

ISSUE

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May
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DTA
Dakota Transit
Association

Transit Tidbits



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DTA Fall Conference Save the Date

DATES:
September 9th through
the 14th, 2016

WHERE:
Holiday Inn,
Spearfish
Convention Center,
Spearfish, SD

Their phone number is
800.999.3541.

Please put these dates
on your calendars!!!

Awards for the 2016 Fall Conference

Jacque Senger, Executive Director

Now is the time for your agency to shine! Nominations for the 2016 Dakota Transit awards are now open.

List of Awards for 2016:

- ♦ Innovative Transit Agency of the Year
- ♦ Driver of the Year
- ♦ Friend of Transit
- ♦ Above and Beyond
- ♦ Outstanding Support Staff of the Year

The Nomination Forms were emailed out to all our DTA members. Please review the Nomination Forms and give a very deserving honor to someone in your transit family.

Remember, **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE.** Please pay attention to the due date, **JULY 13, 2016.**

I would love to receive many, many nominations.

Thank you!

Handi-Wheels Transportation

An Equal Opportunity Transit Service and Employer

Kerri Spiering, Community Outreach Manager

Handi-Wheels Transportation, Inc. - Fargo, ND

Handi-Wheels Transportation began over 40 years ago through a grassroots effort by individuals using wheelchairs and their families to purchase a wheelchair accessible van. Members of the Red River Valley Handicaps Club collected over 1,700,000 Betty Crocker coupons over an 18 month period resulting in a check from General Mills for \$8,500 to be used to purchase the van. Prior to that time, the only method of transportation for



individuals using wheelchairs was an ambulance. This was the first such van in the Fargo metro area that was operated as a service to the community.

In the beginning, Handi-Wheels had just one van and just one driver. Times have changed. Now, they have 4 accessible buses and 6 drivers and provided over 11,000 rides in 2015 operating within the city limits of Fargo and West Fargo, North Dakota.

Handi-Wheels continues to provide accessible and affordable transportation service to individuals who have a disability as well as to others who cannot drive for themselves. Over 64% of their passengers have a disability and 27% of the ridership require the use of a lift to board the bus. Of the total number of rides they provide, 80% are medical-related and 99% of these passengers qualify for medical assistance. These passengers ride free-of-charge and the ride is billed to North Dakota Medicaid on their behalf.

In addition to providing rides to people with disabilities, Handi-Wheels has also had people with disabilities volunteering and working in its office as well as serving on its board. "The visionaries who were the founders of Handi-Wheels Transportation were themselves people with disabilities. Throughout its 41 year history as a nonprofit organization, people who have disabilities, have been a vital part of its operations," said Board President Allan Peterson. Executive Director and wheelchair user, Tonna Horsley, started out as a volunteer one day a week six years ago, then served as a VISTA Volunteer for 4 years, and then the Board hired her as the executive director. "For me personally, if I didn't work at Handi-Wheels I would have a more difficult time securing employment anywhere else. Here I have the flexibility of living and working in the same building. Handi-Wheels provides me the flexibility I need," said Horsley.

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Handi-Wheels

Continued from Page 2

Handi-Wheels is proud of its long history of helping people remain independent, live in their own homes for longer periods of time, and feel included in the community. Handi-Wheels is an organization that truly lives its mission statement not only providing accessible and affordable transportation service but also providing opportunities for people to be self-sufficient, empowered, and feel included in the community in which they live.



Dakota Transit Association Board of Directors Positions Open for September 2016

Jacque Senger, DTA Executive Director

At our Fall Conference in Spearfish, SD, we will be voting on Board Members. North Dakota and South Dakota each have two positions to be filled. Please consider these positions and bring your names to the Fall Conference.



Logo's on the DTA Trailer

Darrell Francis - Minot, ND

If any agency would like to have their logo placed on the DTA Trailer, all you have to do is contact me, Darrell Francis, Souris Basin Transit, #701-852-8008 and I will guide you in the process.

DTA 2016 Memberships

Jacque Senger, DTA Executive Director

As of May 10, 2016, I have received twenty 2016 DTA membership forms from South Dakota and twenty-six from North Dakota. We only have 3 outstanding agency's that are not represented. Thank you for getting your membership forms in so quickly!

Training Update - Linda Freeman, PASS Coordinator

Linda Freeman, PASS Coordinator
Phone: 701-848-6480 or e-mail: lindaf1@att.blackberry.net.

The following classes are scheduled and on the web site.

JUNE 6-8-----Bismarck, ND

June 6-7—PASS Class
June 7—PASS Recertification Class
June 8—Defensive Driving Class

Classes will be held at West River Transit. Block of rooms is set up at the Comfort Inn. You must ask for the "Dakota Transit Assn." block to get state rates. Registration Deadline for classes and motel is May 22, 2016.

June 9-10, 2016---Mitchell, SD

June 9-10—PASS Class
June 10—PASS Recertification Class

Classes will be held at Palace Transit. A block of rooms that will be direct billed to SD DOT is set up at the Days Inn. You must call for your own reservations/cancellations and ask for Department of Transportation Block. Deadline for room and class reservations is May 25, 2016.

June 9-10, 2016---Spearfish, SD

June 9-10—PASS Class
June 10—PASS. Recertification Class

Classes will be held at Prairie Hills Transit and classes are scheduled to run from 8 am to 4pm both days. A block of rooms for direct bill to SD DOT has been set up at Quality Inn in Spearfish. Room reservation deadline is May 25th. Be sure to ask for the SD DOT block when making your reservations. Registration Deadline for classes is May 30, 2016.

June 21-23, 2016---Devils Lake, ND

June 21-22—PASS Class
June 22—PASS Recertification Class
June 23—Maltreatment Awareness Class
June 23—Defensive Driving Class

Classes will be held at Devils Lake Senior Meals and Services. A block of rooms has been set up at the Fireside Inn & Suites under "Dakota Transit Assn.". Registration deadline for rooms and classes is May 20.

Our class in Jamestown went very well. A big "THANKS" to Laurie and her staff at James River for the great snacks, facility and providing all we needed to make the class a success!

We were thrilled to have a trainer from Houston, Texas join us as a participant in this class. Her agency wishes to begin providing PASS training in the Houston and Austin area. She told us they wanted her to get to a class as soon as possible so she could take her "train the trainer" online course. Choices they found were Chicago, IL and Jamestown, ND. They chose Jamestown and she said she really loved it and learned a lot. She also stated the people here are so friendly! Just shows that our transit association and our web site are really doing the job!

Thought for the Month of May...

*"Life always offers you a second
chance. It's called tomorrow."*



Jacque Senger
DTA Executive Director

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Thanks to all!

- Jacque

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