started her career at Dinwiddie High School as a physical education teacher and coach. She coached Dinwiddie softball to two State Championships, with the Virginia state record for winning percentage in softball, and a Tri-Cities Coach of the Year Award. After her teaching career she moved on to serve as the State Director of Pupil Transportation for the Virginia Department of Education for 11 years, then came to the Chesterfield County Pupil Transportation Department.

She has developed many programs over the years, including the pupil transportation curriculum, driver education curriculum for PBS TV, an alcohol awareness program which received national recognition from Reader's Digest, and staff development and training for school bus drivers and trainers.

Dr. Goodman received a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education from VCU, a Master's in Education from VSU, and a Doctorate in Vocational Education from Texas A & M. Dr. Goodman has made a huge impact in Chesterfield County in the Pupil Transportation department. Focusing on student and school bus safety, new bus driver training and recertification of current bus drivers, special needs transportation training, and the development of school bus driver curriculum; Dr. Goodman has given her all to Chesterfield County, its students, parents, and employees.

Laugh Often!



Highlights VAPT August 14, 2014 Executive Board Meeting

1. Conference Recap - Overall evaluation results were reviewed and discussed. The conference was well received by those in attendance. There were some comments about the structure of the business session and how it conflicted with different training sessions. The conference committee will meet before the next VAPT meeting in October to review and discuss conference concerns.
2. Love the Bus - David Pace requested feed-back on the new format used last year in which the event was held in 4 separate locations versus just one event in Richmond. Members agreed to continue this format. The board will also continue to provide the 4 locations/events will \$500.00 each to help secure the venues and with other expenses. A committee chairperson is being sought for the Northern Virginia region. If you are interested please contact your Region IV Director, Mr. Justin Sarver.
3. Shirt Sales - Floyd Miles reported VAPT sold \$2,033 in shirt sales. There is no need to order more shirts at this time. Shirts will be offered for sale on the VAPT website.
4. 2015 VAPT Conference – The conference will be held at the Hotel Roanoke in 2015.
5. 2016 VAPT Conference will be held in Richmond, VA

Constitution and By-Laws Commentary by BV Goodman (excerpts from Individual Rights - Our Exceptional Nation, J. Kenneth Davis, Richmond Times Dispatch, Sunday, June 15, 2014)

Prior to 1776, governments had been established and run for the benefit of the ruler..... of the ruler, by the ruler, for the ruler. When the "Founding Fathers" declared its independence, a new nation, founded on entirely new principles, came into being based on the proposition that the people themselves are sovereign.

The purpose of this new government was to recognize, respect and protect the pre-existing natural rights of the people. Part of the Declaration of Independence states, "...Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; . . ."

At the recent 2014 VAPT annual business meeting we had a lively exchange of passionate appeals regarding proposed changes to the By-Laws. The purpose of the dialogue when voting on

amendments to the constitution, or any VAPT business for that matter, should be to give the members information they need to make good, informed decisions.

VAPT needs all of us working diligently and collaboratively and moving in the same direction. I believe the discussions on the proposed amendments were excellent. The membership has spoken; now it's time to get back to the important work before VAPT. Even though I voted in the minority, my vote was counted. The outcome of the voting will have absolutely no effect on my devotion to , loyalty for, and willingness to serve the VAPT organization in any capacity for which I am capable. And, it is my opinion the individuals with whom I have worked in VAPT believe the same.

Keeping Your Bus Clean!

Enterovirus D68 is a virus that causes severe respiratory illness. Infants, children, and teenagers are more likely to become infected and get sick. You may become infected by having close contact with an infected person, or by touching objects or

surfaces that have the virus on them and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

It is imperative that your school bus is kept clean and sanitized, as possible. Wash your hands often. Wipe surfaces that may be frequently touched by students on your

bus. For more information on Enterovirus D68 refer to the website <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/index.shtml>