

The Voice and Vision for Pupil Transportation in Virginia



February

2013

Love The Bus

The Virginia Association of Pupil Transportation (VAPT) in cooperation with its business partners will host the second annual statewide Love The Bus celebration at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 21. The rally will take place in downtown Richmond at the historic Bell Tower in Capitol Square (101 North Ninth Street, Richmond, VA 23219). Both state and national representatives have been invited to offer remarks during the event.

A reception will follow at the Darden Memorial Garden (the walkway between the General Assembly Building on Ninth Street and the Capitol). Students and pupil transportation officials from across the Commonwealth will gather at this event to celebrate the iconic yellow school bus. The event will also serve to highlight the vital contributions pupil transportation plays in Virginia's public education mission.

The festivities will include Love The Bus themed artwork displays created by local school children, and musical performances. Attendees will also have the opportunity



to step aboard several modern school buses to see firsthand the features that make the school bus one of the safest modes of ground transportation in the world.

Organized in conjunction with the American School Bus Council, Love The Bus festivities will be held by yellow school bus fans across the nation throughout the month. These events are designed to raise public awareness of the important safety, economic, and educational benefits of pupil transportation.

Just passed at the 2013 session—SJ297 Love the Bus Month; designating as February 2013, and each succeeding year thereafter.

<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/leqp604.exe?ses=131&typ=bil&val=Sj297&submit=GO>

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VAPT 2013 Annual Pupil Transportation Conference

The 2013 Annual Pupil Transportation Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Koger Center in Richmond, Virginia June 17-20, 2013.

The finishing touches are being put on the agenda and will be made available to the members as soon as it is complete. The Technician's Competition will be held in conjunction with the conference at the Chesterfield County Courthouse Bus Facility in Chesterfield, Virginia.

Mark the dates on your calendar and we will see you in Richmond!

Arlington, VA Love The Bus

Source: SchoolBus Fleet 2/13/13



ARLINGTON, Va. — On Tuesday, outgoing U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood celebrated the pupil transportation community at an elementary school here in honor of “Love The Bus” month.

During the event at Tuckahoe Elementary School, students in school bus yellow T-shirts sang and rapped for LaHood. A chorus of preschoolers sang “Wheels on the Bus,” and kindergartners performed a short rap about the rules of riding the bus. LaHood, in turn, spoke to students in kindergarten through fifth grade about school buses.

Specifically, officials for the American School Bus Council, which developed Love The Bus in 2007, told *SBF* that LaHood focused on two themes: the school bus as the safest way to get to and from school, and the importance of being nice and polite to school bus drivers.

Officials also noted that LaHood touched briefly on the recent hostage situation in Alabama when talking about drivers, essentially saying that a very bad man tried to do bad things to kids on a bus, but the hero driver defended the kids.



“I want you kids to thank your drivers when you go home today,” LaHood told the students. “They care a lot

about getting you to and from school safely.”



The event at Tuckahoe Elementary School marks the second time that LaHood has participated in Love The Bus festivities. In 2011, he visited an elementary school in Takoma Park, Maryland, where he recognized Wellington Abud, who had been a school bus driver for Montgomery County Public Schools for 10 years. He also spoke to students about the safety of school bus transportation.

VAPT Resolutions

VAPT recently conducted opinion polls to determine where members stand on three separate legislative bills. Following are the results of these polls:

HB369 regarding school bus stops located near sex offender residence and SB900 regarding advertising on school buses were polled together. There were 36 respondents of which all opposed HB1369 and 28 op-

posed, 7 supported and 1 was undecided on SB900.

