

The Voice and Vision for Pupil Transportation in Virginia



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Greetings Fellow Pupil Transportation Professionals:

Spring officially arrived this past week on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at 12:15p.m., however, for many of us, it doesn't quite feel like spring given the cold wintry-like conditions many have faced in recent weeks. Usually, this is a time to relax and take a moment from our busy schedules to enjoy spring break. I am looking forward to it considering all the cold, harsh weather we have faced this school year. In a matter of time, the weather will change and we will be seeking refuge from the hot, humid conditions of summer in the Commonwealth. The time for planning vacations, and days at the beach is quickly approaching.

Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation – Virginia Department of Education Professional Development Conference will take place in the Roanoke Valley area June 17-21, 2018. The host hotel is the **Sheraton Hotel Roanoke** where many activities and classes will take place. New this year—our General Session, Trade Show, and School Bus Road-E-O Competition is scheduled at the Berglund Center, which is located less than 10 minutes from the Sheraton Hotel. Shuttle bus services will be provided from the hotel to this location. We want to welcome everyone to our conference especially, New Directors. We encourage new Directors/Supervisors throughout the state to join us for an informative meeting Sunday evening, June 17th at the Sheraton Hotel. This is a great, beneficial orientation process where attendees will be provided with a conference overview as well as a meet and greet opportunity, allowing them to network with VAPT Officers and VA Department of Education personnel. The Annual Conference offers something for everyone including those who have been in the pupil transportation profession for years. Make sure to register soon to confirm your place to learn valuable transportation information. This conference is not just for Directors, though. There are technician and trainer classes and opportunities to mesh with other staff for several days in our beautiful state. I, along with our VAPT officers and board members, look forward to welcoming each and every one of you to our conference this June in Virginia's beautiful Roanoke Valley. Happy Spring!

James T. Lash
President, VAPT

VAPT Board Members

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Region 6: Mike Stovall, Roanoke Co.

Region 7: Gary Adams, Scott County

Region 8: Torey Holmes, Prince Edward Co.

Start Making Your Plans to Attend

VAPT CONFERENCE

2018

June 18-21, 2018
Roanoke, Virginia



Sheraton Roanoke Hotel & Conference Center
(Not to be confused with the "Hotel Downtown")
2801 Hershberger Road, Roanoke, VA, 24017
June 18-21, 2018

See the VAPT.org website for more information to register.



In
*Loving
Memory*



Richard Lee Proffitt
of Manassas, VA

October 29, 1955—February 5, 2018

Driver for Prince William County Public Schools Transportation Department



Virginia School Bus Driver Hit, Killed in Bus Parking Lot

According to NBC4 Washington staff writers, Julie Carey & Erica Jones, "A school bus driver in Prince William County, Virginia, died after he was hit by a bus Monday morning, (February 5, 2018) at the public school system's transportation center. Richard Lee Proffitt, 62, of Manassas, died after the driver of another school bus backed up and struck him, Prince William County police said. Proffitt had been standing behind the bus, police said. No children were on the bus at the time. Police responded to the McCuin Transportation Center in Bristow about 7:30 a.m. Proffitt was pronounced dead at the scene. The other driver, a 60-year-old man, was not hurt. Charges have not been filed at this time, according to police. The investigation into the crash is ongoing. "It is a terrible day, and the individuals here have lost a friend, a colleague and, really, a member of the family in some ways," said Phil Kavits, Prince William County Schools associate superintendent. Proffitt's wife and daughter also are school bus drivers and pick up their buses at a different lot. Counselors were sent to the transportation center and the schools where Proffitt delivered and picked up students.

"No charges were filed in this case", according to Prince William Times staff writers. "Investigators from the police department's crash unit consulted with the Prince William County Commonwealth's Attorney Office February 27th to review [the] incident. Prince William police spokesman Nathan Probus said in a news release, "Upon reviewing the evidence leading up to the accident, charges will not be obtained at this time.

