

Transit Tidbits



this issue

Accident Do's & Don'ts **P.2**

Thank You **P.3**

40 Years in Transit **P.4**

CTAA **P.5**

Awards **P.6**

I would like to thank everyone who was at the DTA Fall Conference for your participation.

To those of you who couldn't make the conference this year, you missed a great learning opportunity and comradery.

Next year the Fall Conference is in Spearfish, SD, September 10-15, 2016.

Mark your calendars now.

- Jacque Senger,
DTA Executive
Director

2015 Roadeo

Karrie Mikkelsen, Roadeo Runner
Cavalier County Transit - Langdon, ND

What started out as a brisk morning in Minot, ND ended up being absolutely beautiful, warm and sunny; minus the wasps! The food hit the spot and the music made the day even better. As I walked around collecting judges sheets I couldn't help but notice just about everyone was engaged in some sort of friendly conversation. I also took the time to really observe the obstacle course.

After three years of participating in the Roadeo, I think I finally figured out what is going on! I had the opportunity to bring along 4 of my employees to take part in this event, 3 of whom judged and 1 drove. This year's Roadeo consisted of 33 judges and 30 drivers.

Thank you to the DTA board and everyone else involved in making this event a success.

See **ROADEO**,
Page 2



ROADEO

Continued from Page 1

HERE ARE YOUR
2015 ROADEO WINNERS!

North Dakota:

- 1st Den Kuhnemund, Souris Basin Transportation, Minot
- 2nd Terry Condon, Standing Rock Public Transit, Ft. Yates
- 3rd Laurel Buchholz, Souris Basin Transportation, Minot
- 4th Craig Kohl, West River Transit, Bismarck
- 5th Susan Bohmbach, Souris Basin Transportation, Minot



*Just a thought for a
new award at next
year's Roadeo—*

South Dakota:

- 1st Eric Peterson, River Cities Public Transit, Pierre
- 2nd Adam Sharkey, River Cities Public Transit, Pierre
- 3rd Keith Light, River Cities Public Transit, Pierre
- 4th Brad Stevens, BATA, Brookings
- 5th Dave Chipman, Prairie Hills Transit, Spearfish

*Best Roadeo
Dancer!*

Accident Do's and Don'ts

Darrell Francis, Director

Souris Basin Transportation - Minot, ND

When it came time, shortly after the DTA 2014 Conference, to look for a speaker that was dynamic, knowledgeable of transit needs, and someone who could keep our attention for the two hours after a big breakfast, we found Don Moseman, Training Director for North Dakota Safety Council. I think we found the right guy. The room was full with 64 people attending. Chairs and more tables were brought in to hear and learn about what you should do when you have an accident. I am just going to list a few of the items that stand out.

1. Call 911 first. Sometimes calling the dispatcher first might be a good reason and it may be required by your policy. However, for liability reasons, call 911 first. Makes it easier than trying to explain why you called them second.
2. Don't talk to the public, unless instructed to do so by your supervisor.
3. Make sure all the proper accident forms, insurance card, and registration are in your vehicle. Disposable cameras are also good to have.

See ACCIDENT, Page 3

Thank You

From Carol Seurer

Words cannot say enough to thank all of you at DTA for honoring me at the fall association conference. I really was not planning to attend and Kathy had to work hard to get me over what she called my "Bad Attitude" because I thought it was unnecessary. Thanks for all the gifts and especially for the great video.

I felt very honored by all the well wishes and also thought that it was a wonderful conference with members all having fun together, just like the old days. So this is not "Good Bye" just farewell until we meet again.

DTA Board and Associate Members

The Family of Carol Seurer

Thank you so very much for taking the time to honor Carol Seurer, wife, mother and grandmother to the Kenneth Seurer family. We, the daughters of Carol, were so honored to be able to attend and witness the genuine outpouring of respect and kindness shown to our mother, as well as ourselves.

Dakota Transit Association is truly a unique organization and definitely has a family element to it! It was so awesome to see everyone stick around the evening of the vendor show social. The socializing, dancing and retirement well wishes have truly left some lasting special memories for our family!

I think unity between the states was a main objective for the founding members of Dakota Transit Association...whether they are still with us or have passed, you as a Board and Associate Members did them proud!!!

Once again, our sincere thanks!

ACCIDENT

Continued from Page 2

4. Don't move your vehicle until instructed to do so.
5. Pre-Trip inspections are important to prevent accidents or incidents.
6. Documentation.
7. Talk to Law enforcement officers who are doing the investigations.

This was an eye-opener for some and for others to review your safety program on a regular basis. The closing question and answer period was very informative and gave everyone time to ask those specific and strange incidents that do happen. The class could have been a full day because the topic is so interesting and changing with technology and requirements. Thanks to everyone who attended.

My 40 Years in Transit

Carol Seurer, Director
Community Transit - Sisseton, SD

My interest in transit probably started when I was sixteen and drove my parents to a cancer clinic in Dallas, Texas for my mother to receive treatments. My dad was legally blind so he could not drive but somehow I managed and I did love to drive.

In 1976 I became employed at Northeast Community Action program as the director of an elderly outreach program. Our home visits, meetings, surveys and other contacts showed that the need for transportation was one of the highest priorities.

