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2019 DTA Conference

Thank you to all who attended the Annual DTA Conference in Dickinson, ND.

Be sure to check out next months tidbits for more articles about the DTA Conference.

Also, a Survey Monkey has been emailed out to all membership. Please take the time to fill out each survey that is applicable as this information will help the DTA Board in the future.

- Jacque Senger, DTA Executive Director

2019 Bus Roadeo and Banquet

Tom Wanttie

Aberdeen Ride Line - Aberdeen, SD

The Roadeo in Dickinson presented a unique challenge this year. The Public Works Building parking lot forced us to set up the course around the building, which meant the contestants couldn't see over half of the course from where drivers staged at this year.

Overall, I think the Roadeo ran very smoothly and with very few complications. Thank you to everyone that helped set up the course on Friday. Thank you to Adam Sharkey and Andy Sharp from River Cities Public Transit for conducting the wheelchair securement training on Friday night. You did an awesome job and the drivers appreciated it. Thank you to all that helped judge the different stations of the course. Without you, it would not have run as smooth as it did.

Later that evening, we were treated to a great banquet of really good food, awards to the top five drivers from each state and then we danced to SLAMABAMA. For those of you that did not stick around, you missed out on a really good band and very enjoyable evening.

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Roadeo

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North Dakota Winners:

Rod Graffing from South Central Adult Services
Terry Condon from Standing Rock Public Transit
Stevenson St. Louis from South Central Adult Services
Brenda Reed from Souris Basin Transportation
Terry Comeau from Standing Rock Public Transit.

South Dakota Winners:

Eric Peterson from River Cities Public Transit
Max Voller from River Cities Public Transit
Gary Frederick from River Cities Public Transit
Jaytee Thompson from Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Delano Cook from River Cities Public Transit.

Congratulations and Thank You for all you do to make public transit what it is today. We couldn't do it without you. We all look forward to seeing you in Watertown, SD, next year for DTA Bus Roadeo 2020.

Jacque Senger

Dakota Transit Association, Executive Director

Scott Brand, Senior Content Marketing Specialist from Q'Straint/Sure-Lok, reached out to the Dakota Transit Association. He expressed an interest in writing an article on the ND and SD Above and Beyond Awards that were presented at the DTA Fall Conference in Dickinson, ND.

The information, along with pictures, was sent to him. Scott gave DTA a blanket invitation to join the LinkedIn group. Here's a link to the group <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8696272/>.



Scott Brand, Senior Content Marketing Specialist

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Thank You

Randy Hartman

Sioux Area Metro - Sioux Falls, SD

I wanted to take a few minutes to thank the Dakota Transit Association (DTA) for inviting the Hallelujah Hooligans to provide entertainment in Dickinson, ND. As always, we had a wonderful time at the Saturday evening activities as well as entertaining on Sunday morning. It also gave us a great reason for a Road Trip and Hooligans just LOVE Road Trips! It was a great to see some familiar faces and to meet new friends.

We also want to extend a HUGE THANK YOU for the generous donations that were given to the Hallelujah Hooligan Ministry. Those gifts will go back into the community to either buy Bibles for McCrossan's' Boys Ranch, Salvation Army Angel Tree Christmas gifts for the children, or other needs in the community. Your generous donations will be Paid Forward to bless others.

Thank you,
The Hallelujah Hooligans

Trudy Hartman
Jesse Hartman
Mark Foster

Julie VanDam
Tayler VanDam

Randy Hartman
Jenni Hartman

Patty Frantz
Judy Fox

Training Update - Linda Freeman, PASS Coordinator

Phone: 701-848-6480 E-mail: lindaafreeman1@gmail.com

We have the following classes scheduled for October 17-19, 2019 at Rosebud Casino, 30421 US Hwy 83, Valentine, Nebraska. Telephone number is 1-800-786-7673. Rooms are available at state rates at the casino. Classes are being sponsored by Rosebud Sioux Tribe Transportation.

PASS Class: October 17 & 18-8am to 4pm both days.
PASS Recertification Class: October 18 - 8am to 4pm.
Maltreatment Awareness Class: October 19, 8am to 11am.
Defensive Driving Class: October 19, 11am to 3pm.

Since we have very little lead time, please contact Linda Freeman as soon as possible with names of those you wish to send, and which classes they will be attending.

I really enjoyed seeing all of you who attended the conference in Dickinson!

Board Member Stepping Down

Terry Hoffman

Watertown Area Transit, Inc. - Watertown, SD

The winds of change are blowing strong at Watertown Area Transit in this month of September.

The new consolidated transit system kicking off service in the city in October also marks the end of an era in leadership.

Mary Antrim, an original board member of WATI, will not be moving ahead with the new organization, thus ending a 21-year run in helping guide public transportation in Watertown.

"I have enjoyed my time on the board and the opportunity to work with so many good people," said Antrim. "The impact transit has made over the years is phenomenal."

Antrim's work as a board member has always been as the secretary, a position she has taken very seriously. Her impact on transit stretches far beyond board meetings and logging minutes and motions. She has provided countless hours of volunteer service to fundraising projects and promotional activities.