Certainly the Transportation Communities throughout Virginia share respect and sadness to the Prince William County Transportation Department and Mr. Proffitt's family in this loss. As always, the VAPT encourages safety not only in the routes of every bus—but, also in every shop environment. Be observant and be aware that anything could happen.

Source:

<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/School-Bus-Driver-Struck-Killed-in-Bus-Parking-Lot-472743473.html>

http://www.princewilliamtimes.com/news/police-no-charges-filed-in-crash-that-killed-prince-william/article_c5f7908a-20bd-11e8-a80a-c37adc7e9368.html

Accomack School Bus Overturns, No Students Involved

On February 20, 2018, "Troopers responded to the scene of a school bus crash in Accomack County [which] was reported around 11:38 a.m. according to Sgt. Michelle Anaya of the Virginia State Police. A driver and aide were on the bus when it overturned on Neal Parker Road near Hallwood. No students were on board at the time. The crash happened when the bus ran off the roadway to the left and turned onto its side."



Source: <https://www.delmarvanow.com/story/news/local/virginia/2018/02/22/accomack-school-bus-virginia-state-police/363614002/>

Frederick County Public Schools Bus Rear-ended; All Ok

Mr. John Grubbs, Transportation Director of Frederick County Public Schools in Winchester, VA reported that the driver and students were not injured in this incident on February 2, 2018 at approximately 3:45 p.m. on Route 522 South near Stephens City, Virginia. The bus was in the process of stopping to unload students when a Ford Pickup lost control and rear-ended Bus 180 driven by Matthew Myers. The driver of the pickup had to be extricated and flown to a Northern Virginia hospital. No report on his condition.



Source: J. Grubbs, FCPS Transportation Director Interview



2018 Virginia Department of Education Pupil Transportation Training Schedule

We are pleased to announce the 2018 year classes for the School Bus Driver Instructor Training. This program is provided by the *Virginia Department of Education's Pupil Transportation Services.*

START DATE	Time	LOCATION	ADDRESS	END DATE	Time	CLASS TYPE
Monday, April 2	8:00	Frederick County Public Schools Transportation	2261 Front Royal Pike, Winchester Va. 22602	Thursday, April 5	4:00	Certification Train the Trainer
Monday, June 11	8:00	Roanoke County Public Schools Transportation	701 5637 Cove Road Roanoke Va. 24019	Thursday, June 14	4:00	Certification Train the Trainer
Monday, June 25	TBA	Richmond Va.	ONLINE Webinar	Thursday June 28	TBA	Re-certification
Monday, July 9	8:00	Virginia Beach Public Schools Transportation	1677 Harpers Road Virginia Beach Va. 23454	Thursday, July 12	4:00	Certification Train the Trainer
Monday, July 16	8:00	Harrisonburg City Public Schools Transportation	475 E. Washington Harrisonburg Va. 22802	Thursday, July 19 th	4:00	Certification Train the Trainer
Monday, July 23	TBA	Richmond Va.	ONLINE Webinar	Thursday, July 26	TBA	Re-certification
Monday, July 30	8:00	Henrico County Public Schools Transportation	7701 East Parham Rd. Richmond Va.23223	Thursday, August 2	4:00	Certification Train the Trainer
Wednesday, August 8	8:00	Hanover Co. Public Schools Transportation	11375 N Lakeridge Pkwy Ashland Va. 23005	Thursday August 9	4:00	New Directors/Supervisors
Monday August 13	8:00	Fairfax Co. Johnie Forte Jr Support Center	6800 B Industrial Rd Springfield Va. 22151	Thursday, August 16	4:00	Certification Train the Trainer
Monday August 20	TBA	Richmond Va.	ONLINE Webinar	Thursday, August 23	TBA	Re-certification

Revised 12/18/17

For more information, please contact Jackie Herring at (804)786-0174 or email

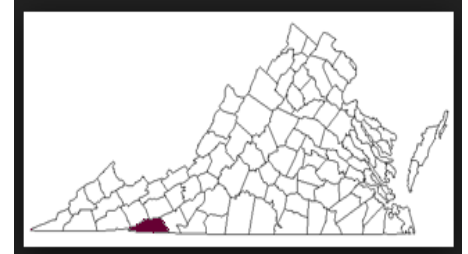
Jackie.herring@doe.virginia.gov



WINTER. I'M BACK!
and I am just getting started

Winter Weather?

