

BE A PART OF OUR TEAM

Safely Speaking is seeking editorial board members

Safely Speaking is looking for interested transportation superintendents, SBDIs and MIs to serve on the editorial board.

This newsletter depends on the creative contributions and expertise of its board members. Unfortunately, the participation from our 10-member board has dwindled because of their professional and personal obligations.

We want to fill these seats with a sampling of transportation professionals from across New York State.

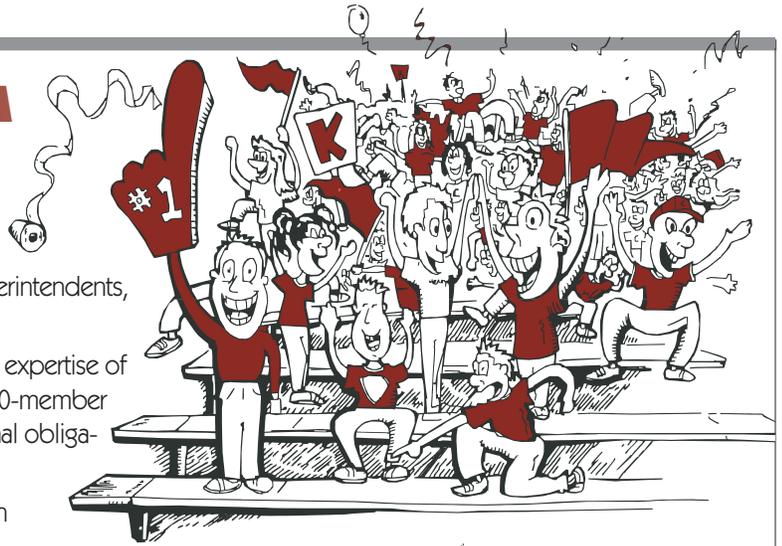
The roundtable of board members makes suggestions for upcoming publications based on issues facing the industry and important human-interest perspectives that will enhance our readership.

Bimonthly editorial meetings are held at Capital Region BOCES in Albany.

Distance from the Albany site is not a factor. If a member is unable to make a pre-publication meeting in person, he or she will be asked to contribute their story ideas via telephone, e-mail or snail mail.

Safely Speaking should be a reflection of the pupil transportation industry based on the input of board members.

Our phone number, fax number and address are listed below.



Safely Speaking is a bimonthly newsletter for School Bus Driver Instructors published by New York State Education Department

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safely speaking

ISSUE 7
2003-04 SCHOOL YEAR

**NYS Education Department Newsletter
for School Bus Driver Instructors**



**Remembering
Lauren
Wentworth**
Lauren Wentworth – head bus driver and trainer for the Canandaigua City School District, 1996 School Bus Driver Instructor (SBDI) of the Year and highly respected transportation professional – lost her courageous battle with cancer on April 26, 2004.
(see page 5)

What it takes

As graduation draws near, another kind of moving-up celebration is occurring for members of the transportation industry. Pupil transportation members are attending a five-day course to become School Bus Driver Instructors (SBDI).

Although safety is #1 for these wanna-be instructors, many of the classes teach the importance of presentation.

“They are coming to us with knowledge of the industry and safety. We need to show them how to teach confidently,” said training class advisor and Master Instructor (MI) Peter Finn.

To help achieve this, instructors use Tom Jeary’s book “How to Speak Publicly” and Dale Carnegie’s “How to Develop Self-Confidence and Influence People with Public Speaking.”



Master Instructor, Peter Finn helps School Bus Driver Instructor candidates such as Zanetta Motley learn how to be comfortable while speaking in public.

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The Importance of the SBDI to the industry

School Bus Driver Instructors are the front-line trainers to the 50,000-plus drivers across the state.

“They are the people who take the information presented in the annual Professional Development Seminar (PDS) and see that it is disseminated to all our drivers. They give life to the written materials they receive. Without their professionalism, their dedication and their caring, more children would be lost to preventable school bus accidents,” said Marion Edick, New York State Director of Transportation.

