



TRANSIT TIDBITS

Issue 15-December, 2012



Guess Who?

HAPPY HOLIDAYS to each and every one of you and your families. I hope 2013 brings health and happiness to each of you.

2013 DTA MEMBERSHIP DUES

Jacque Senger

I would like to thank Pam Landsem, Transportation Director at Walsh County, Park River, ND, for submitting her 2013 DTA Membership dues so quickly. I mailed out the notices on December 7th and received her notice and check December 10th. Now, that is fast. THANK YOU PAM!!

If, for some reason, you did not receive your 2013 DTA Membership Form, the form is on the web. You may either pay by Paypal on the web or send a check to

me. Either way, I must have a filled-out membership form returned to me.

DRIVER TRAINING CLASSES

Linda Freeman

PASS, PASS Recertification, Defensive Driving and Maltreatment Awareness Training Sessions are planned for Spearfish, SD, for December 27th, 28th, and 29th which is a Thursday, Friday, Saturday. A second group of the same classes are planned for March 27th, 28th & 29th, which is a Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. All pertinent information including starting and ending times and map to the training facility along with room information is on the dakotatransit.org web site. **SPECIAL NOTE: Rooms in the block for the December classes must be reserved by December 16th.**

Please register for the classes on the Dakota Transit web site.

FUTURE SESSIONS:

May, 2013: Grafton, ND - Room for up to 40 participants. Exact dates will be chosen soon.

1st week of June, 2013: Bismarck at West River Transit. Exact dates will be chosen soon.

YOU CAN HELP! We use the DTA membership list for our addresses for mapping for the classes so please let Jacque know if there are any changes during the year. THANKS A BUNCH!

TRAIN THE TRAINER

Jacque Senger

We are in the process of gathering dates for a “Train the Trainer” workshop. We are in the preliminary stages. We are announcing this so you all have time to think about becoming a PASS Trainer. When the workshop is confirmed, we will get the information out to the general membership in the “Transit Tidbit”. Please watch for this.



Mike Laidlaw, Presenter

Barb Cline, Prairie Hills Transit, Spearfish, SD

On October 17-18 several South Dakota attendees attended Q'Strain Training in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Jackie Mattheis, River Cities Transit; Mike Mullaney and Jay Caylor, Brookings Area Transit; and Barb Cline, Prairie Hills Transit were accepted to train with Mike Laidlaw and John Goss.

This was an excellent training and resource for any transit Agency using either Sure-Lok or Q'Strain securement systems. While we pride ourselves in giving excellent trainings such as PASS, Defensive Driving and Maltreatment Awareness this training helped define additional training techniques and issues that must be addressed.

Mike encouraged us to look at every case through the eyes of an attorney, asked if policy was clear enough to protect the company and the driver. Some specifics we were reminded of were; equipment must be secured after every use, and drivers should always

inventory their equipment and make sure it works as part of their pre-trip, equipment should be Sure-Lok or Q'Strain-not a combination of both. Tags should always be visible-if they aren't the equipment isn't being used as it should. The tag is also your warranty so NEVER cut them off. The importance of safety training and some video clips were provided as well. If one of your agency vehicles is involved in an accident/incident you should box the securement equipment up, tape it shut with a safety report on top of the box. This equipment should never be used again. Detail the information in your report as if you're going to court tomorrow.

Make sure to put new securement equipment in your budget each year. They can become worn, dirty or damaged. If you leave securements in the tracks it may become impossible to remove them. Don't forget to remove and stow after use. By leaving them in the track people can also trip and fall.

This was a very comprehensive training and each of us took away lots of good notes and excellent training material.

“Transit Coordination: Finding Coordination Partners and Breaking Down Barriers”

Melissa Hull, SD DOT

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605-773-7038

Carol Wright will be presenting “Transit Coordination: Finding Coordination Partners and Breaking Down Barriers” via TLN on January 10, 2013 from 2-4pm CST and January 22, 2013 from 9-11am CST. All partners in coordination are welcome. You must travel to a TLN site to participate. Please contact Melissa Hull by December 21, 2012 to sign up or for a list of TLN locations in SD.