- Slow Down
- Increase Your Following Distance
 - Leave Space Around Your Bus.
- Professional Drivers are Defensive Drivers!



Spotlight on....

Grayson County, Virginia is home to some of the highest mountain peaks in the state. In fact, Grayson County has the top five (5) highest peaks in Virginia with Mt. Rogers being the highest peak at 5,729 feet. Grayson "is economically isolated" without an interstate Highway and it is surrounded by mountains. It is located in the southwestern part of Virginia with an approximate population of about 16,000 people (2015 Census). The county has 446 Square miles of beauty to discover. Lots of history abounds in Grayson which is named for William Grayson, a soldier, lawyer, and a senator. He was the first member of the United States Congress to die while holding office.

Some of the State's most beautiful parks in Grayson County are Grayson Highlands State Park, New River Trail, Virginia Creeper Trail, Matthew's State Park, and the Blue Ridge Music Center. Check them out on the internet and visit one this summer!

Currently, Grayson County Public Schools has 1,531 students enrolled with the Transportation Department transporting 1,117 students on 39 regular bus route and two special needs bus routes. They also have seven special needs vehicle routes. The Transportation Bus Garage maintains 54 school buses, 35 vehicles; also, they maintain local government vehicles.

Sandra Anders is in her first year as Transportation Foreman for Grayson County Public Schools (Welcome, Sandra!) She has held different roles within the Transportation and Maintenance Department for the past five years.

Grayson County Public Schools' mission is to provide a quality education through shared responsibility in a safe supportive environment for all students to meet the challenges of a global society. We are "Working Together to Increase Student Achievement", and we work hard to make the site a primary source for timely information for all users, and a main gateway for improved communication between parents, teachers, students and other members of our community.



"Love the BUS"



February 2018



Wind Preparations:

Too Much Wind to
Operate Safely?

