



Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation

The Voice and Vision for Pupil Transportation in Virginia
September 2010 Newsletter
Editor – Bill Carr

A Message from our President, Michael Ashby...

The 2009-2010 school year started and ended very quickly. It was a year that caught many of us in the state off guard with all of the snow and left many parents wondering if their children would ever go back to school. The school year finally ended and the temperatures that we have been experiencing make us wish that some of that cold weather would come back. We've spent a lot of time going over the bus routes, servicing the school buses and training and employing new drivers. In just a few weeks schools will commence and the cycle will start again. At your back to school driver in-service meeting take a moment to remind your drivers they are the first to see the children in the morning and the last to see them before they return to their parents. You may want to also reflect on how important our jobs are – transporting children.

The 2009-2010 VAPT/VDOE Pupil Transportation Conference took place on June 21-24, 2010 at the Koger Center in Richmond and from the stand point of registrations it was a success. The golf tournament, various informative classes, school bus road-e-o and lunch, the family night dinner on Tuesday, the banquet and dance on Wednesday night and the breakfast on Thursday, the last day of the conference contributed to the success of the conference. It was a great time and we could not have done all that we did without our supporting vendors. The trade show was also a highlight of the conference and next year we will have cash prizes that delegates can vie for by turning in sheets that show they spoke with each vendor. This was done at the Southeastern Conference in South Carolina and was a huge success.

There were several states that cancelled their conferences this year due to the economy. I feel we are very fortunate to have been able to continue with our conference and I hope next year we will have the same participation we did this year.

John Hazelette did a superb job negotiating rates with the Marriott Waterside in Norfolk where next year's conference will be held from Wednesday, June 22-Saturday, June 25, 2011. Let's count on VAPT making this a success as well. Thanks John.

Michael Ashby,
President



For twenty three million students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus. The greatest risk is not riding the bus, but approaching or leaving the bus. Before children go back to school or start school for the first time, it is essential that adults and children know traffic safety rules. NHTSA is committed to reducing school bus-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities through both behavioral programs and vehicle regulations. They are working to educate school bus drivers, students, parents, and other motorists about safe behavior that reduces the risk of being involved in a school bus-related crash. Additional information is available at <http://www.nhtsa.gov/School-Buses>



NHTSA has just released a new publication on national guidelines for selecting the safest school bus stops for students. Copies are available at <http://www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/buses/pdf/SelectingSchoolBusStopLocations.pdf>



SCHOOL BUS DRIVER DAY

Each year, the California State Assembly recognizes the hard and dedicated service provided by California School Bus Drivers. The State of California declares the fourth Tuesday in April as School Bus Driver Day in California.

TIPS ON SAFE DRIVING

- Always wear your seatbelt.
- Expect other drivers to make mistakes and think what you will do if a mistake does happen. For example, do not assume that a vehicle approaching a stop sign or traffic light is going to stop. And you should never assume a motorist is going to stop for your school bus red traffic warning lights and stop arm. Wait until they are stopped before you discharge the children or signal them to cross the street or highway. Always be ready to react if the driver does not stop.
- Always drive with your headlights on. A school bus is visible for nearly 4 times the distance with its headlights on even during daytime hours.
- Keep your eyes moving to notice what is happening all around your bus – not only checking the sides of the road but behind you by checking your mirrors every 6-8 seconds.
- In bad weather, if it is necessary to reduce one's speed, the brake should be applied slowly without making sudden moves. When making sudden moves it's much easier to lose control of your school bus. Stopping and turning should be done slowly.
- As you increase your speed you must increase your braking distance and following distance. *It is extremely important that you realize the importance of taking into consideration the weight of the school bus you are stopping.* You must increase your stopping distance and following distance more when there are passengers aboard the bus due to the added weight! Not only will you have the weight of the bus, but the added weight of the passengers, so keep in mind you will need a greater distance to safely stop the school bus than when the bus is empty.
- Always act and drive like a professional – remember you influence the image of Virginia school bus drivers.

The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation

The VAPT is the premier organization in Virginia dedicated to promoting safety, professionalism, and excellence within the pupil transportation industry. Membership is composed of school transportation personnel from both the public and private sectors from all districts in the state, personnel from the Virginia Department of Education - Pupil Transportation Service, and other members of the school bus industry.

