



# The Voice and Vision for Pupil Transportation in Virginia

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**June Eanes, President**

## *President's Message*

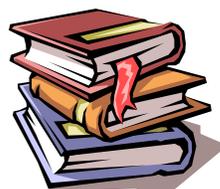
***Spring – Spring – please get here soon!!!!***

*With spring many exciting events happen through VAPT. The first event is the Special Needs Symposium, May 6-7, 2007, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Charlottesville. The rodeo will be held on Sunday and workshops on Monday. Information on this event will be sent to local school divisions within the next few weeks.*

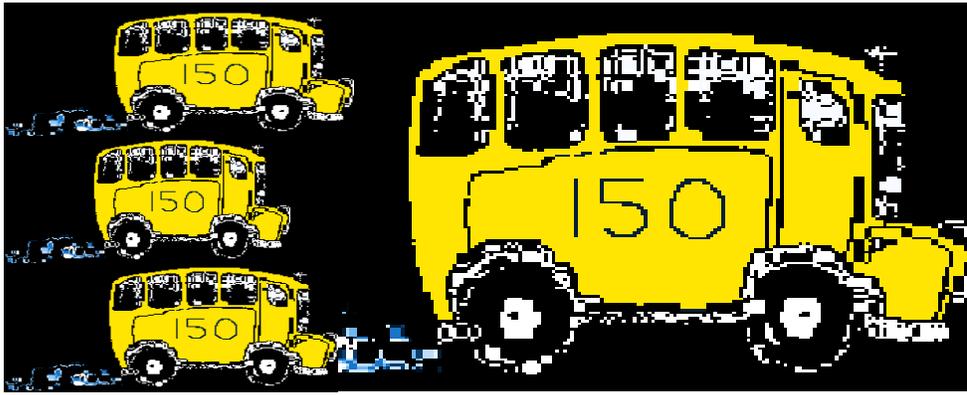
*The second event is the annual Pupil Transportation Conference. It will be held at the Holiday Inn Select – Koger Center in Richmond, June 18-21, 2007. We are currently working on the program and hope it will be a time of learning, fun, and making new friends. We will let you know when registration through NAPT is ready and when the reservation system for the hotel is open. It should be within the next few weeks.*

*I look forward to seeing you at these events. I also want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the support you have given me during my two years as President of VAPT. The organization wouldn't be what it is today if it wasn't for each of you and the time and support you provide.*

***See you soon!***



**Editor: Donna C. Carter  
Franklin County**



*The Tennessee Association of Pupil Transportation has plans to start a second letter writing campaign in 2007 requesting a postage stamp be designed that recognizes school bus drivers across the country. The initiative was outlined in the December NAPT Dispatch as well as on the NAPT web-site. Please encourage everyone to write a letter to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the United States Postal Service.*

### **NEWS RELEASE – PUPIL TRANSPORTATION SCHOLARSHIPS**

**AVAILABLE AT VIRGINIA TECH:** *Sonny Merryman, Inc. – is pleased to announce three \$2500 Pupil Transportation Scholarships at Virginia Tech will be awarded for the 2007-2008 academic year. Eligible students must be the child or grandchild of an individual who is employed in Virginia's pupil transportation community-school bus driver, technicians, administrative or Support staff. Deadline to complete forms is March 11, 2007. Directors check your e-mail Pass this great opportunity to your staff and guidance at your local high school.*



#### **Virginia Department of Education New Employee**

*Cynthia Newcomb-Transportation Specialist- Cynthia is a 35 year resident of South Boston in Halifax County, Virginia. She attended Longwood College and received a BA in Liberal Studies/Elementary Education NK-8. She was a teacher in Halifax and Henry County and has drove a school bus for 15 years. She drove a bus from Halifax County to the Piedmont Regional Governor's School in Chatham for the Gifted and Talented. She is a certified school bus trainer and accepted the position with the VDOE and moved to Richmond. Cynthia is looking forward to working in the pupil transportation area of public education. Her new e-mail is [cynthia.newcomb@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:cynthia.newcomb@doe.virginia.gov).*