True to form, when the idea of consolidating transit systems was first brought to the table, she was supportive of the plan. The proposal called for WATI to combine forces with Sisseton-based Community Transit, Spink County Transit and Groton Community Transit plus new start Faulk County Community Transit. Eighteen months later, the proposed action is about to become reality and Antrim is excited about the prospects.



"Consolidating forces with other systems will allow for more efficiency overall and provide service for more people who really need it," said Antrim. "The move has received great support from the DOT (South Dakota Department of Transportation) and FTA (Federal Transportation Administration). I feel it's a positive move."

Change is no stranger to Antrim during her tenure on the board. She has witnessed meager beginnings and tremendous growth; been a part of financial struggles and prosperous times; welcomed four directors and a wide-variety of board members. Perhaps no action has had a more significant impact on the project than the relationship forged with Prairie Lakes Healthcare System. "The contract with Prairie Lakes opened up so many options in the community," said Antrim. "I don't think anyone realized the impact it would have."

Since 2016, PLH has paid the fare for all medical related trips to any facility in the community. The monthly tally has ballooned from 400 at the onset of the contract to 1100-plus trips.

The ability to provide rides outside the community, the increased service for youth and the number of trips provided for employment are other impacts crucial to the success of the transit she said.

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Board

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"The growth has been amazing, going from two Van's in the beginning to 15 vehicles now and more on the horizon," said Antrim. "I always hear the positives, the number of people we serve, those who have no option without us. It's been good to be a part of something so positive."

The journey has included many challenges along the way. Funding sources, maintenance costs and meeting future needs and demands of riders will always be a priority for the non-profit and Antrim does not anticipate change in those areas.

"We have always had support from the city and county and will need those sources moving forward," said Antrim. "The United Way and Community Foundation have been important to our success because they recognize the importance of transit."

Antrim's final board meeting on September 19 was typical - efficient and without fanfare. She was presented with a plaque, well wishes from her peers and an invitation to remain active as part of the local advisory board to the newly formed project.

"I don't think I will really miss it much, but I will continue to provide my support anyway I can," said Antrim.

2019 DTA Vendor Show

Barb Cline

Prairie Hills Transit - Spearfish, SD

Feedback from our Vendors indicate the 2019 Trade Show was a success. With half the vendors (seventeen) from last year we were concerned about how the show would be. There were several National and other State shows that pulled our vendors away this year. Declining attendance for the conference is a concern for the vendors who spend thousands of dollars in airfare, booth space, sponsorships, door prizes and advertising.

Both Liquid Springs and North Central Bus were meal sponsors (over \$1,000 each). BraunAbility, Cobbs Allen, Hanover Displays, First Net Built with AT & T, Altro USA, Gerflor and SRF Consulting Group sponsored breaks. Harlow's Bus Sales and Freedman Seating sponsored the Monday evening hospitality event. Q'Straint/Sure-Lok sponsored pizza and drinks for the Friday evening driver securement training. Our vendors were very generous with gift cards and door prizes again this year and the appearance of President Teddy Roosevelt (Joe Wiegand) was an added surprise that added fun to the event for all of us.

The Trade Show is what we make of it and thanks to all of you our vendors were again very appreciative of your time and business. If your inquiring mind wants to know the statistics; Booth rental-\$5,950.00, Sponsorships-\$3,350.00 and Advertising-\$1,100.00.

As you talk with your own companies' vendors please invite them to attend next year's Trade show.

The World of Technology Andrew Carpenter, CTAA

Kathy Holman

Community Transit, Inc. - Sisseton, SD

The world of technology is ever-changing and Andrew Carpenter of the Community Transportation Association of America has his hand on the pulse of these changes.

Carpenter presented his thoughts on the future of technology in the transit world to those gathered at the Dakota Transit Association's annual fall conference in Dickinson, ND in September.

His duties in Washington have allowed for Carpenter to develop a broad perspective on transportation and mobility issues affecting the industry. He has been an advocate for transit for several years and supports many technical projects which involve human-centered design.

The traditional Monday morning breakfast at the DTA conference will find the CTAA and DTA representatives sitting down together in a separate setting to discuss transportation needs in the Dakotas. Technology of course was the hot topic, specifically the establishment of central call and dispatch centers. Carpenter indicated there are many new ideas coming down the line in the near future.

With the consolidation of the transit systems in the South Dakota communities of Watertown, Sisseton, Redfield and Groton, this was welcomed discussion. Although nothing is imminent yet, there are exciting developments in the works according to Carpenter.

Other discussion included the usual talk of one-size-fits-all safety regulations and the negative affect they have on rural transit. He indicated there is discussion in Washington which could alter these decisions, but no changes have been made to date.

Mobility management issues, the development of a new transportation bill, the rules surrounding charter along with the 5311 formulas for funding which have remained unchanged since the mid-1960's were discussed at the breakfast encounter.

"The last thing we want to be knows as is the "We are from Washington and we're here to help guys,"" said Carpenter. "These are exciting times with all the new technology coming down the line."

*Thought for the
Month of October...*

*“Never stop being a good person
because of bad people.”*

DTA
Dakota Transit
Association

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Thanks to all!

- Jacque

www.dakotatransit.org