

The Voice and Vision for Pupil Transportation in Virginia



July

2014

2014 Pupil Transportation Conference

The 2014 VAPT/VDOE Pupil Transportation Conference took place June 16-18, 2014 at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott in Norfolk, Virginia. The 2014 Bryan W. Morris, Sr. Memorial Golf Tournament, state school bus roadeo, technicians' workshops as well as various informative classes for pupil transporters all contributed to the highly informative and fun conference. New this year was the addition of the New Directors training and the Re-certification for trainers classes added to the agenda. Both training courses were well attended and will hopefully be on next year's agenda. None of this could have been accomplished without the support of our very generous vendors. The trade show is always the highlight of the VAPT conference.

Newly elected board members and committee members include Lonnie Reavis from Suffolk City-President, Bill Mayhew from Charlotte County-Vice President, Cheryl Fisher from Fauquier County-Secretary, Steve Pappas from Poquoson County-Region 2 Director, Barry Sudduth from Stafford County-Region 3 Director, Jessica Cannon from Fluvanna County-Region 5 Director and Gary Adams from Scott County-Region 7 Director. The VAPT membership also wishes to thank past president, Kermit Shaffer for his outstanding service to VAPT over the years.

Keynote speaker this year was Mr. Chris Dorn delivering a powerful presentation on school safety and the problem of weapons in our schools. His concealed weapons demonstration became a viral video before the term even existed. Chris' areas of expertise include safety and emergency preparedness in schools, student drug abuse, weapons concealment and detection, as well as school terrorism.

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VAPT Board Members

- President: Lonnie Reavis, Suffolk City
- Vice President: Bill Mayhew, Charlotte Co.
- Secretary: Cheryl Fisher, Fauquier Co.
- Treasurer: David Pace, Virginia Beach City
- Past President: Kermit Shaffer, Spotsylvania Co.
- Region 1: Floyd Miles, Richmond City
- Region 2: Steve Pappas, Poquoson Co.
- Region 3: Barry Sudduth, Stafford Co.
- Region 4: Justin Sarver, Orange Co.
- Region 5: Jessica Cannon, Fluvanna Co.
- Region 6: Donna Carter, Franklin Co.
- Region 7: Gary Adams, Scott County
- Region 8: Ronnie Palmore, Buckingham Co.



Scholarship Recipients 2014

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION'S Scholarship Recipients

2014 CLYDE W. MORRIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

CLAYTON REID NEAL

HANOVER COUNTY



Clayton will be attending the University of Virginia as an Echols Scholar this fall majoring in biology with plans to pursue a career in medicine.

A graduate of Patrick Henry High School, Clayton was a member of the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Latin, Quill and Scroll and Mu Alpha Theta Honor Societies. Active in school sports, he was a 4 year participant of the lacrosse team and served as captain for three years on the school swim team. He also worked on the school newspaper staff and served as editor-in-chief his junior year. He served on the Principal's Advisory Committee and was a recipient of the Hanover County Citizenship Award.

Clayton is active in his church and volunteers in numerous projects and mission trips. He worked for three years as a life guard in Rockville and last summer performed internship work at VCU/MCV Hospital's Neurophysiology Department.

2014 BUSTER BYNUM EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

KASEY N. SMITH

SUFFOLK CITY



An appreciator of "pretty much anything that is outdoors", Kasey will be attending RADFORD UNIVERSITY this fall. Her career goal is to become a nurse.

While a student at Lakeland High School, Kasey participated in honor level classes all four years and made the school honor roll yearly. She was twice nominated for the National Student Leadership Summer Conference.

Active in indoor track and soccer, Kasey's real sport passion is field hockey. As a varsity field hockey player at Lakeland High, she and her team mates garnered accolades by winning First Team All District and First Team All Regional between 2011 and 2014. The team was recognized as First Team All Tidewater and First Team All State this year. Kasey received the Coach's Award and was recognized as Best Defensive Player.

Contributing to the community by sharing her passion for field hockey, Kasey has served as a coach for younger children in summer field hockey camp settings. Asked why she desires to continue her education, Kasey states "I want to be a productive citizen in my community".

2014 SONNY MERRYMAN PUBLIC PUPIL TRANSPORTATION SCHOLARSHIP AT VIRGINIA TECH

Six Virginia Tech students with ties to the state's school bus community have each been awarded \$2,500 Public Pupil Transportation Scholarships at the university. The scholarships are made possible through an endowment established by longtime university benefactor, F.W. Sonny Merryman, Jr., of Rustburg. Merryman who passed away in December was the founder and patriarch of the company which bears his name – Sonny Merryman Inc. – Virginia's oldest and largest school bus dealer.

