

The Voice and Vision for Pupil Transportation in Virginia



September

2013

Bus Drivers, Supervisor Receive Recognition

Source: The Franklin News Post

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The Virginia Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (VIAAA) has awarded three employees of Franklin County's Transportation Department with distinguished honors for their outstanding service to high school athletics.

Donna Carter, supervisor of transportation for Franklin County schools, and bus drivers Tony Davis and Doug Moore were each selected as recipients of the 2012-2013 VIAAA Distinguished Service Award during last month's annual meeting of the VIAAA Past Presidents' Council.

"They couldn't have picked three better people to epitomize the distinguished service award," said Sandy Coblentz, athletic secretary.

The award is targeted toward those working outside the field of athletic administration.

"We were hoping one of us would get the award," said Davis, "but for three of us to get it is just great."

Carter, Davis and Moore received their awards at the 2013 VIAAA State Conference on March 21 at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott in Norfolk.

"The VIAAA is very proud to honor these recipients because of their dedication and hard work," said Melody Modell, immediate past president of the VIAAA.

"They go above and beyond for our athletes daily," said Coblentz. "No one knows just how much they do for us."



VAPT Board Members

President: Kermit Shaffer, Spotsylvania Co.

Vice President: Lonnie Reavis, Suffolk City

Secretary: Bill Mayhew, Charlotte Co.

Treasurer: David Pace, Virginia Beach City

Past President: Michael Ashby, Hanover Co.

Region 1: Floyd Miles, Chesterfield Co.

Region 2: Steve Pappas, Poquoson City

Region 3: Rick Walters, King William Co.

Region 4: Justin Sarver, Orange Co.

Region 5: Charmane White, Albemarle Co.

Region 6: Donna Carter, Franklin Co.

Region 7: Tom Williams, Washington Co.

Region 8: Ronnie Palmore, Buckingham Co.

Ridership Counts 2013-2014

School divisions in Virginia must conduct a count of ridership the third week in October each year. This count should be conducted for five (5) consecutive days that school is in session starting with this week.

This information will be used when completing the transportation report at the end of that school year. The count collected this October WILL NOT be used for the transportation submission report due this October. The ridership count used for this October's report submission is from the ridership count taken October 2012.

The count for ridership will be determined as follows:

During this week, count the number of pupils being transported by yellow school buses each day (morning and afternoon). Take the count each morning and again each afternoon. At the end of the week, take the higher of the morning and afternoon counts for each day and calculate an average for five days. Keep the count separated by regular and exclusive ridership.

When counting ridership, be sure to count those students who may stay for after-school activities, but are transported home on a school bus (school to home).

2013 Virginia's "Best" School Bus Technician

The fourth Virginia's "Best" School Bus Technician Competition was held on Monday June 17, 2013 at the Chesterfield County Courthouse Bus Facility. Eight technicians competed this year and the winners were:

1st Place - Bill Alsko, Hopewell City Public Schools

2nd Place - Donald Ertel, Virginia Beach City Public Schools

3rd Place - Jason Sharpe, County of Henrico

Also competing were:

Pete Owens, York County Public Schools...Jason Lawrence, Montgomery County Public Schools...Elvis Blunt,

Greensville County Public Schools... Boone Wiest, Albemarle County Public Schools...Chris Farmer, Chesterfield County...

Thanks to our Sponsors for their continuing support of the Virginia's "Best" Technician Competition: Alan Tye & Associates...Kingmor Supply, Inc....Sonny Merryman, Inc.

Virginia's "Best" Technician Competition Committee: Bob Clinebell, Norfolk Public Schools, Chairman...Brady Childress, Sonny Merryman, Inc....Dave Preston, Kingmor Supply, Inc.



Left to right; Brady Childress, Sonny Merryman, Inc.; Mike Wirt, Sonny Merryman, Inc., Bill Alsko, Hopewell City; Allen Buford, Hopewell City (in back) Robert Clinebell, Norfolk and Dave Preston, Kingmor Supply, Inc.

65-Year School Bus Driver Named Education "Pioneer"

Source:SchoolBus Fleet

When Carl Fisher got behind the wheel of a school bus at 16 years old, he likely had no idea that he was embarking on a career that would last into his 80's.

Shortly after his 16th birthday on December 12, 1946, Fisher took over his father's school bus driving duties so his father could focus on farming. Fisher stuck with the bus job for the long haul: He went on to log some 2 million miles, transporting three generations of some families.

Over the years, Fisher owned about a dozen different school buses.

In 2011, Guinness World Records determined him to have the "longest career as a bus driver."

Fisher retired last year at age 81 after nearly 66 years

as a school bus driver.

Now, Fisher has earned another honor: the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education named him a "Pioneer in Education" for his commitment and contributions to public education in the state.

