



this issue

CTAA	P.3
Collaboration	P.5
Awards	P.6
Policies & Practices	P.8
FTA	P.10

**Thought
for the
Month of
October...**

*“If you can
let go,
you found the
gate to
happiness.”*

Overview of the Dakota Transit Association’s Fall Conference

Jacque Senger - Executive Director, DTA

As I reflect on September, I file another great Dakota Transit Association Conference away.

This year’s rodeo had:

- Awesome weather
- Many contestants
- We added the State of Wyoming
- A great Rodeo Awards Banquet
- Wonderful comradery

Our conference opened with a welcome to our dignitaries then went directly into our sessions. We had a diverse selection of speakers who presented new thoughts and ideas on wellness. Some speakers even had the members wiping away a few tears.

I would like to give a “SHOUT OUT” to Barb Cline for all her extra work to make the conference great.



See CONFERENCE, Page 2

Transit Wellness for Mind and Body

Candice Hartman

Wildrose Public Transit -

Wildrose, ND

—Dr. Bob, HealthSource/
Wellness Shift of Spearfish

—Dr. Jim Hoven, National
Director of Corporate Accts.



Dr. Bob and Dr. Hoven spoke about wellness and its benefits to the individual and the workplace. The primary point they made is that small changes we make in our daily lives now can make big changes to our health and wellness in the future.

Examples were given of some of the new habits that can be developed such as sitting less, doing stretch breaks during the day, and identifying stress triggers in our lives and how to deal with them. These small changes can make a big impact on our health.

Improved wellness of employees does pay off for organizations by improved workplace environment and lowering costs due to increased productivity and decreased time off and health care expense. The implementation of a wellness plan in the workplace must include education, getting the word out and measurable goals along with follow up.

The goal, plan and action must start at the top of the organization and include all employees.

CONFERENCE

Continued from Page 1

I am aware this Transit Tidbit is lengthy; however, since we touched on all areas of the Rodeo and Conference, I felt this Tidbit would be a good overview of the 2016 Fall DTA Conference.

For those of you who were unable to attend, we have a few extra conference booklets. If you are interested in one, please contact me and I will send one off to you. Hopefully next year you will all be able to attend. Our host city is Grand Forks, ND and dates will be sent out in the November Tidbit.

New CTAA Director

Lisa Bartlett, Director

Kenmare Wheels & Meals, Inc. - Kenmare, ND

Scott Bogren took a break from Washington, CD and joined us on a brisk Monday morning for the first time as the Executive Director of the Community Transportation Association of America. His new position began this year on April Fool's Day but his plans for the Organization certainly didn't sound like a joke.

While the CTAA continues with the mission of improving America's public community transportation future, currently their focus is on the people that provide that transportation; The Members.

In an effort to increase communication with members the CTAA has developed and will soon implement a Rapid Response Team that will choose around 200 volunteers that will be contacted via email and will be expected to respond within 24 hours to aid in agency specific issues and programs. Their first question – "What is the most pressing issue for community transportation today?"

Additionally, Scott explained that the membership structure will also soon change to highlight different specialty services and membership benefits. That does also mean a slight increase in the due structure that has not been changed since 1993.

The CTAA recognizes the growing needs of rural and small urban Transit in the Dakotas but is always looking for input from program directors. They have a "open door" policy to the growing needs of transit and need to hear from all of us. The CTAA Pledge reflects a promise of Responsiveness, Expertise, Insight, Passion and Understanding. They value not only our time but also our resources.

CTAA continues to provide online training, keep us informed on legislative policy and regulatory news along with analysis of FTA and Transit Safety. While in Washington the real message that Scott Bogren brings to our legislatures is that we are unique in rural America, our rider and drivers are connected in a special way and that is why we must all work together to keep Transit going strong.



Inspiration At The DTA Conference

Sue Ames

Prairie Hills Transit - Spearfish, SD

When I volunteered to write about Elaine Doll-Dunn's inspirational session, I thought to myself "this will be easy peasy". Wrong! How does one describe the spirit and passion of an amazing woman?