The 2014 scholarship recipients are Brian Li, Robert Davis, Jade Layell, Nathaniel McClung, Jayla Jones, and Lindsey Gerhardt. Li is a graduate of Chantilly High School in Fairfax County and is a Virginia Tech senior majoring in Finance. His mother, Yiu Hung Li, is a school bus attendant for Fairfax County Public Schools. Nickel is a 2012 graduate of Hermitage High School in Henrico County and is a Tech junior pursuing a degree in Human Development. Her grandmother, Carnell Brown is a retired school bus driver for Hanover County. McClung, a Tech sophomore studying Public and Urban Affairs, graduated last year from Powhatan High School. His grandmother, Mary West, is a retired school bus driver - also from Powhatan. Jones graduated in 2013 from Woodside High School in Newport News. She is a sophomore Architecture student at Tech. Her mother, Jill Jones, is a school bus driver in Newport News. Gerhardt graduated last month from Gretna High School in Pittsylvania County. She will enter Tech this fall to study Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise. Her stepfather, Michael Dalton is a school bus driver in Pittsylvania County.

Since being established in 2003, Public Pupil Transportation Scholarships have been awarded to forty-four exemplary Virginia Tech students providing more than \$100,000 in academic financial assistance.

VAPT Legislative Committee 2014 Report

HB 134 Diabetes; care of students who have been diagnosed.

Care of students who have been diagnosed with diabetes. Permits the parents of any public school student who has been diagnosed with diabetes to designate in a diabetes care plan a delegated care aide to provide diabetes care for the student, including the administration of insulin and glucagon, when a school nurse or physician is not present in the school or at a school-sponsored activity. The bill also requires the delegated care aide to receive training in diabetes care and every school employee to receive basic training in responses to emergency situations and changes from one to two the minimum number of employees in a school that must be trained with regard to a student with diabetes who attends the school. The bill contains technical amendments.

HB 198 Elementary and secondary school students; sufficient cause for suspension or expulsion.

Elementary and secondary school students; sufficient cause for suspension or expulsion. Prohibits an incident that occurs in any setting other than on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity from being deemed sufficient cause for the suspension or expulsion of a student, except in cases in which the division superintendent has received a report of an adjudication of delinquency or a conviction for a certain criminal offense. The bill contains technical amendments.

HB 341 Natural gas vehicles; weight limit exception.

Natural gas vehicles; weight limit exception. Allows vehicles fueled, wholly or partially, by natural gas to weigh up to 2,000 pounds more than the applicable weight limit. The bill requires the operator of the vehicle to be able to demonstrate that the vehicle use

HB 484 Electronic cigarettes; prohibited in public elementary and secondary schools.

Electronic cigarettes in public elementary and secondary schools. Requires each school board to (i) develop and implement a policy to prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity and (ii) include in its code of student conduct a prohibition against possessing electronic cigarettes on a school bus, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity. The bill requires school boards to update their policies and codes of student conduct by July 1, 2015.

HB 854 Speed limits; maximum limit on nonsurface-treated highways in certain counties.

Maximum speed limit on nonsurface-treated highways. Applies statewide the 35 mph maximum speed limit currently applied only in Albemarle, Clarke, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Montgomery, Nelson, Page, Rappahannock, Warren, and Wythe Counties and in any other county whose governing body adopts an ordinance to do so.

SB 205 Driver training and road tests; behind-the-wheel examination for persons age 19 or older.

Licensure and examination for persons age 19 or older. Allows persons age 19 or over the option of taking the behind-the-wheel examination at a driver training school as long as they complete the current requirements already in place for persons under 19. The bill would also allow students who are not minors to take driver's education and their behind-the-wheel examination with their school or with a driver training school.

Current law allows persons age 19 or over (i) to obtain a learner's permit and hold such permit for 60 days and then take a behind-the-wheel examination administered by the DMV or (ii) to take driver's education and then take a behind-the-wheel examination administered by the DMV.

The bill retains the requirements that those seeking a commercial driver's license or on medical review take their behind-the-wheel examination administered by the DMV and that persons who fail the behind the wheel test three times at DMV must return to DMV to take the test after completing requirements at a driver training school.

VAPT Hall of Fame 2014

Being inducted into the VAPT Hall of Fame represents the highest honor in school transportation that the VAPT can bestow upon an individual. Nominees must be strong supporters of school bus safety. The 2014 inductee is Dr. Barbara Goodman.