“It is only through their assistance that we have a School Bus Driver Safety Training Program in New York - which is in turn why the state has such an outstanding safety record,” she said.

As this prestigious team of professionals continues to grow, veteran SBDIs remember what first brought them on board and reflect on the importance of the position.

Faye Stevens, transportation director for the Indian River Central School District

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What it Takes...

(continued from page 1)

“When people first come to class, they’re very timid – public speaking is one of the most difficult things to do – but when you see them at the end of the course, they really blossom. It really feels good to be a part of that,” said Finn, who has been teaching SBDI training courses for almost two decades.

Once appointed as official SBDIs, instructors are expected to teach drivers their Basic Course lessons and refreshers throughout the year.

“People take this step to further their careers, but bus safety awareness and the kids are always the top priority,” said Finn.

Final presentation

To complete the course, it is necessary for participants to deliver an oral presentation in front of their classmates and instructors.

“Final presentations can be based on anything. It’s to show a comfort level with public speaking and the ability to get across an idea to an audience,” said Finn.

For example, SBDI class member Zanetta Motley currently works for Durham School Bus Services in Albany. She called on her previous experience in the cosmetics industry to aid her in her final presentation.

Motley dressed as a cosmetologist and gave herself a makeover to show others how putting their best face forward can help boost inner confidence.

“Everyday when you get ready to go out there in the field – look your best and your best will come out,” she said.

Motley lightened the mood by showing a video of herself with a variety of different hair-dos.

The five-day agenda consists of:

Day One

- Candidate introductions
- History of the New York State school bus safety program
- What makes a good presentation?
- Audio/visual 101
- Planning your presentation/objectives (part I)
- Homework

Day Two

- Review
- Jeary book review
- Instructor resource workshop
- Planning your presentation/objectives (part II)
- Effective communications
- Review and quiz: Effective communications and lesson plans
- Homework
- MI open door – Help with your presentation

Day Three

- Review
- Carnegie book review
- Review and Quiz: Jeary and Carnegie books

- Accident safety data for SBDIs: School bus safety is one bus stop at a time
- Accident safety data for SBDIs: Improving school bus safety
- Review and quiz: Accident and safety data for SBDIs
- Participatory learning formats
- Homework
- MI open door – Help with your presentation

Day Four

- Review
- Candidate presentations
- Wrap up
- “I Did It!” class dinner

Day Five

- Review
- Training regulations, procedures and forms
- Physical performance test
- Review and final exam
- Post session assignment requirements and questions
- Program wrap up

She continued with her theme by handing out cards – each laminated with a sample of artificial hair – to all of her classmates. The memorable cards listed the four steps to becoming a good speaker.

1. Desire
2. Preparation
3. Confidence
4. Practice

Her funny and original presentation was a stand-out.

Motley said the five-day course has taught her to overcome her fears of public speaking and has also

shown her how to put together a proper training program.

“I’m bringing a more personal aspect to my lessons now. It seems to make people pay better attention and retain more information,” she said. “My confidence has really risen through this process.”

Durham is already looking to put her training to the test. “I’m scheduled to do a presentation at the end of this month,” she said.

Finn said of Motley, “I met ‘Z’ two years ago at a 19A drivers course. To see her here now is great. She will be an asset to the industry.”

STOP

Importance of the SBDI...

(continued from page 1)

said she was encouraged by her first transportation director to become an SBDI when she began driving in 1987.

“My supervisor encouraged me to not only be an SBDI but also a Master Instructor (MI). She saw a passion in me to keep kids safe,” she said.

“I wanted – and still want – to take brand new drivers and give them the information they need to do their job,” she said.

What can be tricky, Stevens advises new SBDIs, is training drivers with a long history behind the wheel.

“You don’t want to alienate the veteran drivers. Often times you need to go in and train drivers who have more experience than you do, but you still need to get the message of safety across to these drivers. The trick is to do it without looking like a know-it-all.”

Stevens said she loves working with new SBDIs to help guide them through their first experiences and strengthening their skills.

“I can pick out the future leaders when they walk into the room,” she said.

