



**TRANSIT TIDBITS**  
**Issue 142 JANUARY 2024**

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**JANUARY 2024**

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**FAIL**

**First Attempt in Learning**

**TENTATIVE BOARD**  
**MEETING DATES**

**February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Comfort Inn, Bismarck, ND**

**May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Comfort Inn, Bismarck, ND**

**July 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> ZOOM Meeting**

**TRAINING UPDATE**

**Contact Information**

**Rod Grafig 701-845-4300**  
[rod@southcentralseniors.org](mailto:rod@southcentralseniors.org)

PASS and Defensive Driving classes were held in Watertown SD, December 27 & 28, 2023. Thank you to all those involved in making this class possible!

There are currently no classes scheduled yet for 2024 but I'm sure that will change in the next few weeks. If you have drivers in need of PASS training or would like to host a class, please contact me using the information above.

North Dakota is in need of PASS trainers. If you or someone from your agency is interested in becoming a certified PASS trainer, please contact Rod at 701-845-4300

## **HAPPENINGS IN WALSH COUNTY**

**Pam Landsen, Director  
Walsh County Transportation**

We are keeping busy with our trips to Grand Forks 3 times a week, Grafton 2 times a week and Fargo once a month. Also, we provide special trips for medical appointments and other trips for activities. We do several special trips for our Good Samaritan nursing home here in Park River during the summer months and also trips to Frostfire in Walhalla for their summer performances and art camps.

In September of 2023 we hired a new office person for dispatch/driver. She will also work for the meal program as we are a multi-service program having senior meals in 8 locations in the county. The new person just happens to be my daughter Melissa and that has been an awesome experience! I have wanted her to come and work for me for some time and the timing was right for her and for us.

I am realizing how much there is to do with both transportation and the nutrition program when training a new person!! But then I have been here for over 38 years and gradually accumulated the knowledge to get the work done. (With lots of help from others like Sally at Drayton and Karrie at Langdon) I don't

know what I would do without help from peers like them. Sometimes it's just to vent! So, I don't expect a new person to grasp everything in a week, month or even a year. But she is a fast learner and seems to like her job (I hope).

I am also very grateful for my 2 drivers who have been with me for 5 and 10 years. One who was a driver and maintenance person at a school for many years, so he does a lot of the maintenance for me on our vehicles. I receive many compliments on how well they do their jobs. Our passengers also really like them. We have 4 vehicles, a Chrysler minivan, a Ford Transit and 2 Arbocs --- a 15 and 19 passenger.

I am extremely lucky to have the staff that I do, and I hope they continue on as SOMEDAY I will retire! That is hard to say as I really love my job!

## **2024 DTA MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**Jacque Senger, Executive Director**

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, I send out an email to the general membership attaching the 2024 DTA Membership Form. I sent this at 12:47 pm. Low and behold, I received my first membership form back at 3:11 pm. I received 9 forms back within 2 days. That is a first! The individual who sent back the first form needs to be applauded. Guess who? She is from Rapid City and is a board member. Any guesses---yes it was Megan Gould-Stabile. Thanks Megan!

## **DEVILS LAKE/RAMSEY COUNTY/EDDY COUNTY TIDBIT UPDATES**

Kirby Stittsworth, Transit Director

Hello and greetings from the frozen North Country! Recent news from our neck of the woods. Our 1 new bus order for Devils Lake and 1 new bus order for Eddy County got cancelled again and appears it may be quite some time in the future before we get them.

On the bright side of things, we did get 1 new van for DL and 1 new van for Eddy County which replaced our existing vans.

Staffing wise, knock on wood, but we SEEM to be ok as far as having the right number of drivers. Recent retirees in the workforce seem to be a good place to search/ask to see if they might like a part time job driving. We have had luck recently hiring retired people from the local Fire Department/Police Department and Post Office.

### **“FUNDRAISING FOOLS”**

Terry Hoffman, CTWSI  
Co-Executive Director

Raising funds is synonymous with non-profit agencies and most of us in public transit can relate to. Over my time in transit, I have participated in or attended various unique fundraising events including reverse raffles, trivia events and concerts, plus the old reliable bake sales, concession stands, and selling of sports memorabilia.

Most are easy to sell to the public in more populated locations, but not so much in the

rural locations. Faulk County Transit Authority opened its doors in August of 2019, just prior to the official consolidation of Community Transit of Watertown/Sisseton, Inc. Initially we provided transportation strictly within the city limits of the town of less than 800 souls. The support received by the transit project in this community has been incredible.

The local “advisory board” in Faulkton meets monthly to discuss the usual board matters. Always on the docket is the latest fundraising activity update. The advisory board consists of approximately eight regular members, but also various transit supporters who attend when schedules will allow. Filling the back room at Dot T’s steakhouse on meeting night is not all that unique. Co-Executive Directors Kathy Holman and Terry Hoffman attend as many of the meetings as possible and have participated in a few of the fund-raising events. They respectfully refer to the group as “fundraising fools”.

“Pancake feeds, raffles, special events and an annual donation plea to area businesses, organizations and individuals keeps our small but passionate board busy throughout the year,” said Advisory board member Linda Batholomew. “We are constantly looking for other areas to explore. We cannot let the ideas become stale.”

Faulkton does not have any cafes or restaurants that serve breakfast, so during the season, local hunters often look for food in the mornings. Faulk County Transit heeded the call and spent a morning cooking and visiting with all the locals who came to eat. Lead driver, Teresa Bartholomew, used her public relation skills to work the crowd

promoting transit. Bartholomew's efforts brought in additional donations from the visitors.

Supporters like Bartholomew believe Faulk County Transit is more than just a means of transportation. They believe it's a service that has made life easier for working families, a service to help the elderly and homebound with their everyday needs and a service that embodies a caring community.

"It has provided access to employment, education, healthcare and cultural events that enrich our lives," said Bartholomew. "Transit has become an essential service to the area that has helped to not only improve, but sustain the quality of life we all deserve."

"The community has latched on to the service and they work hard to raise the needed funds," said Holman. "Their enthusiasm is inspiring."



Back row is Dwight Hossle Vice-President of the Transit Board and our regional Board member, Beth Deiter, John Jones and Janet Bohn Board members. Front row is Jan

Melius Board President, Linda Bartholomew Treasurer, and Teresa Bartholomew Lead Driver.

Tidbit Articles:

Please contact me with articles for your agency.

Recycle:

Please share your Transit Tidbit with your staff and any interested persons.

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 Senger, Executive Director, DTA

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