



## **The Voice and Vision for Pupil Transportation in Virginia**



**November 2010 Newsletter**  
**Editor – Bill Carr**

### **A Message from our President, Michael Ashby.....**

Dear VAPT Member:

The fact that you are reading this message shows your interest in an organization that is dedicated to serving the pupil transportation needs of children in the Commonwealth of Virginia. VAPT has been in existence for approximately 30 years and each year it grows in size and importance in the transportation community. Over the years we have been most fortunate to be supported by the members and the many vendors who help keep the school buses moving.

In order for VAPT to continue to grow and offer representation and the opportunity to gather at the yearly conference, we need people to help lead the organization.

Please consider volunteering to help with our various committees. If you know someone who is in the field of pupil transportation, but not a member, you may want to ask them to join. We are a great organization, but we can become larger and more influential with your support.

Sincerely,  
Michael Ashby, VAPT President

### **Inside this Issue...**

- 2 Regional Committee Reports
- 3 Regional Committee Reports
- 3 Job Announcements in Norfolk
- 3 Farewell Don Hammond
- 4 Public Campaign Taking Shape...
- 5 Virginia School Bus Driver Winners in National Road-e-o
- 6 Murianka Retires from NHTSA
- 6 Evenflo is recalling certain Maestro child restraint systems
- 7 Humors
- 8 Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder
- 9 Recipes Sharing Corner
- 10 National School Bus Safety Week
- 11 Transportation Hub Systems in VA
- 12 Name the People
- 13 Brief History of VAPT

*Regional Directors  
Meeting Reports Received  
for*

*October and November  
Meetings*



**Region 2 Directors  
Meeting**

Submitted by James Lash for  
Region 2

A Region II Directors meeting was held in Williamsburg on Tuesday, October 12, 2010. Earl Tyler, Director of Transportation for Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools hosted the group at the W-JCC Operations Center on Jolly Pond Road.

Topics discussed at the meeting included the following:

VDOE: Annual Report, Regulations, Specifications

Opening Day

Driver Availability

Problems

GPS Update

Driver Payroll (Utilizing GPS)

Equipment Installation

School Bus Cameras

Region II Transportation Information Spreadsheet (Annually Region II compiles a survey comparing each division's compensation, number of FTE's, fleet size, etc.)

Regional Road-E-O (Proposed site: Williamsburg)

Round Table Discussion

Up-coming Budget cycle

Up-coming NAPT Conference

Up-coming VAPT Conference

Theft of tires/rims from Chesapeake fleet

Recent weather events in Hampton Roads

A pasta lunch was provided by Earl Tyler which included a delicious homemade cake made by his wife Heather.

## **Region 4 Directors Meeting**

Submitted by Ed Bishop for region 4

Region 4 Directors met on October 28, 2010 at the Brentsville Transportation Center in Prince William County. There were 19 attendees.

Ms. Sandra Bailey from the Department of General Services for the Commonwealth of Virginia gave a presentation on the state Motor Fuels Program and Mr. Kevin Crain from the same department gave a presentation on fleet management services. Region IV directors made presentations and led discussions on bus route optimization and alternative fuel school buses. The morning ended with series of round table discussions on emergency evacuation drills, handling unreported damages to school buses, and managing employees with cognitive disabilities and performance issues.

Some directors expressed continuing frustration with some of the recently approved changes in State Pupil

Transportation regulations. Two in particular were the changes to maintenance intervals for school buses and the prohibition on operating buses with students standing during the first 30 days of the school year.



**Transportation Director –  
Norfolk, Virginia**

As many of you may know, Don Hammond is retiring. What you may not know is that Robert Clinebell from Virginia Beach will be the new director.



***and best wishes to Don  
Hammond and many  
thanks for his service to  
VAPT  
and to the children of  
Virginia. He will be  
missed!***



## Public Campaign Taking Shape...

(Source: NAPT News & Views -  
September 14, 2010)

We were pleased to report last month that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) — the federal agency responsible for school bus safety — at long last agreed to help promote the benefits of yellow school buses.

To refresh the story, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood responded to congressional letters prompted by the American School Bus Council (ASBC), and another from NAPT, urging that the safety, environmental, congestion mitigation and educational benefits of school buses is a story worth telling.

The gist of our argument to the secretary is that pupil transportation tends to be taken for granted. Parents and local policymakers alike need to hear from on high at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) that it's a service that contributes much to our education and transportation systems.

LaHood granted our request and directed NHTSA to take the lead. So again this month, a big hooray from all in our industry!

NHTSA Administrator David Strickland promptly followed up with a June 28 letter to NAPT saying, "We at NHTSA recognize the importance that school buses make in providing safe transportation for our nation's schoolchildren.

In fact, we are planning to develop educational materials highlighting the benefits of school buses and promoting their use. We are currently working to determine the most effective methods for relaying this message and anticipate beginning development of educational materials in the next few months."

Moreover, Strickland didn't let any grass grow. A meeting between NHTSA, the U.S. Department of Education, ASBC and NAPT occurred in early July, at which all parties agreed to work collaboratively on developing materials that will be effective.

