

**Fisher Named VAPT President
at 2018 Annual
State Conference in Roanoke**



Welcome back to another exciting school year in Pupil Transportation. I am so honored to have been elected to serve as your President for VAPT. Our organization is constantly moving ahead, keeping abreast of all current news involving pupil transportation, especially regarding school buses operating in this state. Communication is the key to success and our input can be vitally important. I look forward to working with each of you. The general public need to know that school buses are the safest mode of transportation; they are required to meet higher construction, equipment, and inspection standards than any other vehicle and their drivers are required to meet higher qualifications, training, and testing standards than any other drivers on the road. **Spread the word!** Tell everyone that will listen what Pupil Transportation stands for and how safe their children and grandchildren are in our hands.

With the many obstacles we are facing as transporters such as driver shortages, low pay, or outdated equipment, the concern on the forefront right now is Drivers Passing Stopped School Buses. What can we do as an organization to reduce the frequency of, or completely eliminate the danger of our students being fatally injured while loading or unloading their school bus?

As we increase our membership and come together with a meeting of the minds I am confident we can tackle this problem and all others with success. You know what they say about great minds. Please do not hesitate to let your regional director for your school division know your thoughts on various matters so they can represent their people. Be vocal, be patient, and be kind. If you are not clear on who your regional director is, this newsletter will have the information you need.

One last reminder, please be reminded about **National School Bus Safety Week: October 22-26, 2018**. As our nation celebrates, our state will celebrate with each division each driver and attendant. Please honor and celebrate your drivers and attendants. Get your schools involved as well. The theme for the Poster Contest is **Red Lights Mean Stop!** (This theme is very timely to our needs). Please send out the information for the poster contest to each of your schools.

Thank you for your dedicated service to our students and the State of Virginia.

Cheryl Fisher, CDPT
VAPT President
Transportation Director
Fauquier County Public Schools

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VAPT Board Members

- President:** Cheryl Fisher, Fauquier Co.
- Vice President:** Donna Carter, Franklin Co.
- Secretary:** Heather Handschin, Prince William Co.
- Treasurer:** Floyd Miles, Richmond City
- Past President:** James Lash, York Co.
- Executive Director:** June Eanes
- Region 1:** Josh Davis, Henrico Co.
- Region 2:** Darrin Willis, Hampton City
- Region 3:** Larry Frazier, Town of West Point
- Region 4:** John Grubbs, Frederick Co.
- Region 5:** Jeremy Gauthier-Martin, Lynchburg City
- Region 6:** Open
- Region 7:** Phillip Griffin, Smyth Co.
- Region 8:** Valerie Seaborne, Greenville Co.

2018 Virginia's "Best" School Bus Technician Competition

Thanks to our 2018 Sponsors:
Sonny Merryman, Inc
Kingmor Supply, Inc
Bluebird Bus Sales of Virginia



*Timothy Mammock
Hanover County*

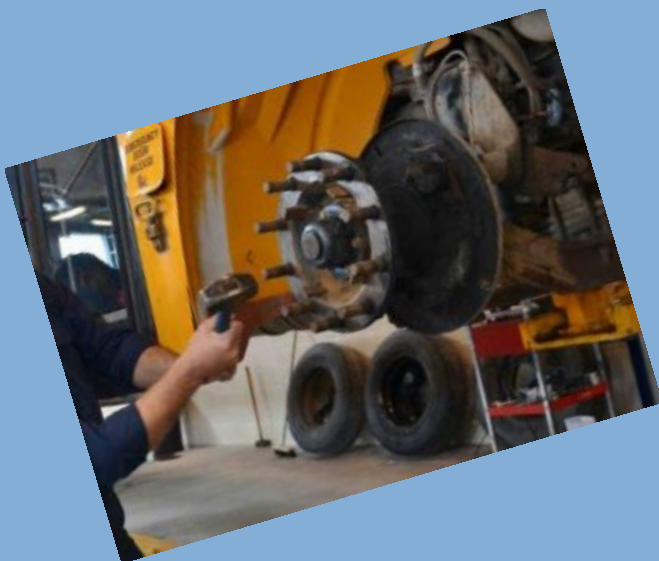


- 1st Place: Timothy Hammock, Hanover County**
- 2nd Place: Jonathan Vasbinder, Stafford County
- 3rd Place: Matthew Davis, Loudon County

Each contestant competed in a written exam and hands-on exercises.

2018 Technicians Committee

- Bob Clinebell, Norfolk Public Schools
- Dave Preston, Kingmor Supply, Inc
- Brady Childress, Sonny Merryman, Inc
- Billy Estes, Williamsburg/James City County Public Schools
- Donald Ertel, Bluebird Bus Sales of Virginia





MARCIA ELIZABETH SWANN
Northumberland County

Marcia stated in her scholarship application that “it would bring my PAPA great pride if I earned a scholarship that was made available to me because he is a school bus driver.” She shares “He adores driving the bus (in Northumberland County) and is always filled with bus stories to share with our family.”

