



SETTING THE STANDARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

STS EXPRESS

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President's Message

It seems almost surreal that another school year is behind us. As we anticipate the start of a new school year, many of us have been asked to do more with the same or fewer resources. As districts strive to reduce costs, some have investigated outsourcing everything from maintenance and custodial services to school transportation and aides. To say the least, this past year has presented many of us with difficult challenges, and next year promises to bring more of the same. The manner in which we respond to and deal with these challenges can play a role in determining their outcome. More importantly, our ability to present a well thought out and clearly articulated discussion about the issues may provide valuable insight to those involved in the decision making process. Being able to do this requires knowledge as well as experience.

The STS Board is committed to increasing your knowledge through the various training programs and meetings it hosts. Remember to also take advantage of the organization's greatest asset: its members. When faced with a difficult problem or new situation, consider reaching out to members of the Board and other members who may have already dealt with the same situation. Put your membership to good use and network (networking is good for more than just job hunting!) Contact information for every STS member is available on the website.

I look forward to seeing you at our many STS Functions next year. Have a wonderful summer.

Glenn Barry, STS President

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STS Members Convene for End of Year General Meeting at Old York Country Club

More than eighty members were present at the STS General Meeting at Old York Country Club on June 4th, 2010. On the following pages is a recap of the meeting.

Safety Poster Contest

The meeting started with recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Christian Zapata of Martin Luther King School in Jersey City. Christian placed first in the Special Needs Division of the Safety Poster Contest and was on hand to receive his prize.

Ed Treadaway, of Woodbridge BOE, has acted as chair for the Safety Poster Contest for two of the three years since STS resumed running the national competition in New Jersey. He has worked hard to increase participation in the competition from all schools around the state.

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STS General Meeting *continued from page 1*

This year, he collected a record 578 entries.

Ed would like to express his appreciation to the following companies for their support:

- American Bus and Coach*
- Appollo Video Technology*
- H.A. DeHart & Son and Son of Thomas School Buses*
- Jersey Bus Sales*
- Truck King*
- Wolffington Body Co.*

The theme for next year's contest is "I See the Driver – The Driver Sees Me!" Information and registration forms are available on the STS website at

http://njsts.org/html/spec_poster.htm

State Update

Dot Shelmet, Acting Director of the N.J. Office of Student Transportation and Shared Services, reported on the DRTRS and revisions to the New Jersey Administrative Code, Chapter 6A:27, which went into effect on June 4th.

Instructions for the DRTRS will be available mid-September. No major changes are anticipated. The report is required by state law so it must be completed despite the lack of state aid your district may have received. Data from the reports is used in discussions with state legislators about school transportation. Dot's staff is working with the technology department to iron out the kinks in the program.

Some notable changes to N.J.A.C. 6A:27:

- ✓ Boards of Education must adopt a hazardous busing policy if they are providing any nonmandated transportation because of hazardous circumstances.

The Email address for Department of Student Transportation and Shared Services is :

student.trans@doe.state.nj.us



Fred McNeice of Wolffington, Evie Wills of American Bus and Coach and Ken Schwarz of Truck King, at the STS General Meeting on June 4th

- ✓ All forms must be obtained from the DOE website. They are no longer available from the County Offices . See www.state.nj.us/education/finance/transp_ortation/trans.htm
- ✓ Contractors who receive notification that their insurance will be cancelled have 48 hours to notify district boards of education and the Executive County Superintendent.
- ✓ All anticipated transportation services must be bid.
- ✓ School bus drivers and aides are entitled to information in a child's school record if the information is necessary for the safety and health of the child.
- ✓ N.J.A.C. 6A:27-12.3 contains procedures to follow when a child is left on a bus unattended at the end of a route.
- ✓ A new section, N.J.A.C. 6A:27-9.10(g), deals with conditions for bidder disqualification and defines "prior negative experience."