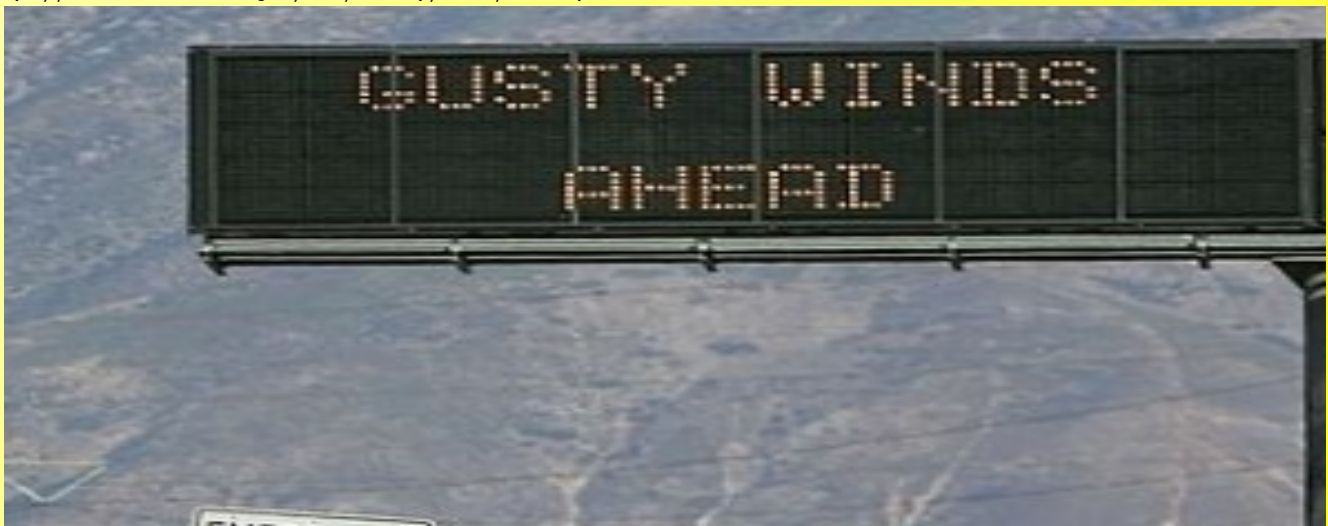


Virginia experiences severe storms including some that produce tornadoes every year. While there is no prevention and no known guidelines of what is safe, there are steps that can, and must, be taken to protect our passengers from these dangerous storms. Miami-Dade County, Florida seems to get more than their fair share of wind, so maybe we can learn a little from their Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. An excerpt from page 39 of that plan follows.

“In accordance with a wind effects report distributed by the Florida Institute of Technology, Tropical Storm Force Winds (TSFW) can down trees and power lines, blow out windows, blow down signs, cause flying debris, structural collapse and cause vehicles to overturn and deviate from their course. It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to plan for the effects of TSFWs on preparedness activities and evacuation procedures. When TSFWs (one minute sustained 34 knots or 39 mph winds) occur, countywide evacuation and pre-storm preparatory activities cease. At this time, county facilities and response agencies, including the Miami-Dade EOC, begin “lock down”.

This would infer that they stop exterior operations to wait out the winds. So, as winds approach 40 mph SUSTAINED winds (not gusts) as a threshold, we should consider suspending school bus service and perhaps other school activities. For us the danger is mostly with flying debris that could injure student walkers or those waiting for the school bus. Further, school bus drivers must watch out for downed trees and falling power lines. Windy conditions, especially when gale-force gusts are involved, have the potential to push the bus around the road forcing drivers to correct the vehicle manually by steering either with or against the wind. Extra caution must be used when traveling across bridges that are high or long as well.

Source: <https://www.miamidade.gov/fire/library/OEM/CEMP.pdf>



VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION POSTER CONTEST

WHO MAY ENTER

Anyone enrolled in a public school. Five winning divisions that include: Division #1-Grades K-2; Division #2-Grades 3-5; Division #3-Grades 6-8; Division #4-Special Education; and Division #5-Computer Aided Drawing (CAD). The first place winner from each division will be entered in the national poster contest.

DEADLINE DATE

Completed poster designs must be post marked by **April 30, 2018**. All entries become the property of the State School Bus Safety Committee, and will not be returned.

POSTER SPECIFICATIONS

Completed poster size must be 12" by 18" ONLY, with a one-inch (1") blank border completely across the bottom of the poster. **This space must be available due to printing requirements.** If not provided, poster will be disqualified. Poster may be illustrated on the vertical or horizontal axis.

Please type or print all information required on entry blank **clearly** and securely glue to the **lower left hand corner** of the poster and on the **backside in the center**.

Designs should be submitted on quality tag, poster illustration board or heavy paper. Construction paper may be used but must be mounted on quality tag poster board. Lamination is not permitted, and will disqualify the poster. Cut paper/stencils (freehand or pre-drawn stick-on stencils) are not permitted and will disqualify the poster.

There is no limitation on the use and number of colors. At least a part of a yellow school bus must be present in the poster.

There is no limitation on the type of media-such as print, crayon, and felt pen, etc., - used on the poster design; however, wood, plastic, glass, metal or collage materials should not be part of the poster. Glued on or 3 dimensional pieces will eliminate the poster.

Poster designs may not incorporate any copyrighted characters such as comic and/or television characters, or photographs, magazine or newspaper illustrations.

POSTER THEME:

Every poster and slogan must harmonize with the 2018 poster contest theme:

My School Bus, The Safest Form of Pupil Transportation!

Contestants must illustrate above theme only and the theme must be written **exactly** as shown above on the poster.

Drawings must be original, correct in safety concept and exclusive work of the student entering the contest in idea, design and execution. Artwork should be positive in approach, demonstrating only proper school bus safety behaviors

Instructors should supervise all work created. Completion of art should be done in school.

LETTERING

Only free hand drawn letters may be used on poster design. Stenciled, pre-printed, manufactured stick-on or press-on letters or tracing may not be used. Lettering should be clearly legible, even if used as part of the poster design.

