

KSPTA Newsletter

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KSPTA

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2017 Fall Conference

The Atrium Hotel and Conference Center, Hutchison will host the KSPTA Fall Conference on October 4, 2017.

Program topics will include Tate Toedman and Jack Boline from KSDE's Early Childhood, Special Education & Title Programs who will present on updates to the McKinney-Vento Act and Homeless Transportation. Also on the agenda will be Darlene Davis, Regional Training Manager for First Student who will present on bus driver recruiting and retention. Registra-



tion is scheduled to begin at 7:30 a.m. with the welcome address/business meeting to begin at 8:00.

The ever popular vendor trade show will give you an opportunity to visit with representatives from various companies offering service associated with school bus transportation. You will be able to visit the trade show during conference lunch and break times.

For those who may come to Hutchinson the night before and need a place to stay, there are several hotels nearby

in addition to The Atrium. The Comfort Inn and Days Inn are adjacent to the Atrium while the Super 8, Fairfield Inn, Hampton Inn, Holiday Inn Express all being within a short driving distance. If making a reservation at The Atrium be sure to identify yourself as a KSPTA conference attendee and ask for the conference rate of \$68. If choosing to stay at one of the other properties be sure to request the State government rate.

Complete details and registration information will be available at www.kspta.org or [www.ksde.org/school bus safety](http://www.ksde.org/school-bus-safety).

Now Hiring—KSPTA Executive Director

The Kansas Pupil Transportation Association (KSPTA) has an opening for the Executive Director position. This position requires 10 hours per month and pays a salary plus approved expenses.

The Director is responsible for administrating and promoting the KSPTA and its activities. People and computer skills are necessary. Applications will be accepted until September 15, 2017.

A full job description is available upon request. Contact Diane McCartney at [\[dmccartney@usd506.org\]](mailto:dmccartney@usd506.org).

From Your President.....

KSPTA Membership,

First, I want to say thank you for electing me as your new President. This association means a great deal to me and I hope to continue our excellence in serving our State as well as bring some new ideas to the table.

There are some great things to be aware of that are coming up with KSPTA. The signing of the Governors' Proclamation recognizing School Bus Safety Week and School Bus Driver Appreciation Day will be in September. Our Fall Conference is coming up in October and we have some great things lined up for you. We have a new liaison to our vendors, Doug Messer, and he is already doing a great job getting things lined out for this conference and future relations. In addition to that, we have some wonderful speakers. Tate Toedman and Doug Boline from KSDE

will speak on homeless transportation and the McKinney Vento Act, and Darlene Davis, Regional Training Manager for First Student will speak on bus driver recruiting and retention. Transportation departments throughout the state are dealing with these two topics. I believe this is going to be a wonderfully informative Fall Conference. We will also be releasing a biannual newsletter that will keep you updated on all the happenings with KSPTA, have stories from around the state, ads from vendors, and registration forms for upcoming events. For more information on these items, please check our website at www.kspta.com or find us on Facebook (search Kansas State Pupil Transportation Association).

We are actively working with KSDE to implement some new ideas that we think are really going to make a difference for our Association in some good

ways and we are very excited about them. We will provide more information on these items as it becomes available. As always, we want to be able to come alongside and help as many districts in the state as we can. We have many avenues of getting word out to people, but nothing seems to work quite as well as word of mouth. So next time you are around some folks that might benefit from the services we offer, tell them about us. We would love to help in any way we can. Our mission and our purpose is to foster school bus safety in Kansas. We do that through continuing practical training and education. So let us not lose sight of what is truly important, the safety of Kansas kids on school buses.

Thanks and have a great school year!!!

Sincerely,

Jason Beyer

(Right) Darlene Davis, Regional Training Manager for First Student instructs participants in the 2017 Train the School Bus Driver Trainer Workshop held July 10-13 in Topeka. 18 people from various school districts participated.



(Below) Recent graduating class for AAA Train the Trainer. Pictured Pete Cisneros, John Feldmann, Russell Harding, Sheila Hollar, Kevin Houk, Jeff McNett, Sheila Mullere, Anthony Smith, Neale Sutton, Terry Ward, Dennis Tate and Keith Dreiling.



(Above) On Monday, June 19, 2017, the USD 437 Board of Education recognized the transportation department and their safety competition team. In addition to several individual placings, the group took home the 1st place trophy in the team category. From left to right: David Hines (Board President), Stephanie Bell, Anna Cooper, Linda Pfannensteil, Scott McWilliams (Superintendent), Kevin Sturgeon, Tanya Sturgeon, Benjamin Rickel and Mike Lopez (Transportation Director).

Send your news , events and recognitions for the next KSPTA Newsletter to mostermyer@ksde.org



Record Number of Entries for Poster Contest

The National Association of Pupil Transportation sponsors annually a National School Bus Safety Week Poster Contest. Thousands of school districts in over 40 states, including Kansas, participate. Local and state-level competitions select art work that depicts a selected school bus safety-related theme. The winning posters are used to promote safer school transportation for everyone.