NHTSA wants a campaign with "grassroots appeal" and indicated that budget is available for the effort. The agency will develop a matrix of audiences, messages and potential communication channels, and work on a survey of potential target groups. At the school bus industry's request, they will also consider raising the idea of a blog item by Secretary LaHood, as well as a possible back-to-school event with the secretary.

Secretary LaHood is a powerful communicator, and we would welcome his personal involvement!

**VIRGINIA SCHOOL BUS  
DRIVERS  
ARE BIG WINNERS  
IN THE 2010  
NATIONAL SCHOOL  
BUS SAFETY  
COMPETITION**



**Pictured left to right; Leslie Alderman, Karen Schooner, Tyler Reynolds, Joshua Simpkins, and Russell Altizer.**

The 40th Annual School Bus Driver National Safety Competition was held July 24 and 25, 2010 in St.

Louis, MO. School Bus drivers from across the nation compete in their local and state competitions and the first and second place winners from each state are eligible to compete in the national School Bus Safety Completion. Virginia was represented by drivers competing in the transit, conventional and small bus competitions.

**In the transit class**, out of a total of 38 contestants, **Tyler Reynolds** from **Virginia Beach City** Public Schools in **Region 2** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the National competition. **Russell Altizer** from **Montgomery County** Public Schools in **Region 6** placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the State and 7<sup>th</sup> in the National competition.

**In the conventional class**, **Leslie Alderman** from **Chesterfield County** Public Schools in **Region 1** was the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner in the Virginia contest, and out of a total of 54 contestants, placed 38<sup>th</sup> in the National competition.

**In the small bus competition**, there were 2 drivers competing from Virginia, both from **Region 6**. At the State competition, **Karen Schooner** from **Roanoke City** Schools placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the State and out of a total of 14 buses, came in 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation. **Joshua Simpkins** from **Montgomery County** Public Schools was the second place winner in Virginia and placed 5<sup>th</sup> at the National competition.

Drivers that placed in the top 10 in each class were given a special trophy and Virginia was proud to have four drivers honored in that

group. We congratulate all of our drivers on their accomplishments. VAPT strongly encourages all localities in Virginia to sponsor their own local road-e-o or "school bus safety competition" and send their winners to the VAPT competition next year. It is a great way for drivers to improve their driving skills while having lots of fun at the same time.

Information regarding the Virginia School Bus Road-e-o to be held during the 2011 annual VAPT/VDOE Pupil Transportation Conference will be provided in a future newsletter.



**CONGRADULATIONS**

**WE ARE PROUD  
OF YOU ALL!!!**



## **Sonny Murianka Retires from NHTSA**

Sonny Murianka, Senior Investigator USDOT NHTSA Office of Defects Investigation has retired after more than 40 years with the government. Sonny was our "go to guy" when we encountered safety defects or concerns with school bus components. Additionally, he was our source of information regarding safety recalls before there was a database and a formal information sharing process. We extend a hearty well done and best wishes for him in his retirement.



**FYI**

NHTSA Campaign ID Number:  
[10C005](#)

Synopsis:  
Evenflo is recalling certain Maestro child restraint systems with model numbers beginning with 310 and built from November 24, 2009, through April 9, 2010. These seats fail to conform to the structural integrity requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 213, "Child Restraint Systems." In the event of a crash, a crack may form at the front of the seat adjacent to the harness adjuster causing the child not to be adequately restrained, increasing the risk of injury.

Evenflo will provide owners and care givers a reinforcement plate along with repair instructions free of charge. The safety recall is expected to begin during October 2010. Owners may contact Evenflo toll-free at 1-800-233-5921.

For more information for this particular recall, please go to [10C005](#)



### THE \$40,000.00 FUNERAL

Jim died and his will provided \$40,000 for an elaborate funeral.

As the last guests departed the affair, his wife Janis turned to her oldest and dearest friend. 'Well, I'm sure Jim would be pleased,' she said.

'I'm sure you're right,' replied Brenda, who lowered her voice and leaned in closer. 'How much did this really cost?'

'All of it,' said Janis, 'Forty thousand.'

'No way,' Brenda exclaimed! 'I mean, it was very nice, but \$40,000?'

Janis answered, 'The funeral was \$6,500. I donated \$500 to the church. The whiskey, wine and snacks were another \$500. The rest went for the Memorial Stone.'

Brenda computed quickly - '\$32,500 for a Memorial Stone?'

How big is it?'



Mildred, the church gossip, and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve of her extra curricular activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence.

She made a mistake, however, when she accused Frank, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon. She emphatically told Frank (and several others) that every one seeing it there **WOULD KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING!**

Frank, a man of few words stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny. He said nothing. Later that evening, Frank quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house ... walked home - and left it there all night

Recently, I was diagnosed with A.A.A.D.D. - **A**ge **A**ctivated **A**ttention **D**eficit **D**isorder.

This is how it manifests:

I decide to water my garden. As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide it needs washing.

As I start toward the garage, I notice mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mail box earlier.

I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car.

I lay my car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table, and notice that the can is full.