20th National Rural Conference on Rural and Intercity Bus Transportation
Brian Horinka, Minot City Transit
Minot, ND

Recently, Darrell Francis and I, both from Minot, ND, were fortunate enough to attend the 20th National Conference on Rural and Intercity Bus Transportation held in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the Little America Hotel. This conference brought together professionals from all areas of the transit industry, from rural demand response to urban fixed route providers and even private motor coach operators. Throughout the three days of the conference there were numerous sessions revolving around the five main topics of Planning Design and Research; Policy, Funding and Finance; Rural Mobility; Rural Transportation in Today's Operating Environment; and Technology and Training Solutions to Improve Service. Along with these breakout sessions there were large group sessions throughout the conference featuring speakers from our national associations.

It was very difficult choosing between all the topics offered during the breakout sessions but I decided to focus on the Rural Transportation in Today's Operating Environment track. The session on Transit Workforce Development moderated by Jill Hough and Kevin Anderson from SURTC and Robbie Sarles from RLS and Associates, focused on innovative ways of recruiting and retaining a quality transit workforce. The panel showed us ways of mentoring current staff and preparing them for more responsible positions, as well as, introducing new education and training programs available to transit professionals.

The afternoon session, moderated by Ream Lazaro, focused on Innovations in Rural Transit Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness. This particular topic has become quite near and dear to me after our experiences last year with the major flood

event here in Minot. Ream and his panel talked about the FTA Bus Safety and Security Program. This program provides guidance and resources to rural transit agencies in developing and maintaining comprehensive safety, security, and emergency preparedness programs.

Tuesday morning began with a wonderful breakfast and a session on the National Perspectives on Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation. Dale Marsico, Executive Director for CTAA, Michael Melaniphy, President and CEO of APTA, and Peter Pantuso, President and CEO of the American Bus Association shared their thoughts and vision for the nation's transit systems. Each of these speakers had a somewhat different perspective on transit around the nation and the effects of the new MAP-21 legislation on our industry. Even though each gentleman focused on different aspects of the transit industry it was obvious that the leadership from all of our national organizations very strongly support what we all do as providers and are aggressively pursuing more federal funding for our programs.

Tuesday afternoon I chose to continue to take in as much information on safety and security as I could and attended the session on Emergency Procedures for Rural Transit Drivers: An Overview of National RTAP's Training Module. This was moderated by Pam DiGiovanni from National RTAP and featured Gary Gleason from Nusura. Gary gave us an overview of the new RTAP module and shared strategies for getting the most out of this training series. Throughout this session we got to try out some of the exercises and sampled some of the module's guidance on responding to unexpected events.

I finished off my sessions with another session moderated by Gary Gleason on Operations Logistics in the Face of Service Disruptions and Other Emergencies. This focused on two actual case studies in communities that have faced major disruptions to their transit service either due to a planned disruption or an unplanned natural disaster. Listening to these two case studies and seeing how each agency dealt with the challenges facing them reinforced what I had learned in earlier sessions about preplanning and being as prepared as you can for emergencies before they happen.

This national conference is held every two years and I would highly recommend attending it if

you get the opportunity. It is not very often that you get transit professionals together from so many different parts of our industry sharing such varied ideas and concepts. If there was any downfall to this conference at all it would have to be spending seventeen hours (each direction) in a van driving across Montana and Wyoming with our beloved DTA President Darrell Francis! (Just kidding Darrell). We also made a stop in Buffalo, Wyoming, and picked up our old friend A.J. Mock, former Director of Williston Public Transit and took him with us. A.J. is doing well and enjoying his new position in Buffalo. The next time this conference will be held will be in November of 2014 in California.

**DTA BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 3-4, 2012
FARGO, ND**

Your DTA Board met in Fargo, ND, on December 3-4 to continue planning for 2013. We finalized the 2013 Budget and secured the Ramada Inn for our 2013 Fall Conference and secured the Judicial Wing Parking Lot for the Bus Rodeo. We are well on our way with transit ideas for the 2013 Conference. However, if you have any good suggestions, please get them in early as the process is moving along nicely.

DTA's mailing address is **PO Box 973, Devils Lake, ND 58301. E-mail address is jacque.senger@hotmail.com, phone number 701-662-2465. Please contact me with any items you would like in the Tidbit.**