



TRANSIT TIDBITS

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CTAA Announces New Board Officers to Lead the Association

Washington, D.C. – November 4, 2020. The Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) is pleased to announce new Board officers to lead the Association and its Board of Directors. Barbara Cline, Executive Director at Prairie Hills Transit in Spearfish, S.D., will be serving at the Board’s President; Kristen Joyner will serve as the Board’s Vice President; Robert Koska will continue to serve as the Board’s Treasurer and Dan Wedge will continue to serve as the Board’s Secretary.

“I am so very grateful to the Board for giving me the opportunity to serve as their President for two years. It was a great honor,” said CTAA’s Outgoing Board President Elaine Wells. “I have the utmost respect for the staff and fellow Board Members. Now that I am no longer president, I look forward to supporting Barb, Scott and the Association as Board member!”

See BOARD, page 2

Inside this issue

- Managing 2
- ROCS 3
- Training 4
- Farewell 5
- Planning 6

2021 DTA Membership Form

The 2021 DTA Membership Form was sent out January 2, 2021. The response has been great.

**THANK YOU
everyone!**

Board

Continued from Page 1

“Drawing from my 31 years of experience I believe my commitment to transit has made me a highly effective advocate on a local, state and national level,” said CTAA’s Incoming Board President Barbara Cline.



“As the President of CTAA I hope that I will support agencies across the nation by being the voice of those who may not be vocal, helping demonstrate their vision and strengths while continuing to make significant contributions to the quality-of-life persons served by all CTAA members. This is a distinct honor made even more special because I’m in the trenches with other operators across the nation. CTAA has always had a strong team on the Board of Directors and I look forward to continuing the momentum with our new officers.”

“We are grateful for Elaine’s tenure as President, as she served the Association with a steady hand and guided us through the successful implementation of a number of important new projects and innovative ways of thinking,” said CTAA Executive Director Scott Bogren. “Barb will be a strong and exceptional President for the entire Association. As a leader at a rural transit system, she ably represents our largest membership group and understands the unique challenges they face.”

The Community Transportation Association, established in 1989, is a national non-profit, membership association committed to removing barriers to isolation and improving mobility for all people. The Association provides informational resources, technical assistance, training and certification, and many additional resources to communities, transportation providers, and other groups to increase mobility and improve the quality of community and public transportation.

For the full list of CTAA’s Board of Directors, along with comprehensive biographies of each member, click [here](#).



Generosity, Collaboration, Transportation Thinking Outside of the Box

Jenny Jasper, Marketing & Statistical Manager
Brookings Area Transit Authority - Brookings, SD

Each year, the **South Dakota Gives** organization leads the **South Dakota Day of Giving**. The focus of the day is to raise awareness of participating non-profit organizations and the work that they do as well as build a donor base. Non-profits and their supporters come together and raise as much money as possible. One hundred percent of the money raised goes to the non-profit organization. For BATA, this was an opportunity to start a much-needed fund to assist in transportation costs for low-income or struggling families. The fund was called the Transportation Generosity Fund.

The Transportation Generosity Fund was established during the 2019 Day of Giving campaign. Its intent, at that time, was to offer financial assistance for transportation for any person or family who was in need. Every transit organization can relate to continuous requests for transportation assistance. BATA called on passengers, staff, our Board of Directors, and members of our community to donate to the fund. The need for this type of fund was apparent to many members of our community including church organizations, social service organizations, and the local school districts who have limited or non-existent funding for transportation needs. The 2019 campaign was incredibly successful and brought a starting balance of \$4,970 to assist in transportation costs for individuals in need.