“Those who are going to make it know that becoming a SBDI isn’t the five days of training. You have to stay involved and stay active in the pupil transportation community. Through outreach you’ll find how the industry ticks – from the legal aspect, to drivers rights, to the emotional and physical safety of students.”

Director of Transportation for Eastern Suffolk BOCES Lorraine Misciagno has been an SBDI for six years.

“I had a very good driving record and often thought, ‘What can I do to

help others through training?’”

Misciagno said seeing other SBDIs work inspired her. “It’s amazing to see a group of people sit down together to find, and then fill, gaps in safety training that will make our programs stronger. I wanted to be part of that.”

Misciagno recommends that new SBDIs get involved in local and statewide groups to broaden their experience. Long Island has an SBDI Association that meets bi-monthly.

“Meeting and speaking with other SBDIs is where you will get training materials and network to find out the latest happenings in the industry,” she said.

Extra hours are part of the new responsibility, she said. “You have to be dedicated. You are the liaison between the state, the drivers and the children and families.”

SBDI and educator Ted Finlayson-Schueler of the Pupil Transportation Safety Institute (PTSI) said all

SBDIs serve independent and dependent functions.

“We need to be aware of our own operations and know how to address issues facing our own fleets – but we also need to pass along information relative to statewide issues,” he said.

“The person who makes a successful SBDI is committed to safety. He’s not in it for the extra \$2 per hour,” said Schueler.

“It also takes an ability to communicate,” he said. “Some people care deeply about safety and training but just cannot relate to people in a positive way. If you can’t get a connection with your audience – the message will be lost – whatever it is,” he said.

Collaboration with other SBDIs can help, he said. “You can get feedback on your presentation skills and develop your personal strengths,” he said. 

Upcoming SBDI Training Classes



The Pupil Transportation Safety Institute will be holding School Bus Driver Training Classes in Syracuse, New York on June 30, July 1, 2, 7, 8.

Please contact Karen Baris, course registrar at 1-800-836-2210

Eastern Suffolk BOCES will be holding SBDI Training Classes in Holbrook, NY on July 24, 31, August 14, 21, 28.

Please contact Lorraine Misciagno at 1-631-472-6480 for further information. 

Invitation to Master Instructors to Become a Mentor

The State Education Department is accepting applications from Master Instructors to volunteer to serve as a mentor for one of the new MI candidates. The MI Mentor is the heart of the new training or formation program for new MIs.

Volunteers will work closely with candidates to guide and instruct them through the completion of their MI project. They will also work with and coach the new MI in co-teaching at least one Professional Development Seminar (PDS) and portions of an SBDI Certification Course.

Master Instructor Mentoring Program

A Master Instructor Mentoring Program is being developed and we are seeking interested MIs to make this project a success. The State Education Department is currently seeking individuals who are interested in becoming Master Instructor Candidates. Our mentoring program will be the catalyst for the new MI candidates and their year-long program requirements.

We are looking for MIs who are willing to spend the time and can make a commitment to an MI candidate over a one-year period beginning July 2004. Even though the candidate will become an MI following the year of mentoring, the relationship must be viewed as a long-term commitment. The mentor must devote him- or herself to the program and have sufficient time and emotional endurance to be involved. As a mentor you will be expected to support, counsel, provide friendship, promote learning skills development, support reachable goals, provide reinforcement, and be a constructive example for your assigned candidate. A mentor will help the candidate "be all that they can be."

The logistics of this program are being worked out but we can tell you that you will "team mentor" which means more than one mentor will be assigned to each candidate. All parties will develop a schedule for meeting that suits all involved. You will be expected to meet at least 4 times a year on Saturday during the NYAPT board weekends. A training session will be held for all MI mentors who will be involved in this project at the July conference. The training session will explain the program and its expectations and requirements. You will also meet with your candidate and discuss the project idea they submitted to the State Education Department for their MI certification.

If there are MIs that feel they do not have the time to commit to this project but would like to be available as a mentor in the future, we are still interested in hearing from you. We are always in need of individuals who are willing to share their expertise and assist others when needed.