Considering herself a good investment, Ms. Swann is a hard worker with high standards. A straight “A” student at Northumberland High School, she was a member of the Principal’s Honor Roll, a member of the National Beta Club, and a member of the Student Council Association where she served as President her senior year. She was also a member of the Future Business Leaders of America and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Wanting to follow in the footsteps of her PAPA (grandfather), Marcia’s goal since middle school is to become a Certified Public Accountant.

She will be attending Liberty University this fall.

**2018 Clyde W. Morris
 Scholarship Winner**



**2018 Clyde W. Morris
 Scholarship Winner**



JACKSON RICHARD AHERRON
Pittsylvania County

A graduate of Dan River High School, Jackson is a firm believer that education is important. He credits his parents – his mother a school teacher and his father a former Army man – with instilling in him the importance of learning and setting challenging goals.

Jackson was active in high school activities. A member of the Beta Club, she served as President and Executive Officer. He was Co-President of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a member of DECCA, the Science Club and the Spanish Club. His involvement in athletics included four years varsity football (Team Captain for two years), wrestling, track and field and baseball.

Mentoring kids in his community, Jackson has participated in such programs as Kids and Pros Summer Camp, Rising Stars Football Camp, Pittsylvania Youth Football League. He also makes time to be active in his church youth group.

Planning to double major in economics and finance, Mr. Aherron will be attending Hampton-Sydney College this fall.

2018 VIRGINIA'S BUSTER BYNUM EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Described by a teacher as “a bright young woman who demonstrates great strength of character”. Miss Taylor Nickel is a member of the Franklin County High School Choir, National Honor Society, Health Occupation Students of America and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and she enjoys soccer. In her Junior year, she participated in a “ride along” program with the Franklin County Rescue Squad; coincidentally, she enrolled and certified in the EMT program December 2017. To date, she has served her community in over 1300 hours as a medical volunteer. “I desire to continue my education because it is the fundamental component for success and understanding”, she states. Her goal to attend Radford University this fall enrolling in the nursing programing with a specialty in Trauma and ER Medicine. Congratulations, Taylor, on being award the Buster Bynum Education Scholarship.

TAYLOR NICKEL
Franklin County

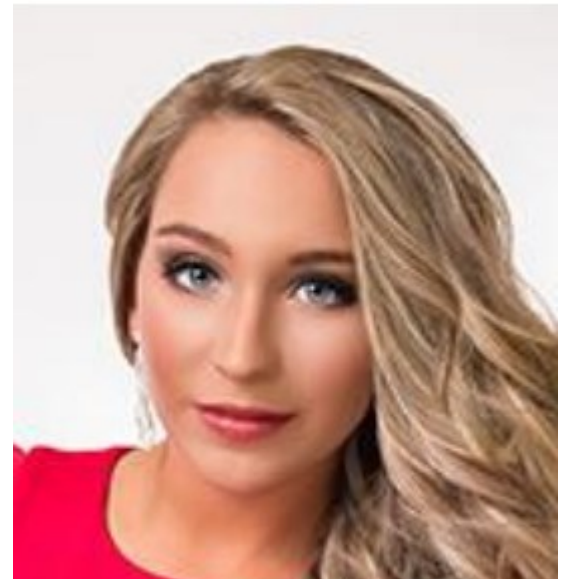


2018 Sonny Merryman

Memorial Scholarship Recipient

MacKenzie Joyce Lewis

Henry County, Virginia



MacKenzie knew in the eighth grade that she wanted to be a Doctor of Optometry. Wearing glasses since age 7, she realized what a difference good eyesight can make in a person’s life. In the eighth grade she began a community wide event named “Giving the Gift of Sight” where she collected used eyeglass frames and partnered with a local optometrist to provide individuals in the community with complimentary eye exams and glasses.

A focused young woman with goals to make her dreams come true, MacKenzie graduated on the dean’s list from Patrick Henry Community College receiving an Associate Degree two weeks prior to receiving her Honor Graduate High School Diploma from Bassett High School. She is an academic letter recipient, academic award recipient and an athletic award recipient. She was crowned Miss Patrick Henry Community College for 2018 and participated in the 2018 Miss Virginia Pageant.

A cheerleader, a member of the National Honor Society, National Beta Club, Student Council Association, 4-H Club and yearbook staff, she also worked as an ophthalmology technologist part-time where she learned to perform vision diagnostic testing.

MacKenzie will be attending the University of Virginia this fall – her school of choice since fourth grade!

VAPT's 2018

1st Adult Continuing Education Scholarship Recipient



As VAPT's first Adult Continuing Education Scholarship recipient, Ms. Deckard began her pupil transportation career as a bus driver. She later became certified as a Department of Education (DOE) trainer and was ultimately promoted to the position of Transportation Supervisor. In 2016 she successfully passed the NAPT certification exam and became a Certified Supervisor of Transportation (CSPT).

Recently honored by the York County Transportation Department with the APPLE award for dedication to students, Tonya is also a recipient of the John T. Hanna award for traffic safety for work on the "smoking bus" fire evacuation training for school bus drivers. She recently received the Governor's Award in transportation safety for her work in pupil transportation.