SENDING ENTRIES

Do not roll posters. Entries should be mailed in a flat box so that they arrive undamaged.

Send posters to the following address:

Ms. Diane Stewart
c/o VAPT
Virginia Beach City Public Schools
1677 Harpers Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

JUDGING

Judging will be comprised of prominent individuals in the field of pupil transportation safety. The winning posters will represent the state in the National School Bus Safety Week Poster Contest. Criteria for the selection of award-winning posters are:

- a. Relationship of the poster design to the school bus safety practices. (Safety Impact)
- b. Originality of the poster and how the idea is expressed in the poster design. (Originality)
- c. Artwork and its execution. (Artistic Quality)
- d. Visual impact of the poster design. (Visual Impact)

All rules regarding poster specification, themes, lettering, etc. must be followed or the poster will be disqualified.

PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded for the first, second, and third places in each division as follows:

1 st Place Winner of each division	\$100.00 Check and Blue Ribbon
2 nd Place Winner of each division	\$ 75.00 Check and Red Ribbon
3 rd Place Winner of each division	\$ 50.00 Check and White Ribbon

Please complete and attach these forms in accordance with poster specifications noted in the contest rules.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

2018 VAPT POSTER CONTEST ENTRY BLANK

Student Name _____ Gr _____
Division _____ Age _____
School Division _____
School _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Teacher's Name _____

2018 VAPT POSTER CONTEST ENTRY BLANK

Student Name _____ Gr _____
Division _____ Age _____
School Division _____
School _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Teacher's Name _____



SOUTHEASTERN STATES PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE

2018

BUSTER BYNUM EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC), comprised of fourteen member states including **VIRGINIA**, has announced the **2018 Buster Bynum Education Scholarship**. Named in honor of R. A. "Buster" Bynum, retired Director of the Virginia Department of Education's pupil transportation office and former SESPTC treasurer, this one-time \$2,500 education scholarship is made available to one deserving public school student in each of the fourteen-member southeastern states.

SESPTC Award Guidelines

1. The parent/guardian listed on application had a Gross Taxable Family Income equal to or less than \$75,000 for each of the "Past Three Tax Years." (For the purpose of this scholarship award, the "Past Three Tax Years" is defined as the 2015, 2016 and 2017 tax years.)
2. The parent/guardian listed on application has been an active employee in public school transportation during the "Past Three Years." This includes school bus drivers, aides, monitors, mechanics, parts clerks, foremen, managers, trainers, supervisors, directors, and inspectors that work in public education. (For the purpose of this scholarship award, the "Past Three Years" work history requirement is defined as the period since January 1, 2015.)
3. The student applicant has at least a 3.0 (B) scholastic average, will graduate from a public high school, and will attend a post-secondary educational institution starting in fall 2018.

The SESPTC Scholarship Application must include the following letters of reference:

1. A letter from the parent/guardian's most recent employer verifying employment in public school transportation since **January 1, 2015**, and documenting financial need; (Gross Taxable Family Income equal to or less than \$75,000 for each of the "Past Three Tax Years".
2. A letter from the student's high school guidance counselor or other authorized high school official verifying the student's grade point average, anticipated graduation from high school, and planned attendance at a post-secondary educational institution in the fall of 2018.
3. A letter of support from one school staff member AND one adult family acquaintance of the student stating why the award should be made to this student.



Award Process

The scholarship award will be made to the post-secondary school the student attends prior to **August 1, 2018**. The scholarship cannot be awarded to any family member serving on the selection committee.

APPLICATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Section I Applicant Personal Information

1. Selection of applicants will be based on the following criteria:
 - Scholarship** - The student shall have a cumulative grade point average (grades 9 – 11) of 3.0 (B) minimum, as verified by official high school academic records.
 - Leadership** - The student shall have demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and abilities in co-curricular activities and community service activities.
 - Citizenship** - The student shall have demonstrated exemplary citizenship qualities that include not only maturity, loyalty, responsibility, integrity, and trustworthiness; but also a concern for the well-being of all citizens.
 - Service** - The student shall have rendered unselfish service and assistance to others, to the school, and to the community.
 - Essay** - The student shall have explained in a **typed** essay of **not more than** 500 words why he/she applied for the scholarship and how the scholarship will be used.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND PLANS FOR AWARDING THE SCHOLARSHIP

1. In the second semester of their senior year, students who meet the general criteria will complete an application **in which information supporting excellence in the five areas above will be noted. The application must be typed and contain all information requested. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Completed applications should be submitted to the local scholarship selection committee chairperson.**
2. Additionally, each applicant shall be required to submit a type-written essay of not more than 500 words which explains why the student has applied and how the student would use the scholarship if selected. The essay must be submitted at the time of application. Applicants are encouraged to proofread their essays for spelling, grammar, and syntax.
3. **A local selection committee established in each school system or district shall select from all local applicants a finalist whose application must be submitted to the Scholarship Selection Committee no later than April 30, 2018. Only one application from each school system or district will be judged at state level. Applications shall not be submitted to the state by student applicant.**
4. The Virginia Association of Pupil Transportation (VAPT) Scholarship Selection Committee will select the state's final applicant.
5. Recipients will be notified no later than **May 25, 2018**.

See www.vapt.org and find complete application under the Scholarships Tab.



2018

CLYDE W. MORRIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (VAPT) is pleased to announce the availability of the 2018 Clyde W. Morris Memorial Scholarship.

Established by VAPT in 1995 and named in memory of a former Virginia public school supervisor of transportation, the scholarship is awarded to a deserving student in the Commonwealth to cover education expenses at a postsecondary educational institution in support of a student's 2018-2019 school year tuition, books or fees.

For 2018, VAPT is pleased to offer two (2) \$2,500.00 scholarships - one each to a deserving student from two different school divisions.

To be eligible for the Clyde W. Morris Memorial Scholarship, a student must be a Virginia public school senior who has a parent or grandparent either currently employed or formerly employed in the public school pupil transportation field in the Commonwealth of Virginia. A fact sheet is enclosed which provides additional information along with other guidelines and eligibility requirements.

All completed applications must **FIRST BE SUBMITTED** to the applicants local school division. Contact the person in charge of pupil transportation within the local school division for additional local information which would include local deadlines for application submission. A local finalist shall be selected at the local level. The local finalist's application must be submitted to the VAPT Scholarship Committee no later than April 30, 2018. Finalist's application must contain the signature of the local committee selection chairperson. Only one application from each school division will be judged as state level.

See www.vapt.org and find complete application under the Scholarships Tab.

FACT SHEET
VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION
CLYDE W. MORRIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

1. The recipient of the scholarship will be a Virginia public school senior who has a parent or grandparent either currently employed or formerly employed in a public school pupil transportation field in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. Selection of applicants will be based on the following criteria:
 - * **Scholarship** - The student shall have a cumulative grade point average (grades 9-11) of 3.0 minimum.
 - * **Leadership** - The student shall have demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and abilities in co-curricular activities and community service activities.
 - * **Citizenship** - The student shall have demonstrated exemplary citizenship qualities that include not only maturity, loyalty, responsibility, integrity, and trustworthiness, but also a concern for the well-being of all citizens.
 - * **Service** - The student shall have rendered unselfish service and assistance to others, to the school, and to the community.
 - * **Essay** - The student shall have explained in a typed essay of not more than 500 words why he/she applied for the scholarship and, if named the recipient, how the scholarship would be used.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND PLANS FOR AWARDING THE SCHOLARSHIP

1. In the second semester of their senior year, students who meet the general criteria will complete an application in which information supporting excellence in the five areas above will be noted. The application must be typed and contain all information requested. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
2. Each applicant shall be required to submit a typewritten essay (not more than 500 words) which explains why the student has applied and how the student would use the scholarship if named the recipient. The essay must be



submitted as an attachment to the application at the time application is submitted. Applicants are encouraged to proof read their essays for spelling, grammar, and syntax.



