

# THE VOICE AND VISION OF VAPT

October 2005

Editor: Bill Carr

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b>
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## A Message from our President



### **Responsibility!**

Webster defines responsibility as a moral, legal, or mental accountability. As individuals working daily with the transportation of students, we all have a tremendous responsibility. It takes putting in long hours, making tough decisions, and constantly researching for the best ways to keep our students riding Virginia school buses safe.

This summer as we conducted “Train the Trainer” classes, we stressed “responsibility” over and over. We told trainers they must stress it with the drivers they train. We have a moral responsibility to handle situations as they occur in a professional manner. We have a legal responsibility to make sure all students are transported safely.

I am very proud to tell others I am a part of the pupil transportation service in Virginia. I have not seen a more dedicated group of people as you. Thank you for the job you do each day!

**VAPT WEB SITE: [www.VAPT.org](http://www.VAPT.org)**

## **OBSERVING THE CONDUCT OF CHILDREN:**

1. All children like to be treated with respect and courtesy.
2. They want adults to recognize their good traits and abilities.
3. Most of them dread to be singled out for disciplining.
4. A few students will make problems of themselves in order to gain attention and recognition.
5. Students who are willing to comply with regulations may become problems if the person in control of the group is too lax and indifferent toward gross violations of a few; or if the person in control appears unreasonable in his or her demands, or if he vacillates from extreme permissiveness one moment to extreme control the next.



John Hazelette is running for the Region 2 Director position with the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT). John is the Director of Transportation in Norfolk and has held various offices in VAPT including the position of president. Should John be elected for the position this would be a first for Virginia to have someone on the NAPT Board of Directors.

Dave Preston is back in the school bus business. He has recently been named as an AmTran Sales Representative for KingMor Supply. You may remember Dave from his days with Sonny Merryman Inc. or Colonial Ford. It is also very likely that you may have seen him working a NASCAR event.

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- Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.
- Laugh every day, it's like inner jogging.
- Growing old is inevitable, growing up is optional.
- There is no key to happiness. The door is always open.
- A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.
- He who dies with the most toys is still dead.
- We do not remember days, but moments. Life moves too fast, so enjoy your precious moments.
- Nothing is real to you until you experience it, otherwise it's just hearsay.
- It's all right to sit on your potty every now and again. Just be sure to flush when you are done.

- Be more concerned with your character than your reputation. Your character is what you really are while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

### Suggestions for monitoring the operation of school buses:

- Review driving record, annually.
- Supervisors should make on-the-road school bus driver observations on a regular basis by supervisors.
- Attend Crash Review Board meetings.
- Require drivers involved in a preventable accident to attend a mandatory Behind-the-Wheel training session.
- Document all telephone calls regarding school bus drivers and the driver's rebuttal and the action taken by the supervisor, if action was necessary.
- Establish a written policy regarding requirements for continued employment for a driver involved in a preventable school bus accident.
  1. First Preventable Crash:  
Behind-the Wheel training may be required with pay and disciplinary action may be taken.
  2. Second Preventable Crash within a 10 month period:  
Behind-the-Wheel training and classroom training attendance will be required, leave without pay for a given length of time, and possibly other disciplinary action.
  3. Third Preventable Crash within a 20 month period:  
Dismissal



## **WELCOME TO VIRGINIA**

### **(A little Southern History)**

In the South you will still hear “Yes Ma’m”, “No Ma’m”, “Yes Sir”, “No Sir” as expressions of respect to others and “Y’all to indicate the plural of you, i.e. Y’all come see us.” The South is a place where courtesy, charm and hard work continue to take place every day of our lives.

The South of today is where your children come home to say, “I didn’t realize how much I missed y’all until I left home.” We hope the South in the future will hold to the values, manners, morals, principles, and the good memories of past generations.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR....**

**The Annual Virginia Pupil Transportation Conference will be held at the Wyndham Hotel in Roanoke on June 19-Monday through June 22, 2006.**

**BRIEF HISTORY OF VAPT**



**1982**

**Officers:**

President:	Earl F. Stanley	Virginia Beach
President-Elect:	Robert A. Devers, Jr.	Loudon County
Secretary:	John R. Mothershead	Henrico County
Treasurer:	Rudolph H. Hull	Augusta County
<b><u>Directors:</u></b>	Frank C. Dixon	Fairfax County
	Chauncey L. Logan	Roanoke City
	Thomas J. Sine, Jr.	Frederick County
	John W. DuVall	Winchester

**Committee Chairman:**

Auditing	C. Timothy Parker	DOE
Constitution/By Laws	Donald Travitz	Chesapeake
Legislative	Nathan Young	Henrico County
Nominating	Abraham Bushrod, Jr.	King George County
Resolution	William G. Carr	Virginia Beach
Membership	Robert A. Devers, Jr.	Loudoun County

**The 6<sup>th</sup> annual VAPT Conference** was held at the Sheraton Patriot Inn in Williamsburg on October 17-19, 1982. Dr. E.E. Brickell, Superintendent of Virginia Beach City Public Schools was the keynote speaker for the opening session.

Presentations included:

- The 9 Liter Diesel School Bus
- Innovations
- Maintenance & Economics of Air Brake System
- Mini Computers

- Update on School Bus Refurbishing Program in Virginia
- Current Issues

During the VAPT business meeting, the Membership Committee reported 100 paid members, a decrease from the previous year with 137 members.

## **NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK**

### **OCTOBER 16 – 22, 2005**

What is your office doing to promote school bus safety in your school division? Have you notified all of your schools and school bus drivers? Have you provided them with ideas for recognizing this special week? Do you encourage the school administrators to set aside a day during this week to show their drivers their appreciation for the important role they have in the school?

Suggestions:

- Contact your local news media and radio/television stations to promote the purpose of National School Bus Safety Week. Have diagrams in the newspaper or flyers sent home from schools showing when motorists are required to stop for a school bus; i.e. at intersections, dual lane roadways with or without a median..... and the penalty for failure to stop as required.
- Contact all schools and suggest a daily reminder in their morning/afternoon announcements to cover various safety issue regarding riding a school bus, i.e. cross the roadway in front of the bus after the driver signals them to cross and they have looked for approaching traffic too. Stay seated while the bus is in motion. No eating or drinking on the school bus. There are other rules they should be reminded of that are listed at the front of the school bus.
- Does your department provide all schools with films related to school bus safety?
- Do your schools schedule a student assembly to review school bus safety topics? You may want to invite an officer from the Sheriff Department, State Police or city police to talk to the group. This would be a good time to show movies on school bus safety. Maybe you would like to invite parents to your high school assemblies since there should be an emphasis on the law regarding stopping for a school bus at the high school level.
- Schools may want to schedule school bus emergency evacuation drills during National School Bus Safety Week. Are the instructions that you provide the schools for conducting such a drill up-to-date?

**Let's do all we can in Virginia to get everyone's attention to their responsibility for school bus safety each day.**