When COVID-19 came about, many members of our community were experiencing financial hardships. In addition, the schools had drastically reduced the services that their buses were able to offer. BATA was receiving daily calls from school counselors, churches, individuals, and social service programs who were looking for transportation options for the many students and families who were not making it to school or work due to lack of transportation or lack of funding for transportation. These requests prompted BATA to call on the community again during the 2020 Day of Giving to donate to the Transportation Generosity Fund. Our



community pulled through and added \$6,695 to the balance of the Transportation Generosity Fund. BATA was not the only organization to recognize the need for financial assistance for transportation costs. We are now partnering with a large team of non-profit organizations, including the United Way, who have added their own grant funding and donations to the Transportation Generosity Fund.

See GIVING, page 4

Giving

Continued from Page 3

These organizations refer passengers to BATA for transportation and our software keeps track of the individuals who have utilized the fund. It has been a great opportunity to coordinate with these organizations and streamline the process to ensure that each organization's funding is not being abused. We are incredibly grateful to the South Dakota Gives organization, our community, and our large list of new donors who have made the Transportation Generosity Fund possible and we cannot wait to make next year's campaign even more successful.

Training Update

Linda Freeman (701) 848-6480

lindaafreeman1@gmail.com

Happy New Year to you all!!!

WATERTOWN – Monday, January 18, 2021 and Tuesday, January 19, 2021 with full PASS and PASS Recertification offered.

PASS—January 18 & 19 from 9am to 5pm

PASS Recertification—January 19 from 9am to 5pm

Classes will be held at the Ramkota Convention Center in Watertown.

A block of rooms is set up for January 17 and 18 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel. You will need to call 605-886-8011 and ask for the Dakota Transit Training Block to receive state rates. You will need to pay for your rooms and request reimbursement from SD DOT. Registration Deadline for both classes and motel rooms is January 10, 2021.

I need to send out a huge "Thank You" to Tom from Aberdeen and Adam & Andy from Pierre for doing such a great job of doing the classes at Aberdeen! **Thanks guys!**

IMPORTANT: I'm hoping that we will be able to set up classes for the 2021 year without having to cancel them so if you would like to host a class, please send me some possible dates you'd be interested in having one.

Keep up the great work you all do so well!

Transit is Still Very Important To So Many

Maureen Wegenke, Director

James River Transit - Jamestown, ND

What a crazy year 2020 was!! All of us at James River Transit are hoping for a much better 2021 for all of us! We just wanted to take a minute and thank all the transit people out there! We hope you all know how appreciated you are.

Below are just a few comments I have heard lately. They could easily have been for any of the transit agencies:

- ◆ "I was having to take a plane for \$300/\$400 a month for cancer treatments before I found transit. What a blessing!"
- ◆ "Are any of your drivers grumpy? What a nice way to start and end the day!"
- ◆ "Before I found transit, I had to ride my bike A LOT...and it's getting cold! Thank you!"
- ◆ "We want to thank the wonderful driver who stopped during his busy day to pick up and return a ball one of the kids accidentally threw over the school fence. It was much appreciated."

So, believe me...you are appreciated...even the little things!

On another note, our out-of-town requests have jumped quite a bit. Because of that, we have had to reach out to other transit agencies for help. It has really shown us how much you all care; not just about your own agencies but the individuals themselves; that rely on transit for so much. We want to thank all of you who have helped us help others by getting them to where they need to be.

All of us at James River Transit wish all of you an incredibly happy (and less eventful!) New Year!

Website Pictures

Jacque Senger, DTA Executive Director

Just a reminder that Greg Dias, Computer Support Services, is working diligently to showcase our transit agencies (fleet, facilities, staff, etc.) on the random page headers on our website. If you have not responded to Greg yet, please contact me and I will give you his email address along with specifications for the pictures.

Tidbit Articles

Please contact me with articles for your Transit Tidbit.

Recycle

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

www.dakotatransit.org



Thought for the month of January 2021

Success Is No Accident

It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of al, LOVE of what your are doing.



Jacque Senger
DTA Executive Director

Mailing Address:
PO Box 973
Devils Lake, ND 58301

E-Mail Address:
jacquelinesenger@gondtc.com

Phone Number:
701-662-2465