2010-2011 Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairpersons

VAPT Officers

President	Michael Ashby	Hanover County
Vice-President	Dwight Elam	Mecklenburg County
Secretary	James Day	Manassas Park City
Treasurer	Kermit Shaffer	Spotsylvania County
Past President	David Pace	Virginia Beach City

VAPT Regional Directors

Region 1	Floyd Miles	Petersburg City
Region 2	James Lash	York County
Region 3	Dennis Newton	King George County
Region 4	Ed Bishop	Prince William County
Region 5	Charmane White	Albemarle County
Region 6	Rebecca Mummau	Montgomery County
Region 7	Tom Williams	Washington County
Region 8	Bill Mayhew	Charlotte County

VAPT Special Committee Chairpersons

Guest Activities	Linda Shaffer	Spotsylvania County
Procedural Manual	Barry Sudduth	Stafford County
Position Papers	Barry Sudduth	Stafford County
Technicians	Robert Clinebell	Virginia Beach City

VAPT Standing Committee Chairpersons

Auditing	James Lash	York County
Annual Conference	Michael Ashby Dwight Elam David Pace	Hanover County Mecklenburg County Virginia Beach City
Constitution & Bylaws	Tim Parker	Fairfax County
Legislative	Harold Grimes	Henrico County, Retired
Membership	Bertha Thomas	Surry County
Nominating	Linwood Horne	Hanover County
Resolutions	Michael Ashby	Hanover County
Scholarships	Linwood Horne	Hanover County
Hall of Fame	Bob Carter	Chesterfield County
School Bus Road-e-o	Sharon Utley	Chesterfield County
Conference Site Selection	John Hazelette	Norfolk City
School Bus Safety Poster Contest	Ann Pilson	Patrick County
Historian	Dwight Elam	Mecklenburg County
Newsletter Editor	Bill Carr	Virginia Beach City, Retired
Website	Tim Parker	Fairfax County

Note: The following committees were reassigned from Special Committees to Standing Committees: Hall of Fame, School Bus Road-e-o, Conference Site Selection, School Bus Safety Poster Contest, Historian, Newsletter Editor, and Website

VAPT History Quiz

1. Who was the first VAPT president and from which city or county school division was he the Director of Transportation?
2. Name the VAPT president who was an assistant supervisor with the VDOE before accepting a transportation position in Albemarle County Public Schools.
3. Name the person who was the VDOE Director of Pupil Transportation before going to a county school division.
4. Which public school's Director of Transportation was born in South Carolina?
5. Which retired public school's Director of Transportation was born in North Carolina?
6. Who was the first VAPT president to serve two consecutive terms?
7. Who was the first VAPT member chosen to be in the Hall of Fame?
8. Name the member(s) who drove a school bus while they were in high school and also the county or city where they drove?
9. When did VAPT become a reality? Look for the answers in a future newsletter!



DRIVING IN A DOWNPOUR

WINDSHIELD WIPERS

We are not sure why it is so effective; just try this method when it rains heavily. It is useful...even driving at night.

Most of the motorists would turn on HIGH or FASTEST SPEED of the wipers during heavy downpour, yet the visibility in front of the windshield is still bad. In the event you face such a situation, just try your SUN GLASSES (any model will do). All of a sudden, your visibility in front of your windshield should be perfectly clear, as if there is no rain. Make sure you always have a pair of SUN GLASSES in your car, as you are not only helping yourself to drive safely with good vision, but might save your and someone else's life. Try it yourself. Amazing, you still see the drops on the windshield, but not the sheet of rain falling. You can see where the rain bounces off the road. It works to eliminate the "blindness" from passing semi's spraying you too. Or the "kick-up" if you are following a semi or car in the rain. They ought to teach that little tip in driver's training.

USE OF THE CRUISE CONTROL

A 36 year old female had an accident several weeks ago and totaled her car.