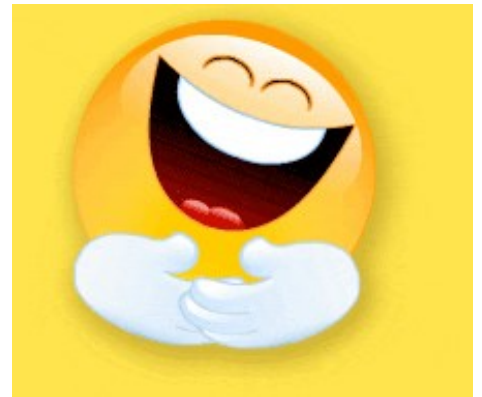
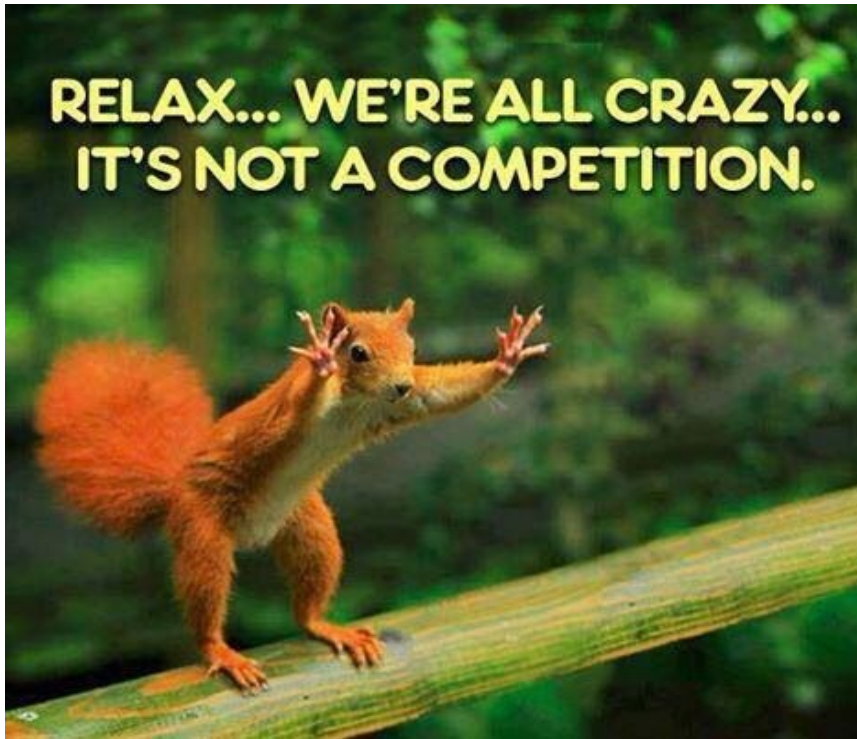
Fisher and four other "pioneers" were recognized in late July during the Cooperative Conference for School Administrators in Columbia, Mo.

"The 2013 Pioneers in Education have made a lasting impact on education in Missouri", Commissioner of Education Chris Nicastro said. "These great leaders have given their time, talents and treasure to better serve the children, and future, of our state".

We Need You!

VAPT is always looking for articles to include in the newsletter. The goal is to provide a newsletter every three months. Please share what is happening in your school division. You can submit your articles to Cheryl Fisher at cfisher@fcps1.org. Our next newsletter is scheduled for December, 2013. Thank You!

Laugh Often!



Happenings

VAPT Board of Directors:

President: Kermit Shaffer, Spotsylvania Co
 Vice President-Lonnie Reavis, Suffolk City
 Secretary: Bill Mayhew, Charlotte Co
 Treasurer: David Pace, Virginia Beach City
 Region 1: Floyd Miles, Chesterfield Co
 Region 2: Steve Pappas, Poquoson City
 Region 3: Rick Walters, King William Co
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 Region 5: Charmane White, Albemarle Co
 Region 6: Donna Carter, Franklin Co
 Region 7: Tom Williams, Washington Co
 Region 8: Ronnie Palmore, Buckingham Co

Trading Places:

Retiring as Stafford County transportation

director, Ms. Margaret Hill. Ms. Hill plans to relax, enjoy her grandchildren and visit family. We wish her well.

Mr. Barry Sudduth will be taking the helm in Stafford County as the new transportation director. Barry has worked in transportation for many years in several different capacities. He is also the NAPT Regional Director for our area.