Listing resume accomplishments" such as Elaine Doll-Dunn is Mrs. South Dakota 2000, Spirit of South Dakota 2008 and Spirit of Spearfish 2015, earned a Doctorate, is a world class marathon runner, a respected school counselor, mother of seven, organizer of the only all women marathon in the United States, etc. etc. is easy. But, to put into written words the spirit and the inspiration Elaine has given too many who have listened to her presentation or personally known her is not easy.

Easy does not describe Elaine's life as she has had hardships like all of us. She has not let the hardships define her but chose to reach for her dreams and accomplish so much more than what is on that "resume." With a large dose of humor and wisdom, Elaine used her personal experiences as a marathon runner to inspire us to reach for our dreams and goals.

Elaine states to make a dream a reality you need personal wellness. Elaine believes a crucial part of achieving accomplishments is a requirement to nurture yourself. By

helping ourselves, we are capable of helping others. This doesn't mean a self-absorbed help but help that benefits others as our energies can undertake further goals when we are healthy and happy.



Lessons she learned were brought to life through personal stories. Challenged to run a mile with her sons and brother who played college football, Elaine began the marathon part of her journey through life. She, also, learned you can look fit, feel fit and still be very unfit and be thankful for the large boulder to hide behind. From her engaging presentation, she tells us to take care of not only our bodies but our minds.

Paraphrasing some of the remarks to remember or for those not able to attend "plan the fun, the bad happens all by itself"; "all things are possible and age and ability are not limiting factors"; "perception is key, if you see beauty, you find beauty"; "enjoy the journey, you don't have to be fast, just alive"; "to realize a dream, you have to work at it"; "work should be your play, if you don't love your work, you should get a different job" are words to use while we run our on marathon.

She encouraged us to find our passion, continue to learn, continue to grow because "life is a marathon, remember to tie your shoes". I could write a book but I think I will just read Elaine's book. Easy Peasy!

A New Day in Transportation Collaboration

Ellen Lang

West River Transit - Bismarck, ND



This past September 12th thru the 14th I had the honor of attending the Fall Conference in Spearfish, SD. During this time I had the pleasure of meeting and listening to Troyce Crucchiola. Troyce received the “Gift of Life” not only once, but twice over the past 28 years. During this time, Troyce has experienced hundreds of treatments and appointments related to his dialysis and transplant procedures.

Troyce is now employed by Ride Connection in Portland Oregon where he develops and works on programs that will improve the transportation needs of dialysis patients.

Troyce truly is an advocate for dialysis patients, as he knows what obstacles they face day to day and how important it is to them to have a dependable ride to and from every appointment safely and on time.

Infectious Disease Awareness Prevention

Erin Humphrey

Dickinson Public Transit - Dickinson, ND

The Infectious Disease Awareness and Prevention training by Russ Parish was very informative.

The training started out with the presenter having some attendees put a special gel on their hands. This gel allowed the presenter later in the training to shine a black light on their hands and around them to show how easily germs can spread and how many things a person has touched without realizing it. This activity showed how important it is to wash hands properly.

Russ went over types of infectious disease, how diseases are spread, how a person can protect oneself, and how to properly dispose of decontaminated infectious materials. More important points of the training were that hand sanitizer makes dirt clean and does not wash the dirt away, proper hand washing techniques, and the importance for drivers to check what is inside of their first aid kits at least once per month to make sure things inside are still usable.

DTA Roadeo

Darrell Francis, Roadeo Coordinator

On Saturday, 10th of September, the Annual DTA Paratransit Roadeo was held at Spearfish, SD. There were 38 drivers from North and South Dakota as well as from Wyoming. A very nice day, in the 60's, and a great opportunity to meet new faces and renew the camaraderie with friends throughout the event. The following division results:

North Dakota:

- 1st. Terry Condon, Standing Rock Public Transit, Ft. Yates, ND
- 2nd. Randy Ulmer, Public Transit of Dickinson, ND
- 3rd. Liz Ogren, Public Transit of Dickinson, ND
- 4th. Ron Katin, West River Public Transit, Bismarck, ND
- 5th. Terry Comeau, Standing Rock Public Transit, Ft. Yates, ND

South Dakota:

- 1st. Eric Peterson, River City Public Transit, Pierre, SD
- 2nd. Marvin Roubideaux, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Rosebud, SD
- 3rd. Joseph Short, BATA, Brookings, SD
- 4th. Adam Sharkey, River City Public Transit, Pierre, SD
- 5th. Dave Chapman, Prairie Hills Transit, Spearfish, SD

Wyoming:

- 1st. Richard Vallee, Cheyenne Transit, Cheyenne, WY
- 2nd. Jan Spratt, Buffalo Senior Center, Buffalo, WY
- 3rd. Coleman Garnich, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY



Congratulations. The Awards banquet that followed was very well attended and provided a great opportunity to thank all the drivers for their time and dedication to transit. Also, a big thank you to all the 34+ volunteers and judges that made this event a huge success. Hope to see as many drivers as possible for DTA Roadeo Sept. 9, 2017 in Grand Forks, ND.

New Board Members and New Officers

We welcome our new board members to the Dakota Transit Associations.

** NEW MEMBERS

- Ali Rood, President - Grand Forks, ND
- Terry Hoffman, Vice-President - Watertown, SD
- Karrie Mikkelson**, Secretary/Treasurer - Langdon, ND
- Brian Horinka - Minot, ND
- Randy Hartman - Sioux Falls, SD
- Cody Roggatz** - Aberdeen, SD
- Tammy Wilcox** - Rosebud, SD

The DTA Website has been updated so please look under Board Members and you will see their pictures (except for Karrie Mikkelson's). Kerrie will get her picture on the web as soon as she gets a haircut.

DTA Professional Dispatching and Scheduling Workshop

Deb Stuchl

Watertown Area Transit - Watertown, SD

Communication skills are vital in the transit world and dispatchers and schedulers were offered the opportunity to hone their skills at the Dakota Transit Association annual fall conference held last month in Spearfish, SD.

The Professional Dispatching and Scheduling Workshop (PDS) was presented by Peter Albrecht, a veteran in transit communications. He has been active in the public transportation industry as a curriculum and content reviewer for several safety and security training programs, and is a Certified Training and Safety Reviewer (CTSR) under the Community Transportation Association of America's Training and Safety Review Program.

Those agencies sending representatives to the two-day session included: Watertown (SD) Area Transit, Aberdeen (SD) Ride-Line, Peoples Transit (Huron, SD) Prairie Hills Transit (Spearfish, SD), Arrow Transit (Lemmon, SD), Rosebud Transit (SD), and Dickinson (ND) Transit.

The PDS curriculum covered Operating environment, communication, scheduling-service design and technology, as well as dispatch control and system reliability.

The class stressed the fact that dispatchers and schedulers must be flexible and able to adapt quickly to change. Re-assigning operators and vehicles to safely work around any barriers due to change in weather, traffic situations or any other unexpected event which may be encountered.

Quality dispatch personnel need to be aware of and how to operate all systems in their control and the procedure for accident and incident situations as they occur. Supporting the operator of a vehicle in a stress filled situation or incident can make the difference between a bad situation being contained or spiraling out of control. These situations and other similar were the focus of the sessions.

Communication with drivers and knowing the location and availability of all vehicles and drivers is a must in the busy day of even the smallest transit project. Albrecht and the attendees of the class shared ideas and experiences on these matters.

Speaking in a clear and concise and respectful manner isn't always the easiest thing for a person to do when dealing with a stressful situation. Remaining calm and cool and relaying information to drivers in simple easy to understand language during these situations is crucial.

All Aboard!!!

Policies & Practices to Accommodate All

Laurie McGuire

James River Transit - Jamestown, ND

I enjoyed this session on Reasonable Accommodations as we have these challenges everyday with our dial-a-ride system. We are always meeting the challenge.

Geoff Ames Project Manager for Meeting the Challenge Inc. spoke to the group about reasonable accommodations under the Federal disability rights laws. Geoff has been with ADA since 2002. He states Transit is his passion getting information to all is his job.

Geoff talked about the major event during the 1970's where individuals with disabilities were rioting in downtown Denver, Colorado on July 5th 1978. Around 45 individuals with disabilities laid down in the streets for their rights to ride.