So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my check book off the table, and see that there is only one check left.

My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Coke I'd been drinking.

I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over.

The Coke is getting warm, and I decide to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.

As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye--they need water.

I put the Coke on the counter and discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning.

I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table.



I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I'll be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was trying to do.

At the end of the day: the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there is a warm can of coke sitting on the counter, the flowers don't have enough water, there is still only 1 check in my check book, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses, and I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day, and I'm really tired.

I realize this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail.

I live in my own little world but it's okay. They know me here.



## RECIPE SHARING CORNER

### ANGEL BARS

- ½ cup butter
- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- ½ cup butterscotch chips
- ½ cup white chocolate chips
- 1 cup coconut (flaked), 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Coat bottom of 9 x 9-inch pan with melted butter. Spread graham cracker crumbs evenly over butter, and press into bottom of pan. Sprinkle butterscotch and white chocolate chips evenly over top of the graham cracker crumbs. Sprinkle with flaked coconut. Pour sweetened condensed milk evenly over the coconut and sprinkle chopped walnuts on top. Bake for 30 minutes. Cool completely before cutting into small squares.

## No Sugar Added Dessert

### Apple Crisp

- 5 cups thinly sliced Granny Smith apples
  - 1 cup apple cider
  - ½ cup fat-free butterscotch ice cream topping, divided
  - ¼ cup all-purpose flour
  - 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
  - 3 cups low-fat granola with raisins
  - 3 tablespoons margarine or butter, melted
  - Low-fat, no sugar-added ice cream (optional)
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly coat 8-inch square baking pan with nonstick cooking spray then set aside.
  2. Combine apples, cider, ¼ cup butterscotch topping, flour and cinnamon in large bowl. Place in prepared pan.
  3. Combine remaining ¼ cup butterscotch topping, granola and margarine. Dollop over apples.
  4. Bake, covered, 40 to 45 minutes. Remove cover and bake an additional 15 to 20 minutes or until mixture is bubbly and apples are tender. Serve warm with ice cream, if desired.

Makes 9 servings

## NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK...



### Editor's Note:

Would you like to share in a future VAPT Newsletter? If so, please email me, Bill Carr, [Feb945@yahoo.com](mailto:Feb945@yahoo.com), with information regarding your school division's transportation operation. Please email me how your county or city recognized National School Bus Safety Week? You may be surprised at how many schools throughout Virginia could benefit from your input.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Transportation Hub Systems in Virginia</b>				
2	<i>Question: Does your school division utilize the hub system to transport students to and from school?</i>				
3					
4	School Division	Yes	No	Remarks	
5	Accomack County		X		
6	Alexandria		X		
7	Arlington		X		
8	Chesterfield County	X			
9	Fairfax County	X		Specific programs only	
10	Fauquier County		X		
11	Fluvanna County		X		
12	Frederick County		X		
13	Hanover County		X		
14	Lynchburg	X		One program only	
15	Norfolk		X		
16	Richmond City		X	Two programs only	
17	Richmond County		X		
18	Shenandoah		X	One program only	
19	Stafford County		X		
20	Westmoreland County		X		
21	Williamsburg/James City		X	Specific programs only	

Thanks to those who shared information and thanks to David Hill for compiling and sharing the results.

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**Can you name the following folks?**

**Answers on page 13.**

**1**



**2**



**3**



**4**



**5**



**6**



The names of the folks pictured above are listed on page 13

1. Barbara Scott (Campbell County-deceased)
2. Gail Patterson (Hanover County)
3. Mitzi Cruise (Hanover County)
4. Harold Grimes (Henrico County)
5. John Hazelette (Norfolk City)
6. Fred Valentine (Hanover County-retired)

Barbara Goodman – Chesterfield County. Now how did she get in here?



**IF YOU HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS OF VAPT MEMBERS; ESPECIALLY PAST AND PRESENT OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS AND ARE WILLING TO SHARE THEM IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS, PLEASE SEND THEM TO ME, **BILL CARR**, EDITOR AT [FEB945@YAHOO.COM](mailto:FEB945@YAHOO.COM)**

Irony is when you buy a suit with two pairs of pants, and then burn a hole in the coat.

## Brief VAPT History

### Officers for 1989

**President:** Tim Parker, Fairfax County

**President Elect:** Don Hammond, Newport News

**Secretary:** Ray Mulvany, Henrico County

**Treasurer:** Alvin Wilson, Surry County

### Directors for 1989

Ralph Farmer, Roanoke County

Pauline Griffin, Manassas City

Linwood Horne, Virginia Overland Transportation

Ralph Hamilton, Wise County

***HELP!*** *Where are the VAPT reporters?* To improve our newsletter we need reporters from all areas of the state. ***Please send your name to me if you are willing to help.***

Bill Carr, editor - email address [FEB945@yahoo.com](mailto:FEB945@yahoo.com)

# Thanksgiving

**"Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be."**

**--- George Washington  
New York, 3 October 1789**

**Editor's Note:**

I hope you all have a Blessed Thanksgiving Day and will have fond memories of this special time of thanksgiving. Bill

**That's All Folks!**