At that time we had one assessable homemade van and the nutrition program in Sisseton had a van that served the meal program. The funding was provided by the State Office of Adult Services and the busses were "Senior Citizen Busses." The passengers were mostly all senior citizens and a few riders using wheelchairs.

In about 1980 federal rural public transportation funds became available to the State Department of Transportation and our projects could apply for administration and operating expenses and to purchase new vehicles.

With the arrival of new money came the new regulations and policies that needed to be adopted. Many of the smaller projects did not have the staff to do this so coordination became mandatory and Roberts, Marshall, and



Day County were added to our project. Eureka, Bowdle, Faulkton, Milbank, Lennox and Campbell County were added later and our project was transferred from CAP to the Area IV Senior Citizen Planning Council.

Back then the federal funding was inconsistent and we never knew when or if we would receive funds. The state only received a little over \$500,000 so we all were quite poor. One year on September 30th we received information that we would not have funding on October 1st. It was due to the facts that funding was inconsistent, matching funds hard to raise, the feeling of projects being out there alone and not knowing how to change things.

Educating our communities, state, local and federal government officials of who we were and what our needs were, we organized a state association as well as DTA.

Community Transit, Inc. was incorporated in 1992 as one of the first independent public transportation services in the state.

See Seurer, Page 5

CTAA Executive Director

Dear CTAA Members & Colleagues:

As President of the Community Transportation Association of America's Board of Directors, I am pleased to inform you that we have completed our search for a new Executive Director for the Association. Following an open process that included applicants from across the nation, the Board has unanimously selected the Association's current Communications Director, Scott Bogren, for this important work.

Scott has been with the organization for 28 years, serving in a variety of capacities during his tenure. He will succeed our current Executive Director, Dale J. Marsico, CCTM, during the spring of 2016. Dale has held the position since 1995 and the Board – along with the CTAA staff and the more than 4,000 members of the Association thank him for his two decades of dedicated, enthusiastic and creative leadership.

All of us, as I am sure all of you, look forward to working with Scott to build upon the record and reputation we enjoy throughout our industry. If you'd like to send a note of congratulations, you can always reach Scott at bogren@ctaa.org.

Thank you and best wishes,

Rochelle A. Cotey
President, CTAA Board of Directors

SEURER

Continued from Page 4

Our main goal, other than provide rides, was to educate the public to the fact that we are not senior citizen busses. Almost twenty five years later we are still trying to do this.

It is with mixed feelings that I plan to retire this year, especially looking back and seeing how far we have come and realizing how much is left to do.

Other than watching transit evolve over almost 40 years, the friends I have made, the fun we have had, and of course the frustrations we have had has made my life so much more rewarding. It is a profession where our services make so many people's lives easier. On October 1, 2015 it will be with confidence that I will hand over the keys to Kathy and the rest of the staff and they will see transit move in directions that I cannot foresee. It's been ONE HELL OF A RIDE (On a bus, Of Course).

DTA 2015 Awards

Jacque Senger, DTA Executive Director

I would like to thank all the agencies who nominated an individual/agency for our 2015 Fall Conference Awards. We received 17 nominations and they were all very qualified to be winners.

The following five awards were presented to **South Dakota**

- 1) Driver of the Year, Dave Hoaas, Watertown
- 2) Friend of Transit, Mary Antrim, Watertown
- 3) Outstanding Support Staff, Travis Bortnem, Brookings
- 4) Above and Beyond, Terry McKeown, Brookings
- 5) Innovative Agency, Brookings Area Transit Authority, Brookings

North Dakota winners were as follows...

- 1) Driver of the Year, Ralph Miller, Minot
- 2) Friend of Transit, Mike Williams, Fargo City Commissioner
- 3) Outstanding Support Staff, Ellen Lang, Bismarck
- 4) Above and Beyond, Ralph Miller, Minot
- 5) Innovative Agency, Souris Basin Public Transportation.

Training Update - Linda Freeman, PASS Coordinator

We have a set of classes scheduled for Dickinson, ND on November 4, 5, & 6.

- PASS class will be held Nov. 4 & 5 with PASS recertification on the 5th.
- Defensive Driving and Maltreatment Awareness classes will be on the 6th.

We also have a PASS and PASS recertification class scheduled for Watertown, SD on December 29 and 30.

Please go to DTA website for all pertinent information and to register.

2015 Conference Door Prize Winners

- 1) \$500.00 Gift Card – Jeannie Payer, ROCS Transit
- 2) Yeti Cooler – Stan Cassagnol, South Central Adult Services
- 3) Garmin Activities Watch – Dave Peterson, Arrow Transit
- 4) Cookbook (given by Linda Gehrke) – Ron Baumgart, River Cities Public Transit.
- 5) 2-\$25.00 Gift Cards (given by American Seating Company Representative, Denton Shuey) -
Lisa Bartlett, Kenmare Meals and Wheels
Richard Kavli, Nelson County Transit

Thought for the Month of October...

“Be Selective In Your Battles, Sometimes Peace is Better Than Being Right.”



Jacque Senger
DTA Executive Director

Mailing Address:
PO Box 973
Devil's Lake, ND 58301

E-Mail Address:
jacque.senger@hotmail.com

Phone Number:
701-662-2465

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