He talked about Public entities that provide Public Transit and how we as an Agency must respond to requests for reasonable modifications and our means of making our information available to the General Public. Drivers needing to understand modifications and Transit manager's responsibility to guide our Drivers and Dispatchers through that process.

Reminder to Transit Agencies that we are not a taxi we are a bus. How communication with Rider, Driver, Dispatcher and Manager is a key factor. Reminded us that Dial-a-ride is a shared ride system. For more information on Reasonable Modifications you can reach Geoff Ames at 1-800-949-4232.



Idea Café Roundtables

Facilitator: Scott Bogren

Jackie Scott

Rural Office of Community Action - Lake Andes, SD

Senator Bob Ewing explained how the county monies were used and generated. The wheel tax stays in the county and the county needs to utilize that first. He was asked if we could use dyed fuel, which would save money for transit didn't get a real yes or no; I believe it's something that must be considered. He served on the Transit committee in his first term in Senate.

See IDEAS, Page 9

IDEAS

Continued from Page 8

Troyce Crucchiola is a kidney patient from Portland, Oregon. Troy enlightened us all on the struggles for individuals who have kidney disease, and must be on dialysis. He has quite a life story dealing with kidney disease for 28 years. A very interesting thing I picked up was that people who do 4 hours of dialysis 3 times a week only get 15% recovery from their kidney and people who do 8 hours of dialysis 3 times a week get 30%. Usually the clients we have on dialysis do 4 hours.



Scott Bogren hosted the safety & securement table. We are not ruled as a target, not as bad as D.C. and larger cities. We need to come up with ways to educate people about what we do. Focus on what happened on the trip instead of the #'s (benefits). It was brought up to have cards that say "I spent \$_____ in your store and I got here on _____Transit". Videos on internet are another way to get our name and service out there.

A Lieutenant from the Spearfish Police Department hosted the security on site table. Pointers include don't focus on cameras, use common sense, don't leave doors open, and always lock doors. You should always have security measures in place at office and bus barns.

2016 Trade Show

David Peterson

Arrow Public Transit - Lemmon, SD

Over 20 vendors were at this year's 2016 DTA conference and trade show. There was a variety of booths ranging from software companies to bus dealers. There was a very good turnout for this event. After the trade show, Heavy Hors D Oeuvres were served and music by The Lyle Berry Band.



FTA Updates by Deputy Region 8 Director David Beckhouse

Dale Bergman

Cities Area Transit - Grand Forks, ND

Mr. Beckhouse talked about the FAST ACT (Fixing America's Surface Transportation) but, before that he wanted to pass along to everyone the staffing changes and additions at the Region 8 office. He has passed out and email the list of staffing changes and positions everyone in their office holds. Mr. Beckhouse also introduced two of his staff people that came to the conference, Jennifer Stewart and Darin Allan. He also stated with the election coming up and the lack of Congress to make any real changes, that it is possible to see a continuing resolution for the operating budgets for the next few months until Congress reconvenes after the election.

It was mentioned that the 5339 funds for Bus and Bus Facilities funding was released and that Sioux Falls, SD and the North Dakota DOT received funds in this region for projects.

Mr. Darrin Allan then spoke on the Performance Based Planning that is needed as the final rule came out in May 2016. He talked about the TIP/STIP should be a minimum of 4 years planning process. The performance based planning also must have coordination and cooperation planning between rural and urban transit properties. There was discussion held about the Safety and Infrastructure and the planning required, along with the reliability or State of Good repair vehicles and lack of funding. There was discussion about the new FTA ruling of the Buy America program of increasing the domestic content in vehicles from 60% today to 75% by 2020.

Ms. Jennifer Stewart had discussion about the new Safety Plan now required by FTA with the MAP-21 ruling. The new Safety Plan will be a National Public Safety Plan, which will need to include a comprehensive safety plan, a study of safety risks, and training of employees to promote safety. The Safety performance plan will need to become a part of the MPO Planning documents. Chicago RTA system has been doing a pilot program for the safety training. There is more information at the FTA Safety and Oversight office website. Which can be found at www.transit.dot.gov.