Contact Maureen Arnitz at (315)-986-4278 ext. 18, should you have any questions or comments concerning this program.

"Mentoring is a way to bridge the gap between where someone is in their career today and where they would like to be tomorrow." 

Is this program for me?

The following questions are asked on the application to become a Master Instructor Mentor:

1. As a Mentor, what do you feel you can bring to the program that will guide and assist candidates in reaching their goals?
2. As a Mentor, how do you feel you would guide your candidate? Would you walk ahead of your candidate thus wanting them to follow your lead, walk beside them thus learning together along the way, or walk behind them to give support as they reach obstacles and ask for guidance? Explain why.
3. What do you feel are your strongest attributes as an MI Instructor?
4. How do you feel about the "Team Mentoring" concept?
5. What qualities would you prefer your mentoring partner have that would enhance your success as a supportive team?
6. Will your employer afford you the time and give you the support needed to be involved in taking on this commitment?
7. Are there any limitations, (for example geographical area, transportation, scheduling, etc.) that you want us to consider when we match you with a candidate?

Remembering Lauren Wentworth

Lauren Wentworth – head bus driver and trainer for the Canandaigua City School District, 1996 School Bus Driver Instructor (SBDI) of the Year and a highly respected transportation professional – lost her courageous battle with cancer on April 26, 2004.

Her friend and colleague, Maureen Arnitz wrote the following about Lauren:

Lauren Wentworth was my friend and a friend to many others throughout her lifetime. It was an honor to know her and to have had her as a part of my life.

She was best known for her dedication to the Canandaigua City School District, where she worked for the last 12 years.

Lauren was one of the best 19-A examiners this industry has seen. She was determined to make each person she trained the best at their job.

I often tried to talk Lauren into becoming a Transportation Supervisor but her answer was always the same. “I want to be a part of the lives of the people who are picking up and dropping off the children every day, not stuck behind some desk doing paperwork.”

She was a hands-on type of person, dedicated to bus safety. She had “yellow blood” running through every inch of her body.

Everything she did and every decision she made was for one reason: the children. It was always about the children for Lauren.

From her involvement as president of her local SBDI group to her dedication to the New York State Fair exhibit, “Road-eo’s” and the mall safety shows she organized. All of her energy was for the safety of children.

Lauren was instrumental in the success of the 30-hour Basis Courses

in the Wayne-Finger Lakes area. She was at each and every class from the moment it started until everyone had completed it. Feeling good or not – she was determined she would not let these people down.

Lauren was selected SBDI of the year for the state in 1996. She also received the honor of Transportation Employee of the Year on two different occasions.

There are only two SBDI associations in NYS: one on Long Island and

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Earth angel

Scott Goble, transportation director of the Canandaigua City School District, worked with Lauren for 12 years.

“Lauren was a consummate professional in her approach to the training and retraining of the transportation staff. Even over the past several months, after learning she had cancer, she continued to come to work when she was able and do her part in the daily operation of the department,” said Goble. “She’s up there with a group of heavenly bus drivers who are going to be much better off with Lauren in their midst.”

Transportation professional Mary Miller said of her friend:

“Lauren’s life was totally dedicated to children and safety – right to her dying breath.”

She concluded, “Lauren knew what you needed - whether she needed to lead you, walk beside you or give you support from the background.”

Jim Ellis, Curriculum Development Specialist for the Pupil Transportation Safety Institute (PTSI), was also close with Lauren.

Ellis said on one occasion when he visited Lauren in the hospital she already had visitors at her bedside – a mother and teenage daughter. The mother asked Jim if her daughter and Lauren could have a moment alone together.

As Jim waited in the hallway, the girl’s mother explained that her daughter rode Lauren’s bus in kindergarten. She was being picked on for being of a different race. Lauren made it understood to the children on her bus that this would not be tolerated. She made the young girl feel safe and cared for.

Over the years, Lauren kept in touch with the girl’s family.

“This is the kind of person Lauren was and how she will be remembered by many. She was exceptional, “ said Ellis.