Dr. Goodman received her Doctorate in Vocational Education (with a safety emphasis) in 1988 from Texas A&M University. She also earned a Master's Degree in Education from the Virginia State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education from the Virginia Commonwealth University.

Dr. Goodman began her career as a research assistant at Texas A&M University, Texas Transportation Institute Industrial Engineering, Human Factors. She performed research for Knowledge Based Systems (KBS) a data base to include adaptive and assistive devices recommended for various disabilities. With assistance from the county administrator's office, juvenile and the domestic relations court she was instrumental in the development and implementation of a court-referral juvenile offender program.

In 1986 she developed an alcohol awareness program which received national recognition from Reader's Digest and a \$4,000 scholarship award. Dr. Goodman also served as an intern at Texas A&M University where she studied accident investigation and reconstruction with Dr. Mike James.

Dr. Goodman has received recognition over the years in several areas:

Sponsor of the Year (1982)

Teacher of the Year (1985)

Journal of Traffic Safety Publications (1983-1987)

Virginia Youth Alcohol Abuse Project (1985-1986)

Virginia Driver Education Curriculum Writing Team for Public Broadcasting System (PBS)

Dr. Goodman served as the state director of pupil transportation for the Virginia Department of Education for 11 years. During her tenure as Virginia's pupil transportation director, Dr. Goodman managed and instituted a variety of safety programs. Among other things, she developed instructional materials for a student bus safety program called "A Shared Responsibility" that was administered by teachers. She also implemented a "Walk, Ride, Walk" program.

In the area of staff development she produced materials for school bus drivers and administrators on dealing with disruptive behavior; initiated annual staff development training for driver trainers and developed the first hands-on workshops for technicians at the annual transportation conference.

Dr. Goodman has an extensive list of safety-related presentations and training to include; Virginia State Driver Education annual meeting, Department of Motor Vehicles Virginia regional meeting, Motorcycle Education Certification workshops and many more. She served as the NASDPTS President in 1999 and as the VAPT President in 2003 and 2004. As a life-time member of VAPT she continues to work tirelessly serving on committees and volunteering her time. She is also a mem-



ber of NAPT, the National Safety Council, Virginia Women Highway Safety Leaders, and the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services.

She absolutely loves softball holding several coaching achievements, awards, and delivering presentations throughout the state of Virginia. Achievements include the Virginia record for winning percentage in softball, Chairman Regional Coaches' Association; Virginia High School League official, softball and field hockey (state play-offs); and participated on state championship slo-pitch softball teams.

Currently working as the Associate Director of Pupil Transportation in Chesterfield County, VA, Dr. Goodman would like to be remembered as a director with a small staff that accomplished things only larger staffs would attempt!



VAPT Poster Contest Winners 2014

The purpose of this contest is to deliver important school bus safety messages through art. Each year, schools are encouraged to participate in this contest by having students who are enrolled in art classes prepare posters depicting a specific message. This year the message was **Be Smart - Be Seen, I wait in a safe place!**

1st Place Winners received \$100.00, 2nd Place Winners received \$75.00 and 3rd Place Winners received \$50.00.

Posters will now go on to the National level.

Division K-2

1st Place	Tri Vo	2nd Grade	Henrico County
2nd Place	Samuel Messe	2nd Grade	Hanover County
3rd Place	Maddy Hall	2nd Grade	Hanover County

Division 3-5

1st Place	William Mansfield	5th Grade	Petersburg County
2nd Place	Namit Nallapareni	4th Grade	Henrico County
3rd Place	D'andre Bailey	5th Grade	Petersburg County

Division 6-8

1st Place	Katie Hackney	6th Grade	Russell County
2nd Place	Bre'cha Byrd	6th Grade	Surry County
3rd Place	Alora Parks	8th Grade	Smyth County

Division (4) Special Education

1st Place	Frances Dildy	12th Grade	Surry County
2nd Place	Cornelius Shears	11th Grade	Surrey County
3rd Place	Daziyah Davis	4th Grade	Petersburg County

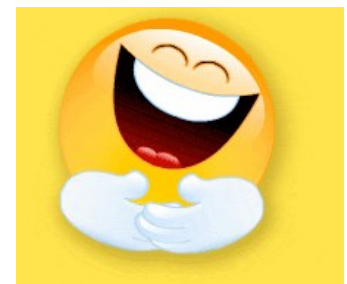
Division (Cad)

There were no CAD entries

Laugh Often!

To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children...to leave the world a better place...to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Sonny Merryman Memorial Scholarship

SONNY MERRYMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (VAPT) is pleased to announce the availability of the SONNY MERRYMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP named in memory of transportation giant Floyd W. (Sonny) Merryman, Jr. who passed away on December 7, 2013 at age 89.