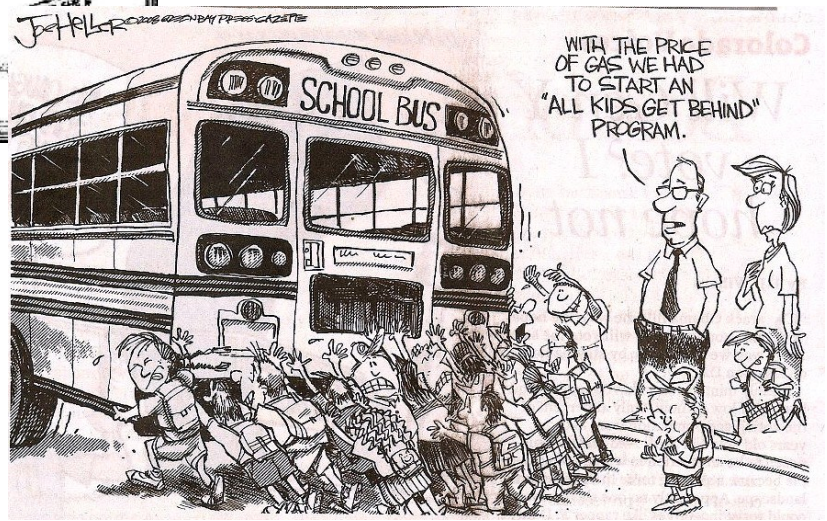
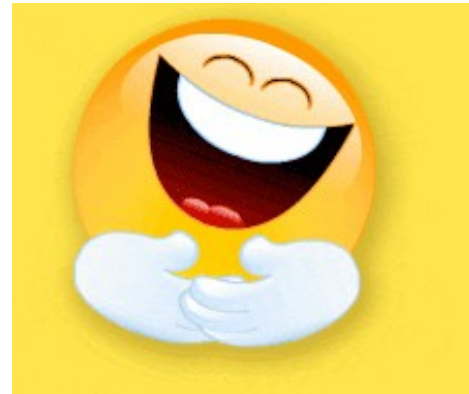
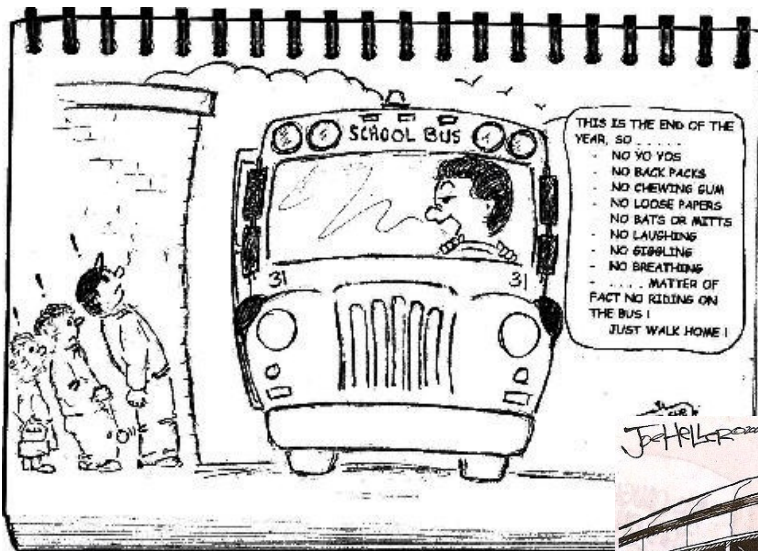
SB899 requiring placement of decals on the rear of school buses noting that they stop at railroad crossings received 30 responses. Twenty-six were opposed and 4 supported the bill.

Resolutions reflecting the votes of the membership were drafted and have been sent to the appropriate legisla-

tor. You can find these resolutions on the VAPT website under Resolutions.

<http://www.vapt.org>

Laugh Often!



Happenings

Patrick County, VA has been busy celebrating "Love The Bus" throughout the month of February.

Everyone joined in the celebration including the local radio station, WHEO. The station DJ's presented a Love The Bus spot every morning during the week of February 11th - 15th.

Various schools throughout the county recognized their drivers with cards, banners, candy and notes with the week culminating in a gathering of

the entire Transportation team at the Patrick County Transportation Shop. Everyone is still talking about the great time!



National School Bus Illegal Passing Survey - 2013

While school buses remain incredibly safe, we all know that student riders are most vulnerable when they are outside the bus in the “danger zone.” In October the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) passed a Resolution that called for all state and local directors to participate in the national survey to determine the prevalence of illegal passing of school buses. Last year, many of you contributed to the second national survey documenting this significant problem.