## **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2007**

***2007 Annual Pupil Transportation Conference***

***June 18-June 21, 2007***

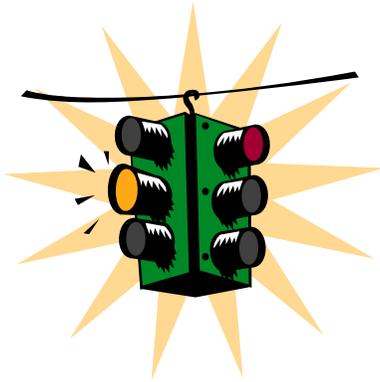
***Holiday Inn Select***

***Richmond-Koger South Conference Center***

***10800 Midlothian Turnpike***

***Richmond, Virginia 23235***

***Make plans to attend!!!!!!!!!!!!!!***



***VAPT sponsored***

***Special Needs Symposium***

***Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> and Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>***

***At the Doubletree in Charlottesville***

***New Faces in Pupil Transportation:***

***Morris Gill***

***Supervisor of Transportation***

***Botetourt County Schools***

***Graduated from Lord Botetourt High School***

***VWCC Auto Service Technology***

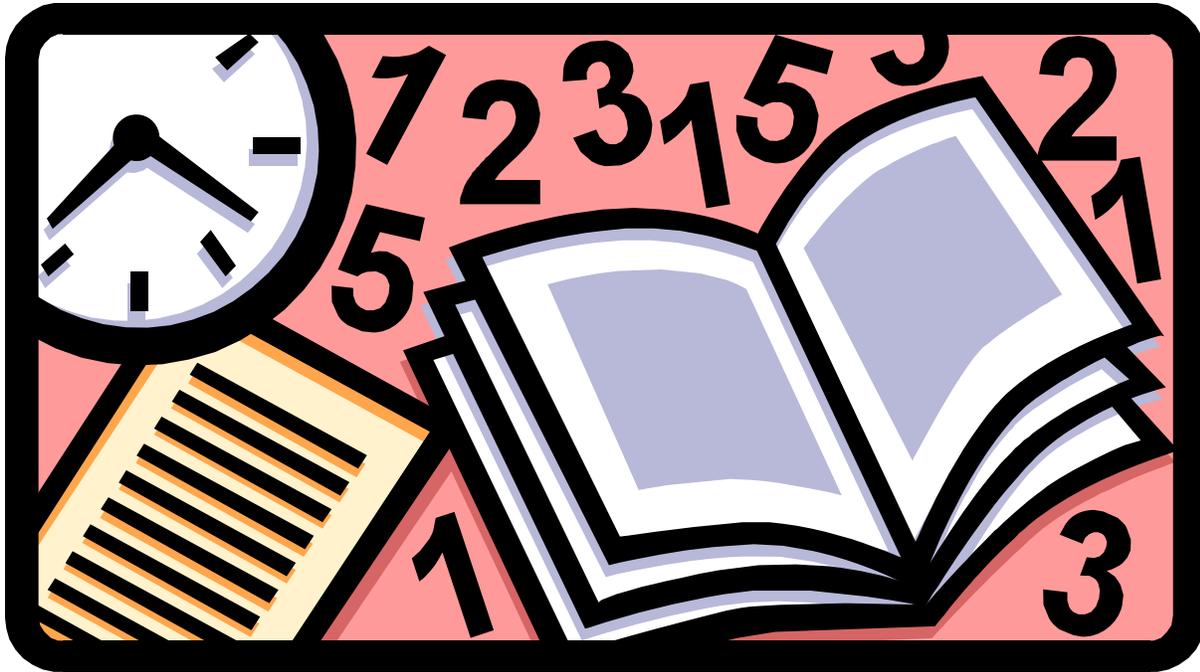
***VA TECH BS Career and Tech. Education***

***Radford University MS Educational Leadership***

***School teacher –15 years***

***Auto Service Technology, Botetourt Tech. Ed. Center***

***Welcome from all VAPT members! New Faces e-mail  
your information to [donna.carter@frco.k12.va.us](mailto:donna.carter@frco.k12.va.us).***



- NTSB Requesting Enhanced Protection for School Bus Passengers
- In its 1999 special investigation report on bus crashworthiness, the Safety Board found that current compartmentalization, because of its design, does not protect all passengers during lateral impacts with vehicles of large mass and during rollovers. The recommendations were for NHTSA to, within in two years, develop performance standards for school bus occupant protection systems that account for a variety of accident scenarios and, once these standards have been developed, require newly manufactured school buses to have an occupant crash protection system that meets the standards and retains passengers, including those in child safety restraint systems, within the seating compartment throughout the accident sequence. The Timeliness Classification was recently described in a subsequent NTSA release as: Acceptable (progressing slowly). Further details, including the texts of the specific safety recommendations in each issue area, summaries of federal agency actions, and the status of each recommendation can be found on the NTSB website at [www.nts.gov](http://www.nts.gov).



## ***That's What Friends are For!!***

Last Friday night, 3/2/07, I received a call from one of my drivers who had broken down with a group of our students. She was headed for Danville, VA, and had broken down near Lynchburg - at 11 PM.

Using the Emergency Contact List, I called Edward R. "Sonny" Witt, Jr., Director for Lynchburg City Schools. At 11:30 PM, I did not know what to expect. What I was hoping for was someone to help repair our bus or loan us a bus the following morning so our students could participate in their event.

Sonny would not hear of it. He got out of bed, drove to his facility, got a bus and drove it to the group, allowing our students to check into a motel for the night to get some sleep. He then asked our driver to follow him to his department, where he turned over his bus to her, parking the disabled bus. She returned to the motel with it and the group was able to leave early Saturday morning to get to their event on time.

Saturday morning, Sonny, and his chief mechanic, Steve Williams, along with Brady Childress of Sonny Merryman, Inc., repaired our bus, so that when the event was over our driver was able to drive it back to Frederick County.

When I called to thank Sonny, his response was that we're all in it together and we all help each other when we are in need. I am honored to belong to an organization made up of such professionals. That's what friends are for.