Mr. Merryman founded Sonny Merryman, Inc. in 1967 – a Virginia company which has grown over the years to become a widely respected and prominent 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. He also worked with other industry vendors in providing seed monies to the VAPT for use in establishing the association's annual Clyde W. Morris Memorial Scholarship.

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



During the VAPT Conference Mr. Merryman's family made the announcement that this would become an on-going scholarship and presented a check to the VAPT in the amount of \$50,000 to get the ball rolling.

The very first recipient of this scholarship was awarded to:

2014 SONNY MERRYMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



DARCIE BROOKE MULLINS

WISE COUNTY

Asked why she desires to continue her education, Darcie replies "In order to equip myself...to use my time, resources and influence in a positive manner to help others". She will be attending LIBERTY UNIVERSITY this fall.

Serving as treasurer of the National Honor Society while attending Clintwood High School, Darcie was also this year's treasurer of her senior class. She was active in her school's Key Club and FCA. She was the recipient of several school honors including awards in Honors English, Geography, Biology, Math and an Outstanding Student Achievement Award for three consecutive years.

Balancing her academics, Darcie participated in school team sports – volleyball and basketball. She also found time to play tennis.

Committed to community service, Darcie was involved in the organizing and hosting of an annual "Get Ready for High School" teen mentoring event. She regularly visits with elderly/homebound and nursing home residents. She participated in her church "Coats for Kids" project and was involved in a tornado disaster relief project in West Liberty, Kentucky.

Happenings

Chesterfield County, VA

The Transportation Department of Chesterfield County Public Schools' re-organized training program for bus drivers won the Pupil Transportation



Safety category of the 2014 Governor's Transportation Safety Awards.

Suffolk, VA

R. Ulysses Whitfield started driving school buses in 1954 at age 16 and just finished his 60th year this June. He still remembers his first bus, a 1951 Ford with the straight shift and hydraulic brakes. He says that he drove straight shift buses for 36 years until Suffolk purchased its first bus with an automatic transmission in 1990. He shared that he has always been "tapped" to go to the more "challenging" bus routes because he always seems to be able to get the kids to do what is expected. When I asked what his secret was, he replied that he emphasizes the rules and regulations and teach them structure; there is a certain way he likes to load and unload his bus and once taught the problems disappear. He also stated that having good communication with the students and their parents was a must. Without that, none of it would have been successful. When I asked what his most

memorable moment was, he says he enjoys talking to the kids and having an impact in their lives. He had driven three generations of some families and a few it's up to four. (The current students, their parents, their grandparents, and a couple of great grand's as well) He has driven for almost every school in Suffolk and has driven everything Suffolk has ever purchased over the years from the Fords, the Wayne Bodied buses, Blue Birds, Internationals and Thomas Built buses.

He says his favorite is the Thomas bus with the red Cummins engine. As for hobbies, he enjoys playing the



organ and piano and has played at numerous graduation ceremonies and churches over the years. He has served as a Notary since 1964 and during the years of 1965- 1970 he also served as the cafeteria manager for John F. Kennedy High School in between driving the school bus. Mr. Whitfield is a very careful driver. In the 60 years driving the school bus, he has managed to keep his record clear of any preventable accidents. He says that he drives for him and for the other motorists out there and never take risks or chances. He would wait and let the other driver go before he proceeds on to

keep the kids' safe and to stay out of harm's way; a page that all drivers could use in their daily lives.

2014 Virginia's "Best" School Bus Technician

The fifth Virginia's "Best" School Bus technician Competition was held on Monday June 16, 2014 at the Virginia Beach Bus garage. Four technician competed this year and the winners were:

1st Place-Donald Ertel, Virginia Beach City Public Schools

2nd Place-Bill Alsko, Hopewell City Public Schools

Also competing were:

Pete Owens, York County Public Schools and David Sampson, Lee County Public Schools.

Sponsors for the event were Alan Tye & Associates, Kingmor Supply, Inc., and Sonny Merryman, Inc.



New Licensing Restrictions

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+46.2-341.16>

§ 46.2-341.16. Vehicle classifications, restrictions, and endorsements.

A. A commercial driver's license or commercial driver's instruction permit shall authorize the licensee or permit holder to operate only the classes and types of commercial motor vehicles designated thereon. The classes of commercial motor vehicles for which such license may be issued are:

1. Class A-Combination heavy vehicle. - Any combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds, provided the gross vehicle weight rating of the vehicles being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds;

2. Class B-Heavy straight vehicle or other combination. - Any single motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating that is not in excess of 10,000 pounds; and

3. Class C-Small vehicle. - Any vehicle that does not fit the definition of a Class A or Class B vehicle and is either (i) designed to transport 16 or more passengers including the driver or (ii) is used in the transportation of hazardous materials.

