



this issue

Transit Day **P.2**

DTA President **P.3**

Training **P.4**

2020 DTA Membership Forms

On January 17, 2020
I sent out the 2020
DTA Membership
Form.

Within an hour I
received a
Membership Form
back with payment.

Next time you see
Karrie Mikkelsen,
Cavalier County
Transit, give her a
high-five.

To-date 8 forms have
been returned.

- Jacque Senger

DTA Fall Conference & Bus Rodeo

Jacque Senger, DTA Executive Director

Where: Watertown, SD

When: Sept. 11th thru the 15th

- Why:**
- 1) Networking with your peers
 - 2) Learning new ideas
 - 3) Being informed of best practices
 - 4) Finding out what is going on in other agencies---what has worked---what hasn't.
 - 5) Allowing drivers to show their skills
 - 6) The possibility of winning 1st place at the DTA rodeo and being able to compete at the National Rodeo.
 - 7) Identifying what to improve on
 - 8) Looking at things that are affecting our transit agency in today's world
 - 9) Making new friends
 - 10) And many many more reasons.

The Young and The Old

Brenda Schweitzer, Director

Brookings Area Transit Authority - Brookings, SD

We live in a society that values adulthood, and in turn doing – productivity and ongoing activity. The young and the old share a different rhythm. It's one that focuses on the power of being.

The young and the old are most closely connected with the essence of living. They can exist in a moment that's the grand sum of past, present, and future. Precious moments like these are shared regularly at BATA.



Transit Day at the Capitol

Stephany Weed, Administrative Assistant

People's Transit - Huron, SD

South Dakota Transit Providers showed up for Transit Day at the Capitol on January 22, 2020 after reaching out to their legislatures to seek support for a Transit Funding Bill-HB 1183. This bill would purpose a \$0.40 fee to a South Dakota driver's license's over a 5 year term and then be dedicated to the transit agencies. Representative Roger Chase from District 22 and Senator Bob Ewing from District 31 were the primary sponsors for this bill.



Lobbyist Myron Rau has been monitoring and tracking bills for SD Transit Providers for the 2020 Legislative Session. He provides weekly updates while lobbying for HB 1183 that will be heard in the Transportation Committee on February 18th, 2020.

Myron will be testifying briefly, along with two dedicated riders from River Cities Public Transit who will share their stories on how important public transit is in their lives, as well as a Veteran who will be coming from Prairie Hills Transit. Ron Baumgart (RCPT) will speak on behalf of the South Dakota Transit Providers as well. The goal of these testimonies will be to express how important rural public transit is and to get this bill passed so we can maintain our low fares.

New DTA President

Brian Horinka

Minot City Transit - Minot, ND

I am honored to have been selected as your Dakota Transit Association (DTA) President for this year. I just wanted to take a few moments to share what your DTA board has been up to since we were all together in Dickinson, ND last September.

First, I would like to thank everyone who attended our conference last year. Even though we were up against a number of other regional and national conferences, we had a great group of transit professionals come together to learn and network in beautiful southwestern North Dakota. For those of you who were unable to attend, I urge you to make every effort to make your way to Watertown, South Dakota this year. Your board has spent a lot of time reviewing and discussing all the comments and suggestions that were made during our general membership meeting as well as those from the survey monkey that was sent out after last year's conference. We appreciate everyone that took the time to fill those out and let us know what we can do to make DTA and our annual conference and rodeo the best it can be.

This year you will see a number of changes to the conference agenda and I believe we have a great line up of presenters and speakers who will certainly have timely and relevant information to provide to all of our agencies regardless of size. We understand that a lot of you travel a great distance to attend this event, so with that in mind, we have streamlined the conference a bit to end on Tuesday evening.

I also want to remind everyone that we will have two board positions up for election this year. Terms for Ali Rood from North Dakota and Kathy Holman from South Dakota's expire this year.

Ali has served on your board faithfully for six years and is not eligible to run for another term.

Kathy was appointed to fill a vacated spot and will be eligible for re-election to the board this year.

If you have a passion for transit in the Dakota's, please consider running for one of these positions this year. If you would like more information on the requirements and expectations of the board members, please feel free to contact myself or any other board member and we would be happy to discuss the responsibilities and rewards of serving on your DTA Board of Directors.

Another issue that is being discussed at length is changes to how DTA provides Passenger Assistance Safety and Sensitivity (PASS) training. I wanted to remind you that all agencies, even urban agencies, are authorized to use RTAP funding to send operators to this training.

After hearing numerous comments and suggestions on this subject, the board is moving forward with scheduling PASS classes on a quarterly basis. This will insure that any agencies with new drivers will be able to comply with the requirement to have their employees PASS certified within six months of being hired.