This message is to launch the 2013 national survey and solicit every state’s participation. NASDPTS is requesting that each state choose a single day for school bus operators (public and contracted) to observe and report any instances of motorists illegally passing their school buses.

There will be no requirement or specific date from the Virginia Department of Education, but each locality is encouraged to select a date, collect your local data, tabulate your local data, and submit a tabulated summary of your local results to Tim Parker in Fairfax County before May 31, 2013.

Tim will summarize the results and submit our information to NASDPTS.

- Additional information
- Forms for drivers to collect and submit information on passing incidents
- And Excel documents to assist you in tabulating and submitting your local results can be found at :

<http://www.nasdpts.org/StopArm/MethodologyAndInstructions.htm1#datacollection>

2013 Scholarships Opportunities

VAPT sponsors directly or supports several scholarship opportunities for our Transportation Community. These include the following Scholarship Awards:

Scholarship	Amount	Deadline
Sonny Merryman, Inc. (5 - VA Tech Scholarships)	\$2500	March 1, 2013
** Clyde W. Morris Memorial Scholarship (1)	\$2500	April 30, 2013
** Buster Bynum, Southeastern States Pupil Trans (1)	\$2500	April 30, 2013

For applications, requirements or more information, please visit the VAPT Website at www.vapt.org

** The Clyde Morris and Buster Bynum scholarship applications must be submitted in each school system or district for local selections before being submitted to the Scholarship Committee for final selection no later than April 30, 2013.

Recipients will be notified no later than May 31, 2013.

Transportation Fatalities Drop Slightly in 2011 Source: ntsb.gov

Transportation fatalities in the United States declined in 2011 by approximately 2 percent, according to preliminary figures released in January by the National Transportation Safety Board.

The data indicated that overall transportation fatalities decreased from 35,043 in 2010 to 34,434 in 2011. There were no airline fatalities in 2011.

“Transportation accidents remain one of the nation’s leading causes of death,” said NTSB Chairman Deborah A.P. Hersman. “We can do better, which is why the NTSB shines a light on key safety issues each year through the Most Wanted List of transportation safety improvements.”

The 2011 statistics show:

- The number of fatalities on U.S. roadways decreased slightly from 32,999 to 32,367 in 2011. The majority of these deaths involved passenger cars, light trucks, and vans.
- The total number of deaths in aviation increased from 476 to 494 in 2011, with about 90 percent involving fatalities in general aviation. Although general aviation fatalities account for the majority (444) within aviation for 2011, this number decreased by 10 from the previous year. In 2011, air taxi fatalities rose from 17 in 2010 to 41.
- Deaths on our nation’s waterways rose in 2011 from 723 to

800. Recreational boating continues to account for nearly all marine fatalities, increasing from 672 to 758.

Of roadway fatalities, buses had the lowest number at 54.

2013 School Bus Driver Instructor Training Schedule

Following is an update of the 2013 School Bus Driver Instructor Training Schedule. As with previous years the Certification classes are 3 days and Re-certification are 2 days. Classes are filling up quickly so please register persons in a timely manner.

Reminder: New behind the wheel driver trainers are now required to have maintained a Class B CDL for at least two years prior to taking the training class per the following regulation:

8VAC20-70-411. Driver trainers.

How Do I Register for the Classes?

Registration must be done through VDOE’s “SSWS” web service. Users must have access to the “School Bus Driver Instructor Certification” application in order to complete registration. Registration must be completed by May 16, 2013.

<https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/ssws/login.page.do>

There is a \$25 non-refundable registration fee for each individual who will attending the Certification “Train the Trainer” class. A check made pay-

able to “Treasurer of Virginia” should be sent to the Pupil Transportation Services, Department of Education, PO Box 2120, Richmond, VA 23218. There is no fee for those persons attending classes for the purpose of re-certification

A complete list of locations and dates can be found on the website.