B. Commercial driver's licenses shall be issued with endorsements authorizing the driver to operate the types of vehicles identified as follows:

1. Type T-Vehicles with double or triple trailers;

2. Type P-Vehicles carrying passengers;

3. Type N-Vehicles with cargo tanks;

4. Type H-Vehicles required to be placarded for hazardous materials;

5. Type S-School buses carrying 16 or more passengers, including the driver;

6. Type X-combination of tank vehicle and hazardous materials endorsements for commercial driver's licenses issued on or after July 1, 2014; and

7. At the discretion of the Department, any additional codes for groupings of endorsements with an explanation of such code appearing on the front or back of the license.

C. Commercial driver's licenses shall be issued with restrictions limiting the driver to the types of vehicles identified as follows:

1. L for no air brake equipped commercial motor vehicles for licenses issued on or after July 1, 2014;

2. Z for no full air brake equipped commercial motor vehicles;

3. E for no manual transmission equipped commercial motor vehicles for commercial driver's licenses issued on or after July 1, 2014;

4. O for no tractor-trailer commercial motor vehicles;

5. M for no class A passenger vehicles;

6. N for no class A and B passenger vehicles;

7. K for vehicles not equipped with air brakes for commercial driver's licenses issued before July 1, 2014;

8. K for intrastate only for commercial driver's licenses issued on or after July 1, 2014;

9. V for medical variance; and

10. At the discretion of the Department, any additional codes for groupings of restrictions with an explanation of such code appearing on the front or back of the license.

D. Commercial driver's instruction permits shall be issued with endorsements authorizing the driver to operate the types of vehicles identified as follows:

1. Type P-Vehicles carrying passengers as provided in § 46.2-341.10;

2. Type N-Vehicles with cargo tanks as provided in § 46.2-341.10; and

3. Type S-School buses carrying 16 or more passengers, including the driver as provided in § 46.2-341.10.

E. Commercial driver's instruction permits shall be issued with restrictions limiting the driver to the types of vehicles identified as follows:

1. P for no passengers in commercial motor vehicles bus;

2. X for no cargo in commercial motor vehicles tank vehicle;

3. L for no air brake equipped commercial motor vehicles for commercial driver's instruction permits issued on or after July 1, 2014;

4. M for no class A passenger vehicles;

5. N for no class A and B passenger vehicles;

6. K for vehicles not equipped with air brakes for commercial driver's instruction permits issued before July 1, 2014;

7. K for intrastate only for commercial driver's instruction permits issued on or after July 1, 2014;

8. V for medical variance; and

9. Any additional jurisdictional restrictions that apply to the commercial driver's instruction permit.

F. Persons authorized to drive Class A vehicles are also authorized to drive Classes B and C vehicles, provided such persons possess the requisite endorsements for the type of vehicle driven.

G. Persons authorized to drive Class B vehicles are also authorized to drive Class C vehicles, provided such persons possess the requisite endorsements for the type of vehicle driven.

H. Any licensee who seeks to add a classification or endorsement to his commercial driver's license must submit the application forms, certifications and other updated information required by the Department and shall take and successfully complete the tests required for such classification or endorsement.

I. If any endorsement to a commercial driver's license is canceled by the Department and the licensee does not appear in person at the Department to have such endorsement removed from the license, then the Department may cancel the commercial driver's license of the licensee.

2014 VAPT School Bus ROADEO Winners

Participants, judges and spectators all **Winners:** endured the heat and humidity to make the 2014 VAPT School Bus Rodeo a complete success.

The Rodeo was held at Birdneck Elementary School, Virginia Beach, VA.

The first and second place winners from each event will be eligible to participate in the national event, which will be held on July 19-20 in Charleston, SC.

Conventional Buses:

1st Place - Tom Pittman, Virginia Beach

2nd Place - Kathy McGinnis, Montgomery Co.

3rd Place - Sandra Bayse, Roanoke City

Transit Buses:

1st Place - Josh Simpkins, Montgomery County

2nd Place - Karen Schoonover, Roanoke City

3rd Place - Barbara Smith, Newport News City

Special Needs:

1st Place - Russell Altizer, Montgomery County

2nd Place - Jeff Long, Newport News City

3rd Place - John Lushbaugh, Chesterfield Co.