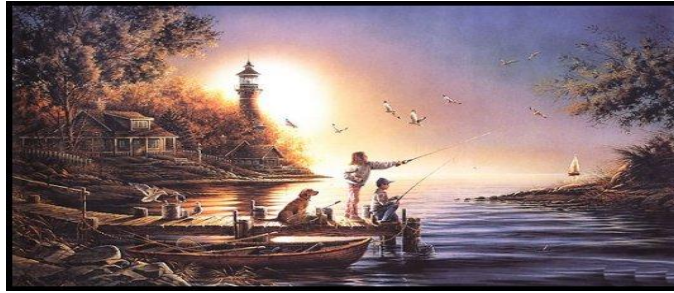
A resident of Kilgore, Texas she was traveling between Gladewater & Kilgore. It was raining, though not excessively, when her car suddenly began to hydro-plane and literally flew through the air. She was not seriously injured but very stunned at the sudden occurrence!

When she explained to the highway patrolman what had happened he told her something that every driver should know - NEVER DRIVE IN THE RAIN WITH YOUR CRUISE CONTROL ON. She thought she was being cautious by setting the cruise control and maintaining a safe consistent speed in the rain. But the highway patrolman told her that if the cruise control is on when your car begins to hydro-plane and your tires lose contact with the pavement, your car will accelerate to a higher rate of speed making you take off like an airplane. She told the patrolman that was exactly what had occurred. The patrolman said this warning should be listed, on the driver's seat sun-visor – NEVER USE THE CRUISE CONTROL WHEN THE PAVEMENT IS WET OR ICY, along with the airbag warning. We tell our teenagers to set the cruise control and drive a safe speed - but we don't tell them to use the cruise control only when the pavement is dry.

The only person the accident victim found, who knew this (besides the patrolman), was a man who had a similar accident, totaled his car and sustained severe injuries.

NOTE: Some vehicles (like the Toyota Sienna Limited XLE) will not let you set the cruise control when the windshield wipers are on.

Down Home Cooking in Alabama



Pot Likker Dumplings: 1 ham hock, turnip greens, 2 tbs. chopped onion, 2 12 cups cornmeal, ½ tsp. salt, 1 well beaten egg

Put turnip greens and ham hock in big pot and cook gently for about an hour. Season to taste. To make dumplings, combine cornmeal, onion, and salt. Add enough boiling pot likker from the turnip greens to make stiff dough. Cool slightly. Stir in the egg. Shape into small patties about half an inch thick. Lay patties gently on top of simmering greens, cover, and cook 10 to 15 minutes.

Lacy-edged corn cakes: 2 cups corn meal, 1 tsp. soda, 1 tsp. salt, 1 egg, 3 cups buttermilk

Break egg into bowl into which have been sifted together meal, soda, and salt. Add buttermilk, stirring to blend. Batter should be thin. Bake in small cakes on hot, greased griddle. Each cake should have a crisp, lacy edge.



A LITTLE HUMOR

WHEN I SAY I'M BROKE - I'M BROKE!

A little old lady answered a knock on the door one day, to be confronted by a well-dressed young man carrying a vacuum cleaner.

'Good morning,' said the young man. 'If I could take a couple minutes of your time, I would like to demonstrate the very latest in high-powered vacuum cleaners...

"Go away!" said the old lady. "I'm broke and haven't got any money!" and she proceeded to close the door.

Quick as a flash, the young man wedged his foot in the door and pushed it wide open... "Don't be too hasty!" he said. "Not until you have at least seen my demonstration."

And with that, he emptied a bucket of horse manure onto her hallway carpet.

Now if this vacuum cleaner does not remove all traces of this horse manure from your carpet, Madam, I will personally eat the remainder."

The old lady stepped back and said, "Well let me get you a fork, 'cause they cut off my electricity this morning."



Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement center were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says: 'Slim, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?' Slim says, 'I feel just like a newborn baby.' Really? Like a newborn baby!?' 'Yep, No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants.

A man was telling his neighbor, 'I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it is state of the art. It's perfect.' 'Really,' answered the neighbor. 'What kind is it?' 'Twelve thirty.

Three old guys are out walking. First one says, 'Windy, isn't it?' Second one says, 'No, it's Thursday!' Third one says, 'So am I. Let's go get a beer.

Regional Directors Meetings for 2010 - 2011

Region 1

Oct 12th	Hanover County	Feb 8th	Surry County
Nov 9th	Dinwiddie County	Mar 8th	Petersburg,
Dec 14th	Sussex County	April 12th	Henrico County
Jan 11th	Chesterfield County	May 10th	Prince George County

Region 2

August 10, 2010	Virginia Beach
October 12, 2010	Williamsburg-James City County
January 11, 2011	Norfolk
April 12, 2011	York County

More Region schedules will be listed in a future newsletter edition

VAPT WEB SITE

We are adding a PowerPoint Presentation from the National Safety Council on the subject of Distracted Driving to our RESOURCES PAGE at www.VAPT.org

Here are some of the main points to ponder...some may surprise you...but please see the entire presentation...This may serve as a good source of information to share at a driver in-service meeting to help reinforce why drivers of all vehicles need to avoid distractions.