Retrofit for the future

The mission to reduce emissions from school buses is being actively pursued by the pupil transportation industry.

The New York Association for Pupil Transportation (NYAPT) signed an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in July 2003, committing to decrease harmful emissions through retrofitting school buses, replacing older buses and reducing school bus idling as part of New York State's Clean Air Act.

Through this understanding, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) arranged for \$5 million in grant money to be available to school districts for bus retrofitting and anti-idling programs.

Leading the charge to change is Bethlehem Central School District which received \$889,910 to retrofit 57 buses on their 111 fleet of buses.

Bethlehem Superintendent of Transportation Al Karam said his district has always been proactive in reducing emissions.

"Whatever we can do to minimize pollution – we'll do it. Especially if we can do it in a cost effective manner."

Before the agreement between NYAPT and the EPA, Bethlehem had purchased approximately four compressed natural gas buses. The buses, though environmentally friendly, were maintenance intensive.

"We decided to phase them out – but have had our eyes open to other opportunities for awhile," said Assistant Superintendent of Transportation Cindy Jurewicz.

Karam and other Capital Region transportation professionals have been meeting for the past year to

decide the best technologies for retrofitting buses.

"We brought representatives from each technology company in to speak with us," said Karam. "The Capital Region directors made a strong and formidable group of professionals for this endeavor."

The group decided what technologies would be used for cost and use efficiency.

"There are several technologies available that work for different districts. Bethlehem CSD went with the oxidation catalyst, which works with ultra-low sulfur fuel as well as regular diesel," said Karam. The process doesn't affect the engine, but simply replaces the muffler.

He noted that ultra-low sulfur diesel is currently not available in the Capital Region.

"By 2006 we will all be using low sulfur fuel and we're ready for that eventuality – but for now it is more cost effective to go this route," he said.

With the NYSERDA grants now available, vendors have been chosen by Karam to do the work. "We will rotate four buses a day starting in July. It won't effect our operation at all," he said.

Mechanics were part of the process of meeting with vendors to see how the new equipment works.

"We all learned together about the up and coming changes. Going through this will not cause any problems," Karam said.

He said the cooperation of the staff, as well as district officials and



Cindy Jurewicz and Al Karam lead the Bethlehem Central School District Transportation Department in their mission to reduce diesel emissions from the 111 buses serving the district.

community members, is imperative. "Our people have been very professional and open minded to these changes. It's not going to cost the district anything and the benefits are far reaching," said Karam.

"We're reducing emissions by 45 percent right off the bat. What district wouldn't want that for their residents?"

District officials can also help with clean air initiatives by approving the replacement of worn-out buses.

"We practice our environmental beliefs with an excellent bus replacement plan. We receive 11 to 14 new buses each year," he said. "We have a young fleet and with the current technologies, the engines produce less emissions."

"Districts that have to fix, fix, fix have buses that are more costly to

maintain and produce more toxins. That's not good for your fiscal or physical environment and our people know that," Jurewicz added.

Anti-idling

Bethlehem staff have also led the way with anti-idling initiatives.

Peter Iwanowicz from the National Lung Association has worked with transportation officials to educate drivers and parents of the dangers of idling buses and cars.

"I suggest getting together a representative team with veteran drivers and have them be your target group. Once you get them on board, others will follow," said Karam.

Iwanowicz dispelled worries and myths held by veteran drivers.

"If someone thought their battery would die from turning the bus off while leaving the lights on, we'd test it. Once the myth was dispelled, we wouldn't hear any more about it. If buses are well maintained you don't have anything to worry about," said Karam.

School districts can also raise awareness and support through the school board, district newsletters and Web sites, and press conferences.

The pay-off

"We're not looking for kudos here, we just want to do the right thing," Karam said.

"This cost us nothing but a little bit of our time."

"For anyone hesitant, why resist this? It's going to happen. It's better to be ahead of the pack," he added.

There are a lot of resources available. Karam invites any district currently going through this process to call him at (518) 439-3830.



Remembering Lauren Wentworth...

(continued from page 5)

the one Lauren piloted in central New York. Lauren was the reason ours remained successful.