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Tia Dix, Guest Speaker

The guest speaker at the General Meeting was Ms. Tia Dix of the Durand Academy and Community Services, Inc. Her topic was "Helping Individuals with Special Needs Learn and Grow." The program is sponsored by the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation. Doug Flutie, a former NFL quarterback, founded the organization in honor of his son who was diagnosed with autism at the age of three.



Tia Dix and Sandy Hansen, Chair of the School Bus Driver Workshops. Sandra was responsible for inviting Ms. Dixon to speak to the drivers.

Earlier this year, Ms. Dix was the speaker at both the School Bus Driver Workshops. You can read more about her presentation in the March 2010 issue of the STS Express, available on the STS website.

School Bus Driver Workshops

Sandy Hansen, Chairperson of the School Bus Driver Workshops, reported that this year's workshops had the best ratings ever. She's looking for a good idea for next year's workshops.

By-Laws

An amendment to the By-laws which allows for transportation support staff to become Associate Members of STS was voted on and approved.

The By-laws are available on the STS website at http://njsts.org/html/about_bylaws.htm

Membership

There are currently 252 paid up members, and as always, we are looking to increase our membership

Rutger's Supervisor's Certification Program

Cathy Kelly reported that the committee is on course and will hopefully have the eighth and last section completed and ready to go to Rutger's faculty for their review in July. The program will hopefully be up and running in January.

School Bus Roadeo

Al Olkowitz reported that the number of contestants was down, especially among the contractors. He thought the competition might have been a victim of the poor economy. The day was still a success for the one hundred drivers who did participate and the many volunteers who helped put the day together.

Al thanked the contractors who have supported the Roadeo through the years. The date for next year's Roadeo is April 30th. It will be the Roadeo's 40th year and the committee is hoping to do something special in connection with the anniversary.

Education

Gerry Oram thanked everybody for their participation in the STS one day conference, "Friday Focus," and said STS is looking at a two day conference for next year.



Sandy Hansen speaking to STS members on June 4th

The Year in Review by President Glenn Barry

Where did the school year go? That seems to be the question most of us are asking ourselves as we wind down another successful school year. The year passed quickly, but the Board was able to accomplish several goals it set for itself. As we begin our summer break and start our extended year programs, let's review some of the things that happened this year.

One of the Board's main goals was to provide members with a variety of training opportunities. Throughout the year, training sessions were scheduled both regionally and state-wide. Our first one day conference, Friday Focus, had a format similar to our traditional three day conference. Supervisors as well as drivers took advantage of the School Bus Driver Workshops that were held in both the southern and northern areas of the state. Regional Directors arranged for meetings within their own regions and there were two General Membership Meetings. The presenters at these training sessions included Dick Fischer, Tia Dix, Jo Mascorro, Sue Shutrump, Stephen R. Fogarty, Esq., Dalthea Brown and Brian Perkowski. The Office of Student Transportation and Shared Services provided a review of changes to N.J.A.C. 6A:27. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection spoke to us about the diesel retrofit program.



Bus Driver Workshop



Friday Focus

The Safety Training and Applied Rodeo Skills Competition for bus drivers was held at Great Adventure. We wish the best of luck to the drivers who qualified to compete in the national event this summer. The School Bus Safety Poster contest was another extremely popular event and the artistic talents displayed by the participants made the judging very difficult.

A very important STS endeavor is the transportation certification program being developed with Rutgers. The eight modules will soon be completed by the Certification Committee and given to Rutgers for formatting and editing. Rutgers is confident that this program will start being offered in January 2011. Rutgers will be responsible for the administration of the program and will offer courses in several locations around the state. We all look forward to the start of these classes which will provide additional educational opportunities for our members.

At the June General Membership Meeting, an important By Laws change was proposed by the Board of Directors. This change realigns the membership categories and introduces "Other Membership" categories as Associate, Contractor, Vendor, and Honorary. The associate membership includes transportation support staff of district boards of education and private schools. This classification includes dispatchers, safety trainers, and any other position that acts in a support capacity for school transportation services. It is our intention to provide training for all of our members and opportunities for a smooth transition as you follow your career paths. I invite you to contact one of your area directors with any ideas you have for future presentations. Also, we are always looking for volunteers, so if you would like to become involved with a committee or you would like to assist at some of our events, please contact me to discuss your interest.