The 2017 safety theme is: My Driver—My Safety Hero! A total of 178 posters from 23 districts were submitted to the School Bus Safety Unit at KSDE in Topeka for this year's competition. Preliminary voting by KSDE employees narrowed the entries to the top 5 in each category. These posters were then displayed at the 2017 Summer Workshop and Driver Safety Competition where conference participants voted for the top entry for each category. These posters will be sent to NAPT in early October where they will be judged at the national level.

Thank you to all those who participated. It was a tough decision to decide the top entries. The national winning posters become the theme for the following year's National School Bus Safety Week, which is typically the third week in October.



2016-17 national winner, Branden Pagurayan, Grade 8, Kapolei Middle School, HI

What's New at KSDE - School Bus Safety Unit

First and foremost, we want to say thank you to all of the Kansas school bus drivers who every day diligently perform their duties of transporting students to and from school safely. The KSDE School Bus Safety Unit is here to assist you in all aspects of safely transporting students, not only to and from school, but to and from activities as well. We are here to provide oral and written responses to questions and interpretation of school transportation regulations, statutes and operating procedures and guidelines on a daily basis. The unit provides a verity of programs, workshops, safety meetings and seminars including Medic First Aid/CPR, the AAA Driver Improvement Program, school bus evacuation, and child passenger safety restraint information, just to name a few.

The 2017-18 KBESS book will soon be available on our website. If you are not familiar with the

KBESS (Kansas Bus Emergency Support System) it is a valuable tool for Kansas school bus drivers and school districts. It provides you with contact information for every school district at your fingertips. So, if you are on an activity trip and experience an emergency while at another school district, you have a list of individuals who are available and willing to help you.

Finally, we receive calls every day regarding the use of 15 passenger vans. The use of 12 and 15 passenger rated vans for student transportation is illegal.

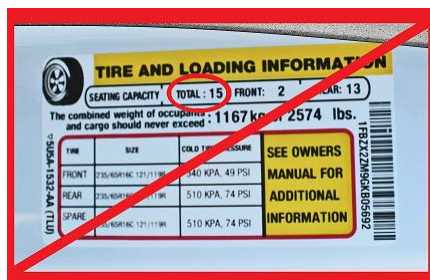
Kansas law KSA 72-8318 prohibits the use of any passenger vehicle, for student transportation, which is rated for more than 10 passengers

plus the driver by the manufacturer. Federal law also prohibits the use of these vans and contains substantial penalties for schools, rental agencies and vehicle dealerships.

The rated capacity can be found on the Tire and Loading Information sticker which is normally located on the inside driver's door. The passenger rating is determined by the vehicle manufacturer and cannot be changed by anyone other than the manufacturer.

It is illegal to remove seats from a 12 or 15 passenger rated van to meet the mandated passenger requirement for student transportation.

This would apply to both a school and/or a dealership if the intention is to circumvent the mandated passenger rating for school transportation.



A Great Time Was Had By All.....District/State Safety Competitions



Results from South Central/Northwest Safety Competition Saturday, May 6 - Bel Aire, KS

South Central Experience Conventional:

Kim Levens, 1st Place
Rebecca Stanton, 2nd Place
Virginia Shea, 3rd Place

South Central Experienced Mini:

Dorothy Dorman, 1st Place
Madeia Mayfield, 2nd Place
Ronda Patrick, 3rd Place

South Central Experienced Transit:

Dana Marshall, 1st Place
Annette Tolkacz, 2nd Place
Stella Stanley, 3rd Place

South Central Rookie Conventional:

Lee Harmon, 1st Place
Teresa Eagle, 2nd Place
Mary Behnke, 3rd Place

South Central Rookie Mini:

Michelle Thornton, 1st Place
Sewedo Akojuno, 2nd Place
Rachel Austin, 3rd Place

South Central Rookie Transit:

Briana Wylie, 1st Place

Northwest Experienced Transit:

Vyrl Brown, 1st Place

Grand Champion High Scores

1st Place:

Kim Levens

2nd Place:

Rebecca Santon

3rd Place:

Lee Harmon

4th Place:

Teresa Eagle

5th Place:

Dorothy Dorman



**Thank You Jeremy Messner
&
Midwest Bus Sales and Leasing
for the delicious pizza
provided for lunch at both district
safety competition events**

Results from NE/SE/NC Safety Competition

Northeast Rookie Conventional:

Tyler Wible, 1st Place

Northeast Experience Conventional:

Anna Cooper, 1st Place
Stephanie Bell, 2nd Place
Mary Hatfield, 3rd Place

Northeast Experienced Mini:

Frank Cott, 1st Place
Jerry Palmer, 2nd Place
Pamela Boyle, 3rd Place

Southeast Rookie Conventional

Chris Whittington, 1st place

North Central Rookie Conventional:

Patience Knight, 1st Place
Kelly Mann, 2nd Place

North Central Experience Conventional:

Randall Eichorst, 1st place
Vanessa Eichorst, 2nd place
Lloyd Kecia, 3rd place

North Central Rookie Mini:

Melody Collins, 1st place
Cheri Loy, 2nd place

Results from State Safety Competition - June 7 & 8, 2017

Mini Rookie	1st Place 2nd Place	Michelle Thorton Sewedo Akojenu	First Student Wichita First Student Wichita
Mini Experienced	1st Place 2nd Place 3rd Place	Madeia Mayfield Dorothy Dorman Pam Boyle	First Student Wichita First Student Wichita First Student Olathe
Transit Rookie	1st Place	Briana Wylie	Derby USD 260
Transit Experienced	1st Place 2nd Place 3rd Place	Eduardo Escobedo Jerry Guerrero Vyrl Brown	Dodge City USD 443 Garden City USD 457 Hayes USD
Conventional Rookie	1st Place 2nd Place 3rd Place	Teresa Eagle Lee Harmon Tyler Wible	First Student Wichita First Student Wichita Auburn-Washburn USD 437
Conventional Experienced	1st Place 2nd Place 3rd Place	Mollie Cornwell John Ferguson Stephanie Bell	First Student Wichita First Student Wichita Auburn-Washburn USD 437
Team Competition	1st Place 2nd Place 3rd Place	Bell, Cooper, Wible Cornwell, Dorman, Thornton Akojenu, Patrick, Stanton	Auburn-Washburn USD 437 First Student Wichita First Student Wichita



(Above) Mollie Cornwell, 2017 Driver Safety Competition Grand Champion; (upper left) Eduardo Escobedo, Mollie Cornwell and Madeia Mayfield, Safety Competition Top 3; (left) Jeannie Richardson and Linda Phannenstiel recognized for 40+ years of service.

House Bill No. 2040

As many of you know, we have been working on a law, HB 2040, to improve enforcement of the Kansas bus stop sign law for about three years. The purpose of this law is to allow the use of digital cameras on school buses that are activated when the bus stop sign and the 8-way red lights were engaged and shut off when the bus stop sign was retracted. This law has been through three different committees in the Kansas House, sometimes twice. While it has been a long road, I am of the opinion that we have a law which enables any law enforcement agency and/or county/city attorney to prosecute with confidence. This law has been tested for every foreseeable lawsuit possibility. We feel that it will be able to assist bus drivers who are constantly dealing with folks running their bus stop signs.

The law is fully ready to be presented at the beginning of the next legislative session. It has been blessed to go straight to the House floor at that time. We are asking that everyone contact their state legislative representative in support of the passage of this law. Rep. Ron Highland, who has been working with me on this the entire time, has stated that the more calls and letters for support this bill gets, the greater the possibility of passage.

Thank you for your help,
Frank Clark
KSPTA North Central VP

Celebrating 51 Years

The last day of school for students at Chapman Unified School District 473 - was like many other days for 78-year-old Ila Beemer.

She safely delivered 19 Chapman students to their designated spots and returned to the bus barn to wash down the inside and outside of her small, bright yellow school bus.

But, unlike previous years, this would be Beemer's final time turning in her bus keys. After 51 years of driving a feeder bus for the district, Beemer has retired.

She began her career driving while she was a junior at Dickinson County Community High School. In 1966, after the unification of schools, Beemer began driving for USD 473. Her first "school bus" was a 1951 Chevy car with a removable "School Bus" sign, she said in an interview a few days before her retirement. About a year later, Beemer received the keys to a nine-passenger bus.

"My husband was a farmer and we

needed to supplement our income," Beemer said about her reason for becoming a bus driver. "I also had the same schedule as my children."

A celebration took place in May to



honor of Beemer's retirement. Keith Dreiling, state director of KSDE's School Bus Safety Unit, presented Beemer with a certificate on behalf of KSDE. Beemer also received a green and black jacket with a graphic of a school bus and the words, "Chapman School Bus Driver - Retired." The jacket listed her years of service, too.

Beemer was responsible for delivering 19 middle school and high school students to a larger bus, which then transferred the students to their schools, she said. Beemer's career has "pretty much" been accident-free, she said. One time her small bus landed on its side in a ditch in a heavy snowstorm, but no students were injured, and now school

is called off school in wintry weather, she said.

Things have changed a lot during the past 50-plus years, according to Beemer.

"Now we have strobe lights, a flashing stop arm, lap belts, harnesses for Head Start and, of course, air conditioning," Beemer said with a laugh. "We also have two-way radios and cell phones for the buses."

Beemer and her husband have three grown children (two sons and a daughter), grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"I drove my children, three of my grandchildren and two of my great-grandsons," she said. "That's been a highlight for me. I enjoyed watching the other kids grow up, too. I will miss being in touch with what's going on at the schools. I won't miss scraping icy windows at 6 a.m., driving in the fog or kids getting sick on the bus. But I decided this is a good time to do it (retire). I've had a pretty long ride."

Thank you