3. When completed, all applications **MUST** be submitted to the local school division Scholarship Selection Committee (**contact the person in charge of pupil transportation within the local school division for additional local information to include the local deadline for application submission**).
4. The local school division Scholarship Selection Committee shall select from all local applicants a finalist whose application must be submitted to the Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (VAPT) Selection Committee no later than April 30, 2018.

Linwood Horne, Scholarship Chairperson
Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation
c/o Hanover County Public Schools
11375 North Lakeridge Parkway
Ashland, VA 23005-8043

5. The VAPT Selection Committee will be responsible for selecting the final scholarship recipient.
6. The scholarship recipient will be notified by the VAPT Selection Committee no later than May 25, 2018.
7. Official presentation of the scholarship will be awarded at the Annual Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation's Professional Development Conference Banquet to be held June 20, 2018 in Roanoke, Virginia. Applicants do not have to be present to win.



2018

SONNY MERRYMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (VAPT) is pleased to announce the availability of the 2018 Sonny Merryman Memorial Scholarship.

Named in memory of transportation giant Floyd W. (Sonny) Merryman, Jr., the scholarship is awarded to a deserving student in the Commonwealth to cover education expenses at a postsecondary educational institution in support of a student's 2018-2019 school year tuition, books or fees.

Mr. Merryman was founder of Sonny Merryman, Inc. – a widely respected and prominent Virginia bus dealership serving the transportation industry. A staunch champion of the virtues and rewards of education, Mr. Merryman provided hundreds of young Virginians with scholarship assistance during his lifetime.

The amount of the scholarship is **\$2,500.00**.

To be eligible for the Sonny Merryman Memorial Scholarship, a student must be a Virginia public school senior who has a parent or grandparent either currently employed or formerly employed in the public school pupil transportation field in the Commonwealth of Virginia. A fact sheet is enclosed which provides additional information along with other guidelines and eligibility requirements.

All applications must **FIRST BE SUBMITTED** to the applicant's local school division. Contact the person in charge of pupil transportation within the local school division for additional local information which would include deadlines for applicant submission. A local finalist shall be selected at the local level. The local finalist's application must be submitted to the VAPT Scholarship Committee no later than April 30, 2018. Finalist's application must contain the signature of the local committee selection chairperson. Only one application from each school division will be judged at state level.

See www.vapt.org and find complete application under the Scholarships Tab.

**FACT SHEET
VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION**

SONNY MERRYMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

1. The recipient of the scholarship will be a Virginia public school senior who has a parent or grandparent either currently employed or formerly employed in a public school pupil transportation field in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2. Selection of applicants will be based on the following criteria:

- * **Scholarship** - The student shall have a cumulative grade point average (grades 9-11) of 3.0 minimum.
- * **Leadership** - The student shall have demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and abilities in co-curricular activities and community service activities.
- * **Citizenship** - The student shall have demonstrated exemplary citizenship qualities that include not only maturity, loyalty, responsibility, integrity, and trustworthiness, but also a concern for the well-being of all citizens.
- * **Service** - The student shall have rendered unselfish service and assistance to others, to the school, and to the community.
- * **Essay** - The student shall have explained in a typed essay of not more than 500 words why he/she applied for the scholarship and, if named the recipient, how the scholarship would be used.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND PLANS FOR AWARDING THE
SCHOLARSHIP**

1. In the second semester of their senior year, students who meet the general criteria will complete an application in which information supporting excellence in the five areas above will be noted. The application must be typed and contain all information requested. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
2. Each applicant shall be required to submit a typewritten essay (not more than 500 words) which explains why the student has applied and how the student would use the scholarship if named the recipient. The essay must be

submitted as an attachment to the application at the time application is submitted. Applicants are encouraged to proof read their essays for spelling, grammar, and syntax.

3. When completed, all applications **MUST** be submitted to the local school division Scholarship Selection Committee (**contact the person in charge of pupil transportation within the local school division for additional local information**).
4. The local school division Scholarship Selection Committee shall select from all local applicants a finalist whose application must be submitted to the Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (VAPT) Selection Committee no later than April 30, 2018.