An active member of VAPT for four years, Tanya was instrumental in the planning and successful execution of the organization's 40th Anniversary celebrated last year.

Balancing work and family, Tanya has been attending classes at Liberty University in pursuit of an undergraduate degree in business administration. She will use her VAPT scholarship to continue this pursuit.

Spotlight on—Shenandoah County

Shenandoah County, near the northern end of the state, nestled between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Massanutten Ridge in Page County— is listed as Virginia's most picturesque Small Town for Virginia by USA Today. It is home to six charming historic towns situated like a string of pearls along US Route 11. The Transportation Department Director, Wade Feller, states that "we deal with very unique situations when dealing with students as Transportation Professionals". Wade states that there are 100 General Education routes and 11 Routes for Special Needs and some car routes. Shenandoah County Transportation transports nearly 4,800 students altogether. Woodstock, the county seat is the 4th oldest town in Virginia.; and Shenandoah County boasts the famous Woodstock Tower overlooking the "seven bends of the Shenandoah River" and comprises 24% the George Washington National Forest.

Source: <http://www.svnva.org/george-washington-national-forest-plan-5/>



Poster Contest Winners:

Division I (K-2nd Grade)

1st Place	Jaylen Ridley	Achievable Dreams	Newport News
2nd Place	Samuel Liffick	BC Charles Elementary	Newport News
3rd Place	Peyton Nguyen-Falvo	Lee Hall Elementary	Newport News

Division II (3rd-5th Grade)

1st Place	Joshua Waite	Lee Hall Elementary	Newport News
2nd Place	Ariana Palacios	Bristow Run Elementary	Prince William County
3rd Place	Ina Cox	Gretna Elementary	Pittsylvania County

Division III (6th-8th Grade)

1st Place	Carter Quinn	Pocahontas Middle	Powhatan County
2nd Place	Sadie Bandurant	Pocahontas Middle	Powhatan County
3rd Place	Makenzie Hollie	Dan River Middle	Pittsylvania County

Division IV (Students with Special Needs)

1st Place	Anthony Birchette	Surry County High	Surry County
2nd Place	Hailey Ware	Surry County High	Surry County
3rd Place	Ja Mari Moody	Surry County High	Surry County



Division 1 Winner
Jaylen Ridley



Division 2 Winner
Joshua Waite



Division 3 Winner
Carter Quinn



Division 4 Winner
Anthony Birchette



School has started in Virginia (or is about to start) and the Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation advocates for safe, appropriate services for all students in our state.

A high standard of Training for Transportation Staff is essential in providing superior services to and from school.

To all drivers: Be patient, take your time, and give a smile to each student as they board and depart the bus you are driving. Be accident free in Twenty-Eighteen!

Safety starts with you!

May you all have an awesome year!

Your friends at the VAPT

VAPT Poster Contest 2019 REMINDER!

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. This year's theme: Red lights mean "STOP"!

Deadline Date - Watch for the DEADLINE—April 2019

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.

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

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

For complete instructions and entry form go to the VAPT website at www.vapt.org





With schools beginning all over the state this month Transportation Departments are scheduling students for another start to school. The 2018-2019 School Year has already begun in some counties while others will not return until after Labor Day. Regardless of start date, Transportation Departments are scrambling to provide maintenance for their fleets of buses. Technicians/Mechanics obtain valuable training to ensure the buses services are completed efficiently and accurately. Going back to school for the Transportation Specialists (a.k.a. drivers) is usually what we think of when returning to school However, it is about the shop personnel, too. These valuable positions are often overlooked and never calculated in the grand scheme of things. It is important to note that shop personnel have an expertise all of their own. How do you celebrate your shop personnel? Tell us about your staff in the shop—we'd like to read about them in an upcoming issue!

Send your information to brownel@fcpsk12.net (Make sure to include shop pics!)



CHANGE YOUR WORDS— CHANGE YOUR MINDSET

I don't understand

What am I missing?

I give up.

I'LL USE SOME OF THE STRATEGIES I'VE LEARNED.

I made a mistake.

Mistakes help me improve.

This is too hard.

THIS MAY TAKE SOME TIME AND EFFORT.

It's good enough.

IS THIS REALLY MY BEST WORK?

I'll never be as smart as her.

I'm going to figure out what she does and try it.

I can't make this any better.

I can always improve. I'll keep trying!

I can't read

I'm going to train my brain in reading

I'm not good at this.

I'm on the right track.

How can you change your words to have a better work environment? How about modifying the words you say to provide better customer service to the people we serve in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Sometimes the way we communicate can change the entire organization. Use the tips to the left and see where you can ***"Change YOUR words—to change YOUR mindset!"***

St. George, Utah on Thursday, August 23, 2018

Written by St. George News author Markee Heckenliable

"Bus driver nearly plunges into pond by golf course"



No students were onboard at the 8:50 a.m. The Bus Driver was not injured when he went through the median, across inbound traffic and then crashed a few feet away from a pond on Sunbrook Golf Course.



Virginia Association of Pupil Transportation

Annual 2018 Conference

Roanoke, Virginia

