

ISSUE

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DTA
Dakota Transit
Association

Transit Tidbits



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Update On 2014 DTA Membership Dues

99% of the 2014
Membership Forms
have been received.

THANK YOU!!!

*“Success is
liking yourself,
liking what you
do, and liking
how you do
it!!!”*

Fall Conference Awards

Our 2014 Awards for the Fall Conference
are as follows:

- ◆ Above and Beyond
- ◆ Driver of the Year
- ◆ Innovative Agency
- ◆ Outstanding Dispatcher
 - ◆ Friend of Transit
 - ◆ Support Staff

We would like to see many award nominations this year, as we have many exceptional people working in “OUR” transit world.

Please keep these awards fresh in your mind as the due date will sneak up on you.

From the DTA Board President

Brenda Schweitzer

Executive Director, Brookings Area Transit Authority
Brookings, SD



Greetings from the DTA Board of Directors!

I'd like to tell you that this greeting comes with the promise of sunshine, WARM temps and NO MORE SNOW, but I'm sure Mother Nature would make a liar out of me. It's been a rough one, with transit staff, fleet and passengers all taking the toll.

We are well into the planning for the September 2014 DTA Roadeo and Conference. A lot of thought, time and effort go into this with the ultimate goal to reflect our mission of supporting and promoting transit within our two states. Again, I'm so proud of being the only TWO-STATE transit association.

The 2014 DTA Conference theme is : Connecting the DOTS ~ using each of our projects as a 'dot', as well as state, county, city entities, social service programs, Medicaid, DOT offices, Region VIII FTA, congressional delegates, state representation, etc. You get the picture, just connect the dots. We need each other to put it all together to see the 'big picture'. Sioux Falls will be a beautiful backdrop to our convention. Randy has helped to put together a great opportunity to catch a ride on the Sioux Falls Trolley and discover the many unique shops filled with infinite treasures! It truly is an amazing area.

The Roadeo and Driver Training will be superb, with a focus on safety and some of the very specialized transportation each of you does.

The conference will include a focus on ADA, match opportunities and more. The Trade Show will be held in a perfect venue to celebrate DTA's 30th Anniversary. Yes, 30 years! Sioux Falls was the host of our 20th Anniversary. Do any of you remember the ice sculpture we had for that?

As the finer details get put together for you, we will be making some contacts with many of you for your input in the programs. As with any organization, our rewards are reflex, we get what we give. As a teaser, I'm asking each agency that does a fund raiser to send me a brief (or not so brief) description what your agency has done and the successes you've had, or why it didn't work. It can be as simple as our transit program does a monthly spaghetti feed. Where do you hold it, how do you promote it, and what kind of results do you have? The Radio-Thon's – what does it take to make them work, what information do you share, how you promote, etc. We can learn from each other. Your time will be worth the effort. I'd be glad to compile these at any time; feel free to send them to me at bschweitzer@brookingsareatransit.com, or any other board member. If you wish to volunteer with ANY part of the conference, let me know. We will be making contacts as well.

On one final note, Roadeo and Convention Registrations will soon be on the web. A reminder will be sent out for this AND our DTA Awards. PLEASE respect the deadlines. At this time, more than ever, we are noticing changes in food costs. This is one of the main reasons your registration deadlines need to be respected. The forms will have complete explanations.

Remember, we added the additional awards back into our program. Make it your goal to submit at least ONE nomination...in each category would be even better!

Happy spring and remember to add the DTA Roadeo and Conference 'dot' to your calendars – September 19-24, 2014.

Bus Exchange Publications

Brian Niddery

It's been a banner year for new bus manufacturers entering the North American marketplace. Over the last 12 months nine new manufacturers have entered the market with the launch of approximately 21 new bus models.

These include CT Coachworks, Riverside CA; Dur-A-Bus, Toronto ON; Freedom Motors, Battle Creek MI; Grand West Transportation, Vancouver BC; LGE Coachworks, North East PA; Meridian Specialty Vehicles, Las Vegas NV; Mobility Ventures, South Bend IN; Newport Coachworks, Riverside CA, and Winnebago, Forest City IA.

A number of these companies are limousine manufacturers that have expanded into the production of seated cutaway buses, while Freedom and Dur-a-Bus offer wheelchair van models. Mobility Ventures, a new division of AM General, has launched the MV-1, available in both a para-transit and taxi model versions. Grand West Transportation, Vancouver BC. offers the mid-size Vicinity transit bus model to the Canadian market, with eventual plans to market this model in the USA. Winnebago, an icon of the RV business, has recently introduced a line of mid-size buses for both transit, shuttle, and vocational applications.