Everyone wanted to be in her presence to absorb what they could of her dedication, determination and passion for whatever task was at hand.

The "smiley face" was Lauren's trademark. It really summed up who she was. She never did anything without a smile and no matter what she was up against, she always found the positive in a situation.

We will all remember her wonderful smile – a smile that came from the love of her job and this industry.

I often questioned Lauren about her positive attitude and she responded by saying, "You have to look on the bright side.. There is no other side to see."

Even when times seemed the grimmest for Lauren, she helped the rest of us cope with her illness.

She will not be forgotten and to me she will remain one of the best examples of a leader that student transportation will ever see.

Those who love her and miss her will see to it that her legacy of safety and caring will be carried on.

Maureen Arnitz is the transportation supervisor for the Gananda Central School District.



We want to hear from you

Have a story to tell, a comment to make or a question to ask?

You don't have to write it, you don't have to research it, you just have to tell us about it. Call, e-mail, fax or write to Safely Speaking any time you want to share something with our readers.

The phone number is (518) 762-0271 ext. 113.

The fax number is (518) 736-1915

Our e-mail address is jkerwood@gw.neric.org and or mailing address is:

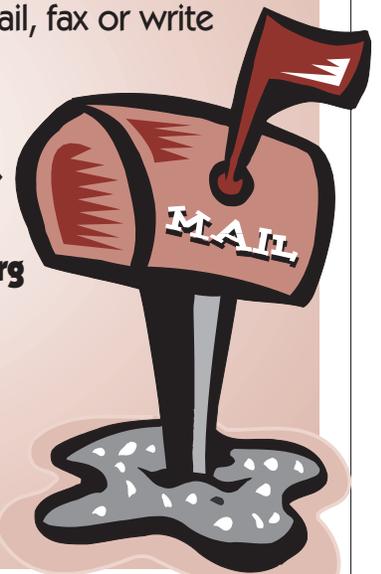
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Building public support and awareness

Take a tip from the Bethlehem Central School District in Delmar:

Drivers bring their buses to participate in local parades right along with the fire trucks, ambulances and police cars as another symbol of safety.



▲ **The Bethlehem Beat Team** — a group of drivers that travel around their community educating children and parents on bus safety — participated in the local Memorial Day Weekend Parade.

A moment of silence

On May 21, seven-year-old Mallory Eddy was struck and killed by an 18-year-old driver as she stepped off of her Stockbridge School District bus in Smithfield, New York.

Oneida officials reported that the teenage driver came upon the stopped bus — which had its warning lights activated and a car parked behind it. In an attempt to avoid the parked car and bus, the driver allegedly passed both vehicles on the right and struck the girl who was on the shoulder of the road.

Thanks to the quick thinking of the bus driver who shut the bus door when he saw in his mirror that a car was approaching, two children were spared.

This is the first school bus-related child fatality in New York State in 63 months. 



THE SEARCH IS ON...

Feature spotlight

Safely Speaking continues to search for individuals who are doing something different and creative to improve safety along the roads of New York State. If you know a driver, SBDI or MI who fits this category, we would be interested in doing a feature story. Is there a cutting-edge program out there that more people should know about? We'll spread the word.

The more unusual, the more creative, the more rewarding...the better.

Give us a call, send us an e-mail or jot us a quick note. We'll be on the case. Contact Jennie Kerwood at (518) 762-0271 ext. 113 or e-mail jkerwood@admin.hfmboces.org. 



From the Critic's Chair

Critic at large Callthem Asi Seethem is turning the reigns over to a guest critic this issue

Video Review

TERRORISM ON SCHOOL BUSES

By the Iowa Department of
Education

Video narrated by Max
Christensen

Reviewed by Peter Brockman

Running time: 14 minutes

Audience: Drivers

The video "Terrorism on School Buses" presents good, solid, practical information and would be an excellent staple video for basic driver and attendant training.

The presentation is directed specifically at bus drivers, dealing with both the "what to do" and the "what not to do" in a terrorist situation.