Linwood Horne, Scholarship Chairperson
Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation
c/o Hanover County Public Schools
11375 North Lakeridge Parkway
Ashland, VA 23005-8043

5. The VAPT Selection Committee will be responsible for selecting the final scholarship recipient.
6. The scholarship recipient will be notified by the VAPT Selection Committee no later than May 25, 2018.
7. Official presentation of the scholarship will be awarded at the Annual Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation's Professional Development Conference Banquet to be held June 20, 2018 in Roanoke, Virginia. Applicants do not have to be present to win.

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

2018 ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP



The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (VAPT) is offering two (2) adult continuing education scholarships in the amount of \$500 each. These scholarships are available to applicants who are VAPT members and are accepted or enrolled in an undergraduate program or a career/technical school at the time of receiving the scholarship funds. Scholarship funds would be used in support of applicant's tuition, books, or fees. The scholarships will be awarded at the VAPT's annual Leadership Conference Banquet on June 20, 2018.

Criteria and Requirements for Applying

1. Must be a U.S citizen
2. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent (GED)
3. Currently employed in a position in the transportation field within a public school system in the Commonwealth of Virginia at both the time of application submission and at the time of scholarship receipt.
4. Three years of experience in a public school district Transportation Department prior to making application.

Application Package

Application should include the following components (please check to ensure each item is included)

1. Fully complete application package. Application package must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2018.
2. Prepare a 500 word essay outlining the following:
 - i) Professional goals
 - ii) Involvement in VAPT
 - iii) Personal educational goals
 - iv) Community service or other volunteer activities
 - v) Leadership roles, honors, or awards
 - vi) Impact of this scholarship on career goals
3. Obtain a letter of support/reference from the Transportation Director addressing applicant's character and eligibility for the scholarship. If the applicant is a Director of Transportation, obtain a letter from applicant's immediate supervisor or the School Division Superintendent addressing applicant's character for the scholarship. Either letter must indicate support for the applicant to attend the VAPT Leadership in Roanoke, VA June 18-21, 2018.

See www.vapt.org and find complete application under the Scholarships Tab.

Driver Shortages Statewide and Ways to Counteract

In the last newsletter, the VAPT discussed driver shortage being a national and statewide problem. A news worthy article from CBS19 states that Greene County, Virginia has been experiencing this problem. According to news author, Laura Perrot on February 26, 2018 article, "Greene County Director of Administrative Services Kyle Pursel said the schools are facing a major bus driver shortage. "There's a bus driver shortage not only locally, but nationwide," Pursel said. "It's impacting everybody locally. If you drive up any of the highways here or any of the roads here, you'll see signs that say bus drivers wanted." The bus driver shortage was made even worse by the hard-hitting flu season. "The month of February has hit us hard with illnesses," Pursel said. "Since we've started with the shortage to begin with, we've had to do the best we can to make those runs and some drivers have had to take on extra routes or combine multiple routes into one to make up for the shortage. Our drivers are working extremely hard and our transportation department as well to do the best we can with what we have right now. It's a matter of recruiting and bringing people in that want to drive."

Are you in driver shortage? If you aren't, what is your division doing to obtain quality drivers? Give other staff in the state some quality suggestions on recruiting. Provide examples of ways you are putting the interest out there for others to utilize. Any suggestion and ideas will be published here in the coming months. Help us help others in Virginia with the driver shortage.



Ways of Recruitment:

- ⇒ Bus Banner near a busy highway (if permitted)
- ⇒ Help Wanted Ads in local publications
- ⇒ Help Wanted in School Newspapers
- ⇒ Business Cards at local business boards
- ⇒ Flyers/Postcards in targeted areas of the county
- ⇒ Recruitment events at the local mall
- ⇒ Ad posters at local markets/job boards
- ⇒ Social Media Sites "Help Wanted" boards
- ⇒ Daddy/Mommy & Me Events
- ⇒ School events (Sporting events)
- ⇒ Colorful Brochures on Display at Schools
- ⇒ Word of Mouth