This information is courtesy of Bus Exchange Publications. For the most up to date information on bus industry manufacturers and suppliers, new bus models, bus parts for sale, used buses for sale, visit www.busexchange.com.

Contact Brian at 772-621-4805

DTA Board Report

Your Board is working hard to gather all the information needed to make your 2014 Fall Conference all it can be. 2014 marks the 30th year of DTA! To that I say "congratulations" to all our predecessors who paved the way for the rest of us. We appreciate your insight in the transit world.

If anyone has a good suggestion for our Fall Conference, now is the time to speak up. We will be attempting to finalize things the first part of April --- so there is still time to respond.

Also, in the January Tidbit we asked for some volunteers for DTA Committees. At this point the committees are as follows; membership, conference, roadeo, awards, nominating, legislative, supporting documents and communications. The Board would like to encourage you to step forward and help us out. If you are interested in joining a committee, please give me a call or contact a Board Member.

DTA Board Contacts:

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New Faces of Transit at the DTA

Jeff Rutz

South Dakota Department of Transportation

Greeting Everyone-----

I am Jeff Rutz and I am the newest member of the South Dakota Department of Transportation – Office of Air, Rail and Transit. I joined Lisa and Sallie in December as the third member of the Transit team. I have spent the past eight and half years as a member of the South Dakota Highway Patrol – Motor Carrier Division performing safety inspections on commercial trucks and buses in western portion of South Dakota. Before joining the Highway Patrol I worked in corporate retail and governmental management.

The Transit team is hard at work finishing the 2013 reporting year reports and working on several procurements for new vehicles, plus starting initial planning for 2014 procurements and annual inspections. In addition to the day to day operations, we are looking at some new training programs to assist all the transit agencies throughout the state.

Training

We have the following driver training classes scheduled:

Maltreatment Awareness, Defensive Driving, PASS Certification & Recertification

When: March 20, 21 & 22

Where: Valley City, ND

Maltreatment Awareness and Defensive Driving Classes will be held on March 20.

PASS Certification will be held March 21 and 22 with PASS Recertification on March 22.

Go to the DTA website for more information including motel reservation information and to register for classes.

Maltreatment Awareness, Defensive Driving, PASS Certification & Recertification

When: June 23, 24 & 25

Where: Bismarck, ND

PASS & PASS Recertification will be held on the 23rd and 24th with Maltreatment Awareness & Defensive Driving Classes to be held on the 25th. Please refer to the DTA web site for more information and to register.

North Dakota Transit

Kim Adair

North Dakota Department of Transportation

North Dakota Transit has a new employee Tami Abrahamson who replaced Justin Beyer. Tami started Tuesday February 18, 2014. Please everyone help me give Tami a warm welcome to the Transit World. She can be contacted by phone at 701-328-3720 or email at tbrahamson@nd.gov.

WELCOME TAMI!!

North Dakota Calendar of Events

April 1, 2014

Grants Due

April 23, 2014

Quarterly Provider Meeting (Bismarck)

March 31 - April 3, 2014

RouteMatch User's Conference

This will be held in Atlanta, GA. You **must** have RouteMatch to attend.

June 8 - 13, 2014

CTAA Conference

CTAA will be held in Minneapolis, MN in the summer of 2014. We are expecting many to attend, so we may have to put a limit on the number that can go. You **must** have attended 2 DTA conferences and regularly attend our quarterly meetings before approval for travel will be considered.

July 1, 2014

New Grant Awards

July 23, 2014

Quarterly Provider Meeting (Bismarck)

September 22, 23 and 24, 2014

DTA Conference (Sioux Falls, SD)



CTAA Expo

June 8-14, 2014

St. Paul, Minnesota

Host Hotel - Crowne Plaza Hotel

St. Paul Riverfront

Please mark this date on your calendar. It would be nice to have a large turnout at CTAA since St. Paul is right in our backyard.

DTA Annual Conference Sioux Falls, SD

Rodeo - September 20 and 21

Conference - September 22, 23 and 24

The conference forms are NOT on the web as of yet. We plan to have all the information you need on the web by April/May.



Jacque Senger
DTA Executive Director

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Please share your Transit Tidbit with your staff and any interested person(s).

Address

Directors, please check with your bookkeepers as well as the rest of your staff to assure they have the correct DTA mailing address.



Thanks to all!

- Jacque