Thanks are extended to Cheryl Fisher in Fauquier County for sharing...

- Distractions now join alcohol and speeding as leading factors in fatal and serious injury crashes.
- Cell phone users are 4 times as likely to crash. 28% of all crashes attributable to cell phones. Hands-free devices offer no safety benefit when driving. Cognitive distraction still exists with hands-free. Multitasking for the brain is a myth. Human brains do not perform two tasks at the same time. Just listening to sentences on cell phones decreased activity by 37% in the brain's parietal lobe which perceives movement, integrates sensory information and also has importance for language processing. We can walk and chew gum safely because it is not a cognitively-demanding task



WHEN BUSTER BYNUM WAS INDUCTED INTO THE “NAPT HALL OF FAME”

R. A. BYNUM, or "**Buster**" as his family, friends and professional associates throughout the pupil transportation industry know him, has been involved with school transportation since 1956. It's not surprising, then, that it seems like Buster has always been a forceful advocate for school bus safety.

Bynum began his career as the first full-time Supervisor of Pupil Transportation in Mecklenburg County, VA. Buster worked in Mecklenburg County for seven years before he joined the Virginia Department of Education on August 1, 1962 as Pupil Transportation Assistant Supervisor. Mr. Bynum was appointed Program Manager (state director) of Pupil Transportation in 1972 and served in that capacity until he retired nearly 20 years later in September 1991.

In the words of Virginia's then state director, Dr. Barbara Goodman, Bynum "reminds me of a Southern gentlemen - stately in his appearance, gracious in his manner and gentle in nature - until it comes to pupil transportation. Then, he becomes intense on issues he believes are important to pupil transportation and the safety of children." Buster advocated comprehensive driver training, improved railway grade crossing safety, and state of the art equipment specifications long before many of his peers. A classic example of his vision is exemplified in his work to prohibit the purchase of non-conforming vehicles in the late 1980's - more than a decade before the issue received widespread industry attention and support.

Although a variety of pupil transportation organizations have reaped the benefits of Buster's professional expertise, none has been dearer to him than the Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC). He has been SESPTC Treasurer since 1988 and, prior to that time, he served as President (1967 and 1987), Vice President (1966 and 1986), Secretary (1974) and Secretary/Treasurer (1985).

Except for several years when state travel was prohibited, Buster has also attended every NAPT conference. In fact, he was instrumental in securing funding and political support for the infant NAPT. After the Rural Education Division of the National Education Association (NEA) decided to forego assistance for the Association, Buster encouraged a variety of sponsors, including the State Directors Association, to join forces and move forward with a plan to strengthen the industry and its various constituencies. When Virginia hosted the NAPT and NASDPTS conferences in Norfolk, Buster was very involved on on-site and program planning as well as serving as a presenter during the NAPT program.

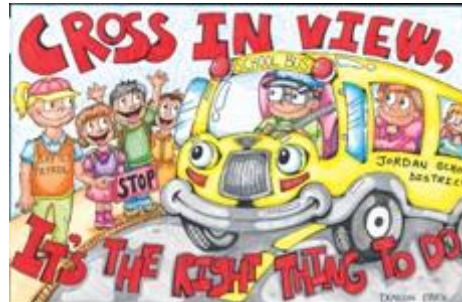
Source: NAPT, National Association for Pupil Transportation



NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK

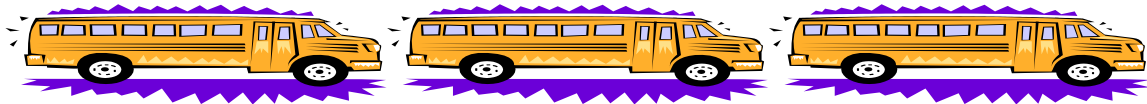
The 2010 National School Bus Safety Week theme is:

"Cross In View, It's the Right Thing to Do!"