There was discussion held about the TAMs (Transit Asset Management) Program in which North and South Dakota transit properties fall under the tier 2 category would need to have a plan put together by Oct. 2018 for FTA approval. The listing would include inventory, condition, and priority list of replacements, and what tools were used to estimate the replacements. This is a lot of work moving forward, but necessary to get funding in the future to operate transit in our states.



Healthy Partnership

Tamaleon Wilcox

Rosebud Sioux Tribe Transportation - Rosebud, SD

Recently the Dakota Transit Association hosted Mr. Brad Haupt from Regional Health, Rapid City South Dakota to relay positive input to its members on the benefits of creating a healthy partnership between the health care field and local transit providers.

I found his presentation very fulfilling as his efforts in creating a network with the transit providers in his area were done with compassion for people. Mr. Haupt provided examples of the positive attributes created with the Prairie Hills Transit.

All in all it was a very useful presentation putting the “pay it forward” quote into play. The message I received from Mr. Haupt was “Healthy Partnerships” are created when a local transit service works in conjunction with each other or another organization that provides services to the public with a focus on filling in gaps in creating a network to assist people in their time of need.



Dollars and Sense

Rocky Rardon

Prairie Hills Transit - Spearfish, SD

With “Riding the Road to Wellness” being the central theme of the 2016 DTA fall conference it may at first seem out of place to have a panel discussing local funding for transit organizations included in the agenda. However, the panel moderators (Darin Berquist-SDDOT Secretary-Joe Neeb- Spearfish City Administrator, and Joe Falkenberg-Fall River County Commissioner) quickly showed that a healthy relationship with local and state administrators is essential to rural transit’s financial and community wellness.

Due to Darin Berquist’s personally acknowledged, limited education about the industry prior to taking his position, he stated that it is imperative that the individual transit agencies educate the public and local governments about all that rural transit does for the community. He indicated a “trickle-up” mentality as pertains to education, wherein the agencies must educate the public and local administration.

See FUNDING, Page 12

FUNDING

Continued from Page 11

They fail to value the freedom to stay in one's own home while still being able to get to shopping and necessary appointments. Without the rural transit service, many would be forced to move into assisted living at a greater cost, both financially and emotionally.



This was followed up by the final speaker, Joe Neeb, concurring with the other panelists, and expanding upon the need for educating the public and its administrators. He said that a large portion of the community leaders and general population see transit as only for the elderly and special needs population. A misconception that makes it a harder sell to a growing community like Spearfish. He believes that education is necessary, but not enough. To further the partnership, he made a case to also include city leaders in transit boards and functions. He believes that by getting them involved and invested they will desire to educate themselves and understand that rural transit is a part of their community's identity.

Above all, throughout the panel discussion, two things kept resurfacing that transit agencies can utilize to their advantage in working to achieve local level funding. First, keep local government involved in the conversation all year long, not just at budget time. Keeping them in the forefront of the minds of those that make the budget decisions. The other item was put best by Joe Falkenberg when discussing what to include when educating the different governing bodies, K.I.S.S. He opined that it does nothing to further the discussion of funding to throw out an exorbitant amount of facts and figures. It is more beneficial to tell a relatable story or have their own constituents tell their stories to indicate real world implications.

ND Driver of the Year

Carol Anderson

West River Transit - Bismarck, ND

Delila Repnow, 2016 was named the ND Driver of the Year. Delila was unable to attend the DTA Conference to accept the award.

See Thank You Letter on Page 13



Being named 2016 WLT's driver of the year has been very rewarding & humbling! There have been many changes in the 27 years I have driven. When I started driving for West River we transported senior citizens, now we transport all ages from babies, to teens - to senior citizens. The one thing that hasn't changed is our goal to get our clients safely to where they need to go. Also to treat them with kindness and respect. We have awesome drivers and office staff and we work well together. I love my job! If it makes life easier and puts a smile on someone's face for just one minute that's what it's all about. "Helping Our Clients!" The first 27 years have been great and I hope to continue for many more.

DTA

Dakota Transit
Association

Jacque Senger
DTA Executive Director

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

E-Mail Address:
jacquelinesenger@gondtc.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