It covers, in straightforward language, what drivers should look for during their pre-trip inspections (whether at the bus garage or at home) and during their ride.

The movie also includes material on weapons concealment, and gives practical direction to drivers should they ever find themselves in a high-jacking situation.

If you're fond of action videos, however, you might be a little disappointed. The video consists of a series of PowerPoint slides (mostly from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency) narrated by Mr. Christensen.

The slides are nicely arranged, however, and the video can be paused for more detailed discussion. I recommend as large a television screen as possible, so that the bulleted points can be seen clearly by a large audience.

I was very impressed by the clarity and positive tone of the narrator. Unlike some of the presentations I've

seen, where the audience is either scared by the information or frustrated by the inferences that there might not be anything a driver could do in certain situations, this presentation is a positive, "you-can-do-this" guide for the viewer.

The video is 14 minutes long and costs \$30. You can get an order form and synopsis

memo by e-mailing Max at Max.Christensen@ed.state.ia.us or myself at pbrockmann@gcsny.org.

Score for this video: 4 buses



**...this presentation
is a positive,
"you-can-do-this"
guide for the viewer.**

Upcoming Conferences

NAPT's 30th Annual Conference & Trade Show

The National Association for Pupil Transportation's 30th Annual Conference & Trade Show will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio from October 31 until November 4, 2004.

The 30th Annual NAPT Trade Show will be held at the Cincinnati Convention Center. The dates of the trade show are Tuesday, November 2nd & Wednesday, November 3rd, 2004.

Exhibitor Packets have already been mailed.

If you were not an exhibitor at the 2003 Trade Show in Salt Lake City, Utah and would like to be included in the upcoming show mailing, please email your USPS mailing address to info@napt.org.

Visit NAPT's web site at www.napt.org for more information.



If you see Andy Lundgren tell him congratulations on his retirement after 36 years as director of transportation for the Katonah-Lewisboro School District. Andy plans to move to North Carolina to enjoy his retirement years. 

News from the State Education Department

Request for Proposal for a Pupil Transportation Reports System

The SED is seeking applications in response to a Request For Proposal for a Pupil Transportation Reports System. School districts, BOCES and nonprofit agencies are eligible to submit an application.

Please visit the State Register or the Pupil Transportation web site for additional information:
www.emsc.nysed.gov/schoolbus.

The deadline for submission is in July.

Upcoming Conferences

NYAPT Annual Conference

The New York Association for Pupil Transportation's 46th Annual Conference - 2004: Steering Our Future will be held from July 10 - 15 at the Holiday Turf Inn on Wolf Road in Albany.

The event opens Saturday with the NYAPT Big Three-Road-eo Day with outdoor lunch and evening banquet.

The following day is NYAPT's 3rd Annual Golf Tournament.

Monday, July 12 starts off with the annual business meeting followed by the keynote speaker, Stephen Douglas, at 10:30 a.m. Douglas is a nationally recognized speaker, who participated in the 2002 NAPT conference in Greensboro, North Carolina. Douglas is touted as a low-key but hard message speaker who will help focus transportation professionals on what matters in life and at work. The 2004 Trade Show will follow.

Tuesday through Thursday is full of informational and educational workshops for all areas of the industry.

Another special guest speaker scheduled for the conference is Peggy Burns, president of Education Compliance Group, Inc. She will help supervisors take a look inside emerging trends and practices in Special Education and in the day-to-day management of drivers and colleagues.

Visit NYAPT's web site for a full agenda and registration information at www.nyapt.org. 

Nonpublic School Bus Driver Regulation

Chapter 270 of the Laws of 2003 directed the Commissioner of Education to establish qualifications as well as testing and training requirements for drivers of vehicles that are owned, leased or contracted for by nonpublic schools.

It further required the Commissioner to develop requirements that are consistent with those required for drivers of vehicles that are owned, leased or contracted for by public schools.

The proposed regulations were scheduled to be published on June 16, 2004. There will be a 45-day public comment period. A copy of the proposed regulation will be available on the Pupil Transportation web site after publication. That address is: www.emsc.nysed.gov/schoolbus. 