The dates are:

October 18-22, 2010



The theme of National School Bus Safety Week, which is derived from the poster contest the year before, should not be confused with the Poster Contest theme. The Poster Contest information can be found below.

The 2010 National School Bus Safety Week Poster Contest theme is:

"Be Aware - Know the Danger Zone!"

Students should draw the theme listed above anytime between September 2009 and October 2010.

Please Note: The Poster Contest and Safety Week are two different events. The 2010 Poster theme becomes the 2011 National School Bus Safety Week theme and is an active and evolving public education program designed to promote school bus safety. This annual event is held during the third week in October each year.

Source: NAPT, National Association for Pupil Transportation

Region 2 Directors Meeting

The Regional 2 Director's meeting was held at 10 AM on August 10, 2010 in Virginia Beach, hosted by David Pace, Director of Transportation.

The meeting was attended by the following transportation leaders: Frank Hurst (Accomack County), Jimmy Brock (Chesapeake City), Ricky Blunt (Franklin City), James Bryant (Newport News City), Don Hammond (Norfolk City), John T. Veal, (Portsmouth), Steve Papas (Poquoson City), David Pace (Va. Beach City), Earl Tyler (Williamsburg-James City County), James T. Lash (York County).

AGENDA

Welcome

VDOE Updates

- Annual State Report Changes
- Regulations
- Specifications

Opening of School

- Driver Availability
- Salary changes
- School Bus Driver Physical Form
- Other Issues

Personnel Issues (Retaining v. terminating problem drivers, DMV reports, off-duty behavior of drivers, medical issues)

GPS Installations/problems

Budget 2011 Impact on Services

Regional Road-E-O Update

- Hampton Event

- Plans for 2011

VAPT Update

- State Conference June 2011
- Norfolk
- New Date and Days

NAPT Update

Non-Transportation Zones

Lunch

Round Table Discussions



TWO FRIENDS WERE WALKING THROUGH THE DESERT, DURING SOME POINT OF THE JOURNEY THEY HAD AN ARGUMENT AND ONE FRIEND SLAPPED THE OTHER ONE IN THE FACE

THE ONE WHO GOT SLAPPED WAS HURT, BUT WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING, WROTE IN THE SAND, TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE.

THEY KEPT ON WALKING, UNTIL THEY FOUND AN OASIS, WHERE THEY DECIDED TO TAKE A BATH. THE ONE WHO HAD BEEN SLAPPED GOT STUCK IN THE MIRE AND STARTED DROWNING, BUT THE FRIEND SAVED HIM.

AFTER HE RECOVERED FROM THE NEAR DROWNING, HE WROTE ON A STONE: 'TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE.' THE FRIEND WHO HAD SLAPPED AND SAVED HIS BEST FRIEND ASKED HIM, 'AFTER I HURT YOU, YOU WROTE IN THE SAND AND NOW, YOU WRITE ON A STONE, WHY?'

THE FRIEND REPLIED 'WHEN SOMEONE HURTS US WE SHOULD WRITE IT DOWN IN SAND, WHERE WINDS OF FORGIVENESS CAN ERASE IT AWAY. BUT, WHEN SOMEONE DOES SOMETHING GOOD FOR US, WE MUST ENGRAVE IT IN STONE WHERE NO WIND CAN EVER ERASE IT'

LEARN TO WRITE YOUR HURTS IN THE SAND AND TO CARVE YOUR BENEFITS IN STONE. THEY SAY IT TAKES A MINUTE TO FIND A SPECIAL PERSON, AN HOUR TO APPRECIATE THEM, A DAY TO LOVE THEM, BUT THEN, AN ENTIRE LIFE TO FORGET THEM.

The Importance of Walking

Walking can add minutes to your life. This enables you at 85 years old to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at \$7000 per month.

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.

I have to walk early in the morning, before my brain figures out what I'm doing.

I joined a health club last year, spent about 400 bucks. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to go there.

Every time I hear the dirty word 'exercise', I wash my mouth out with chocolate.

The advantage of exercising every day is so when you die, they'll say, 'Well, she looks good doesn't she.'

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

I know I got a lot of exercise the last few years ... just getting over the hill.

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads.

That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

AND

Every time I start thinking too much about how I look, I just find a Happy Hour and by the time I leave, I look just fine.

Source: Maxine