See PRESIDENT, page 4



President

Continued from Page 3

Additional classes will be made available as well on an as needed basis. We are currently in the process of selecting dates, locations and acquiring trainers for these upcoming classes and will post that information on the DTA website as soon as its available.

Ahh, the website! This is another project that your board is currently working on. We are in the process of putting ideas together to revamp the DTA website to make it a much more up-to-date user-friendly tool for our agencies. If you have any ideas or thoughts on what you would like to see on your DTA website, please let one of us know. We are currently working with a web designer and hope to have something in place by later this year.

Once again, I am privileged to serve with Tom, Karrie, Ali, Kathy, Terry, Randy and of course our Executive Director, the esteemed Jacque Senger, on your DTA Board of Directors. This amazing group of transit professionals have been working hard and taking a lot of time to move our agency into the next decade! I would also like to thank the DOT's for their support, guidance and input as we work together to make your Dakota Transit Association the best it can be!

And don't forget to come join us in Watertown, South Dakota from September 11th through September 15th so we can "Navigate the Future" of transit into the next decade!

Training Update - Linda Freeman, PASS Coordinator

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

I am working on making arrangements for classes across both states for the full 2020 year. As of now, the following classes have been scheduled and are on the DTA website:

Valley City: Friday, March 27-Sunday, March 29, 2020

PASS—March 27 & 28 from 9 am to 5:00 pm

PASS Recertification—March 28 from 9 am to 5:00 pm

Maltreatment Awareness—March 29 from 8am to 11am

Defensive Driving—March 29 from 11 am to 3pm

Rooms at Maryvale-\$30 per night

Meals at Maryvale-Breakfast, lunch & supper March 27 & 28. Breakfast and lunch March 29.

Meal costs—Breakfast \$8, Lunch \$9, Supper \$10.

Make all room and meal reservations by emailing Linda at lindaafreeman1@gmail.com.

Deadline for all reservations including rooms and meals-March 15, 2020:

See TRAINING, page 5

TRAINING

Continued from Page 4

Minot: Wednesday, May 6-Friday, May 8, 2020

PASS—May 6 & 7 from 9 am to 5:00 pm

PASS Recertification—May 7 from 9 am to 5:00 pm

Maltreatment Awareness—May 8 from 8am to 11am

Defensive Driving—May 8 from 11 am to 3pm

Hotel Information: Clarion Motel – 2200 East Burdick Expressway. Phone-701-852-2504. You will need to call to make your reservation under the Dakota Transit Association Block to get state rates. Block is set up for nights of May 5, 6, and 7. Deadline for motel reservation is April 21st.

Pierre: Tuesday, June 23, 2020-Thursday, June 25, 2020 with full Pass, Pass Recertification being offered. Defensive Driving will be offered on the 25th if needed. Hotel information will be on the DTA web site and in the tidbits at a later date.

Dickinson: Thursday, July 23-Saturday, July 25, 2020

PASS—July 23 & 24 from 9 am to 5:00 pm

PASS Recertification—July 24 from 9 am to 5:00 pm

Maltreatment Awareness—July 25 from 8am to 11am

Defensive Driving—July 25 from 11 am to 3pm

Hotel Information: Comfort Inn of Bismarck – 493 Elk Drive. Phone-701-264-7300. You will need to call to make your reservation under the Dakota Transit Association Block to get state rates. Block is set up for nights of July 22, 23 & 24th. Deadline for motel reservation is July 10th.

Aberdeen – Monday, December 28-Tuesday, December 29, 2020

PASS—December 28 & 29 from 9am to 5pm

PASS Recertification—December 29 from 9am to 5pm

Hotel information and class location to be determined at a later date.

Other Proposed Classes that have not been scheduled for certain yet:

Spearfish: Late March Pass & Pass Recertification

Brookings: Late July—Pass & Pass Recertification

Bismarck: Early October—All 3 classes

Other classes besides those scheduled and proposed can be arranged by contacting Linda by phone or e-mail.

I'd like to thank all the agencies I contacted who have agreed to sponsor classes. My hope is that by scheduling early, we will make meeting your training needs more convenient for you.

The DTA Board is still working on making changes to the training to help meet the needs of transit providers in both states, so please watch the web site and the tidbit for updates.

*Thought for the
Month of February...*

*Three things in human life are
important...*

*The first is to be kind;
the second is to be kind,
and the third is to be kind.*

DTA
Dakota Transit
Association

**Jacque Senger
DTA Executive Director**

**Mailing Address:
PO Box 973
Devils Lake, ND 58301**

**E-Mail Address:
jacquelinersenger@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