Rodeo

REGIONAL MEETINGS

North Meeting

The North Region held their last meeting of the year on May 21, 2010. The main topic of the meeting was required training for staff.

Each participant received a packet containing training materials for Diabetes, Bloodborne Pathogens, Child Neglect and Abuse, Hazardous Marking Systems, and Security Awareness.

To start off the meeting each person was asked to write on a colorful cutout a word or phrase that came to mind when the word " safety " was announced. The cutouts were tacked onto a display board for discussion. Words that came to mind were seatbelts, training, caution, children, policy , pre-trips, education, bus stops, behavior and awareness of surroundings to name a few.

In addition, a copy of the changes in the Transportation code that became effective June 4th were discussed. A list of available videos to borrow from the Department of Education Transportation Dept was also distributed.

To make the meeting more interesting, each member was

asked to submit an index card to drop into the Make-a-Wish Bag. The card was to contain something they wished they could have in their department. Winning the lottery was not an option!

Some of the requests were cooperation and communication with the special services department, new vehicles, no staff or budget cuts, and gratitude from parents. Gratitude from parents gave everyone a good laugh!!

We also had some fun when each member participated in demonstrating how to remove bloody gloves during our bloodborne pathogen discussion. We passed out gloves to everyone and used ketchup to demonstrate how to remove gloves without contamination. The purpose of this exercise was to show how to use "hands on" methods for training drivers. Although messy, everyone was successful removing their gloves.

Our meeting lasted a little longer than usual. The purpose of the meeting was to provide our members with materials for mandated employee training as well as other training materials. There was also a display of booklets and materials available through various companies whose contact information was

provided. Some of the training materials were available free from AAA.

Submitted by Cathy Kelly

South Meeting

The South Region meeting was held on Monday, May 24 at Camden County ESC. There were 19 people in attendance. Joan Geraci - GCSSSD Director of Special Projects - and Danielle Anderson-Thomas - NJ DOE McKinney-Vento State Coordinator - presented a program on "Issues Impacting Homeless Children and Youth."

Submitted by Pat Lerch

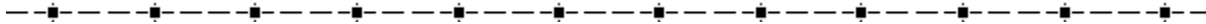
Central Meeting

The Central Region held its meeting on May 5th at the East Brunswick BOE Administrative Offices. Ken Edward of Cummins Engines in Newark, Mike Peters of International Engines, and John Rogan of DEP – Diesel Risk Reduction Program discussed the differences between the diesel engines that are available for school buses. Supervisors were encouraged to bring their mechanics to the meeting.



Elections were held at the General Meeting at the Old York Country Club. Following are the results.

Name	Office	Term of Office
Ray Keuhner	Vice President	2010-2012
Rick Costanzo	Treasurer	2010-2011
Pam Nicholais	Northern Director	2010-2013
Robert Cline	Central Director	2010-2013
Pat Lerch	Southern Director	2010-2013
Sandy Hansen	Southern Director	2010-2011



NEWS BRIEFS

- Blue Bird to close its North Georgia plant by August.
<http://www.globalatlanta.com/article/24027/>
- The 15th National Congress on School Transportation (NCST) convened in Warrensburg, Missouri, May 16-19, 2010. Delegates revised the National School Bus Specifications and Procedures document, updating it from the 2005 version. New Jersey was represented by STS members Glenn Barry, Gerry Oram, and Jerry Ford. The next congress meets in 2015.
[NCST Proceedings See Changes, Few Rejections](http://www.schoolbusfleet.com/PhotoGallery/2010/06/15th-National-Congress-on-School-Transportation.aspx)
<http://www.schoolbusfleet.com/PhotoGallery/2010/06/15th-National-Congress-on-School-Transportation.aspx>
- Sign Language Ban Imposed on N.J. Girl
<http://abcnews.go.com/US/story?id=93532&page=1>
- NAPT has updated its website and has a new address: <http://www.naptonline.org/>