2013 VAPT Poster Contest Winners:

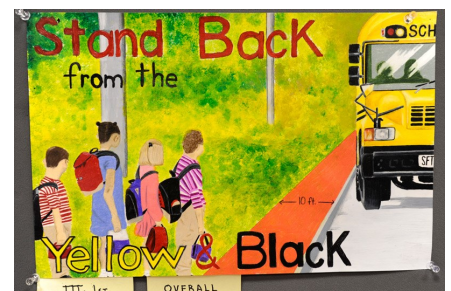
K-2	1st	Lucy Marshall	Fairfax Co
	2nd	Hannah Peterson	Fairfax Co
	3rd	Amy Harwood	Fairfax Co
3-5	1st	Christina Chol	Fairfax Co
	2nd	Jackson Culver	Fairfax Co
	3rd	Margaret Earls	Fairfax Co
6-8	1st	Justyn Bozek	Fairfax Co
	2nd	Marcus Hancock	Fairfax Co

	3rd	Lauren Ottignon	Fairfax Co
Special Ed		Jaquita Carter	Surry Co
CAD	1st	Carson Sylvester	Goochland
CAD	2nd	Aniya Hope	Goochland
CAD	3rd	Justin Alley	Goochland

National School Bus Safety Week is October 21-25, 2013

Poster contest theme for 2014 is:

Be Smart - Be Seen, I wait in a safe place!



2013 Scholarship Recipients



Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation's 2013 **Clyde W. Morris Memorial Scholarship** in the amount of \$2,500 was awarded to Chole Belle Alexander.

Chole will be attending Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts this fall majoring in Managerial Economics.

A graduate of Prince George High School, Chole was a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society and served as President of Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society. She was active in her school's Beta Club, served as treasurer of the Interact Club and was Business Manager and Writer for the school newspaper. Active in softball throughout school, Chole found time to be involved in tutoring other students, reading to elementary children and participating in activities within her church.



Virginia's 2013 **Buster Bynum Education Scholarship** in the amount of \$2,500 was awarded to Heather Kesler of Franklin County.

Heather was accepted into the University of Virginia Nursing Program for the fall. Heather states her goal is to become a Pediatric Oncology

Nurse and ultimately help rid the world of cancer.

The winner of multiple Academic Excellence Awards in areas such as Advanced Placement Calculus and Chemistry plus Medical Office Administration, Heather served as President of the National Honor Society at Franklin County high school. She received varsity letters in Odyssey of the Mind and the Scholastic Competition of Academic Excellence League - serving as Captain for one of these teams.

Heather completed over 535 hours of volunteer service at a local hospital, tutored in math and chemistry and worked on the family-owned dairy farm.

Five Virginia Tech students with ties to the state's school bus community have been awarded \$2,500 Public Pupil Transportation Scholarships at Virginia Tech. The scholarships are made possible through an endowment established by longtime university benefactor, **F.W. Sonny Merryman, Jr.**, of Rustburg.

The 2013 scholarship recipients are Ariel Smith, Lauren Nickel, Aaron Birchfield, Jacqueline Gurganus and Austin Woods. Smith is a graduate of Liberty High School in Fauquier County and is a Virginia Tech sophomore. Her grandmother, Barbara Smith, is a former school bus driver for Prince William County. Nickel is a 2013 graduate of Franklin County HS and will enter Tech this fall. Her mother, Stephanie, is a school bus driver for Franklin County. Birchfield, also an entering Tech freshman, graduated from Virginia High School in Bristol. His father, Daniel, is a school bus driver for the City of Bristol Public Schools. Gurganus—another Tech freshman is a graduate of Tallwood HS in Virginia Beach. Her father, David, is a maintenance supervisor for Virginia Beach City Schools. Woods is an alumnus of Matoaca HS in Chesterfield County. His grandmother, Gerry Hutchins, is a former school bus driver in Chesterfield County.



Floyd Merryman, CEO Sonny Merryman, Inc., Lauren Nickel and Austin Woods

School Bus Crossing Visual Catching on in Other States

Source: SchoolBus Fleet July 8, 2013

Dozens of school bus operations across the nation are now using a tool that can help students see the bus driver's hand signal when crossing the street.

The Steffi Crossing Enhancer, invented by longtime New York school bus driver Victoria DeCarlo, is a reflective arrow with elastic bands that drivers wear on the back of their hand. The arrow is designed to provide a clear visual through glare on the windshield.

School bus drivers in New York are required to use a thumb and forefinger signal to direct students when it is safe to cross the street in front of the bus.

Since DeCarlo launched the Steffi Crossing Enhancer last year, it has caught on at operations in many other states. She recently told SBF magazine that "thousands" of Steffis are

now in use across the U.S., and they are being introduced in some parts of Canada.

The Steffi is also making its way to state legislators. DeCarlo said she met with New York Senator George Maziarz, who she said was impressed by its simplicity, effectiveness and low cost.

"I firmly believe that every bus driver in this country and Canada should be wearing them," DeCarlo said. "The Steffi is not for the driver; it is for the student. ...A student that crosses should not have to guess; it should be a given."

Do you have a safe crossing plan? Many areas use the thumbs up sign, but this can be hard to see from a distance.

Student transporters always strive to do better and are coming up with very innovative ideas.



Progress



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