



AS THE WHEEL TURNS

Winter 2012

Annual Awards and Dinner



By Paul Davis

TTA's Annual Award's Dinner was held on Sunday, December 4th. Employees and their guests joined us at the 4-H Camp for a celebration and a superb meal.



In addition to the fine meal and fellowship, TTA presented the following people their Safety and Attendance awards.

Safety Awards

<u>NAME</u>	
Jim Forto.....	26
Robert Patrick.....	21
James Pine.....	17
Albert Thomas	14
Gregory Kipp	11
John Smiley	9
John Webb	9
David Mannon	6
Charles Evans	4
Tom Day.....	1

Safe Driving

Bus Operators

NAME

Stella Fowler	24
Larry Collins	22
Roger Camp.....	10
Lee Spires.....	9
Robert King.....	9
Renee Mullins	7
Tom McRae	7
Randy Rodriguez	4
Brian Wray	3
Ben Martin.....	6
James Edmonds	5
Denny Wheeler	3
C.J. Craighead.....	2
Mary Marcum	2
Jarrod Allison	1
Donnie Adkins.....	2
Steve Kunges.....	2
James Williamson.....	1
David Banks.....	1

Dial-A-Ride

NAME

Jeff Conner	3
DuVaughn Hale.....	3

ATTENDANCE AWARDS

NAME

Fred Adkins	
Norman Andrews	
David Banks	
Lonnie Black	

Charles Boggs
 Paul E. Davis
 Jim Forto
 Stella Fowler
 Brian Frazier
 Janie Fraback
 Jeff Heint
 Mark Hunt
 Roger Kipp
 David Mannon
 Dianna McCallister
 Peggy Miller
 Keith Murdock
 Rob Patrick
 Danny Stanley
 Scott Stultz
 John Webb
 Jennifer Woodall

Congratulations to everyone that was presented awards at this year's dinner. When we look at the number of years many of our drivers have in safe driving, it is no wonder TTA is one of the safest transit system in West Virginia.

Our renovation project is moving forward. Last month TTA's Board awarded the architectural and engineering contract to Architectural Planning and Design. If everything goes

well, construction should start at the end of Spring or early Summer.

Milestones

YEARS OF SERVICE

Deborah Bryan-Bator ...	28
Stella Fowler	27
Jim Forto.....	26
Larry Collins.....	25
Curtis Hodges.....	25
Roger Kipp.....	24
Mark Hunt	24
Jeff Heintz.....	24
Paul Davis	23
Chuck Boggs	21
Robert Patrick.....	21
Fredrick Adkins.....	20
Danny Stanley	18
Jim Pine.....	17
Albert Thomas	14
Julian "Lee" Spires.....	14
Roger Camp	13
Renee Mullins.....	12
Greg Kipp	12
Scott Stultz	12
Dianna McCallister	12
John Smiley	12
James Howerton.....	11
Robert King.....	10
Thomas McRae	10
Shaun Upchurch.....	9
John Webb	9
Randy Rodriguez.....	9
Janie Fraback.....	8
Brian Frazier	8
Donnie Tiller	7
Carole Holbrook.....	7
Peggy Miller.....	7
David Mannon	7
Brian Wray.....	6
Norman Andrews.....	6

Ben Martin.....	6
James Edmonds	5
Charles Evans II.....	5
Jeffery Connor	4
Denny Wheeler	4
Keith Murdock	4
Ronald Thomas.....	4
Cathy J.Craighead	4
DuVaughn Hale.....	4
Mary Marcum	3
David Budd	3
Jarrold Allison	3
Michael Dickerson.....	3
Mary Gold	3
Darrell Price	3
Donnie Adkins.....	3
Randall Waller.....	3
Steven Kunges.....	2
James Williamson	2
Lonnie Black	2
David Banks	1
Mark Taylor	1
Tom Day	1
Jennifer Woodall	1
Brenda Wells.....	1
Jason Mullens	1
Scott Williams	1
Casey Steele.....	-
Craig Miller.....	-
Howard Curtis	-
Timothy Ferguson	-
John Scott.....	-
Ronald Miller	-
Randy Mullins	-
Donald McKenzie.....	-
Dean Fuller	-



January 2012 Birthdays *Aren't They Great?*



Scott Stultz.....	01/03
Stella Fowler	01/04
Jarrold Allison.....	01/06
Donnie Tiller.....	01/09
Lonnie Black.....	01/12
Albert Thomas.....	01/26

February 2012 Birthdays

James Edmonds	02/07
Janie Fraback.....	02/10
John Webb.....	02/18
Shaun Upchurch	02/23

If you should see these folks on their special day, please wish them a Happy Birthday.



JOKES



Danger-Seeking Dinos

Velma was taking the tour of a national park not long ago.

The ranger mentioned to the tour group that dinosaur fossils had been found in the area.

Velma exclaimed, "Wow -- I can't believe the dinosaurs would come this close to the highway!"

Missing the Story

A newsboy was standing on the corner with a stack of papers, yelling, "Read all about it. Fifty people fooled! Fifty people fooled!"

A man walked over, bought a paper, and checked the front page. Finding nothing, the man said, "There's nothing in here about fifty people being fooled!"

The newsboy ran down the street calling out, "Read all about it. Fifty-one people fooled!"

Mystery Tipping

A man takes his seat in the theater, but he is too far from the screen.

He whispers to the usher,

"This is a mystery, and I have to watch a mystery close up. Get me a better seat, and I'll give you a big tip."

The usher moves him into the front row, and the man rewards him with a measly quarter.

The usher looks at his tip for a second and then leans over to whisper to the man, "the wife did it."

Jeff's World



By Jeff Heinl

Working Out The Kinks

It was such a simple request and it seemed like a good idea. My youngest son's sole desire for Christmas was a deluxe weight set. He'd been lifting weights at school for about two years. His addiction to working out made him want to continue lifting at home. As we pieced together the equipment, Jacob informed me that we were going to be lifting together. I will tell you right now that lifting

weights to me is about as appealing as getting hit in the head with an anvil. The thoughts of bonding deeper with my son overrode the selfish feelings and the dread of pain which would surely follow.

Day one represented the unpleasant reminder that I was not 18 years old anymore. In fact on day two I felt every bit of the half century that has passed since my birth. In my younger years my body would speak to me when I abused it. There was a soreness that faded after a few hours or in some cases days. Day two at age 53 my body screamed "what have you done to us?" I was not sore at all, I was numb . . . and my body acted as if it was no longer on speaking terms with me.

Day three was no better than day two but I trusted Jake when he told me that I needed to lift again to stretch out those muscles that cursed my brain for allowing this in the first place. A funny thing happened on the next few occasions that we lifted together. The numbness subsided, the aches didn't go away but I began to feel

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like I was gaining something more than just a bonding with my son. I don't think you will be seeing me participate in the Senior Olympics at some future date. As a result of taking care of this body which I have allowed to decline, I may (Lord willing) live to see great grand children open Christmas packages on Christmas morning.

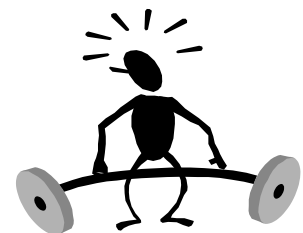
The story which preceded the coming thoughts applies to our careers at TTA as well as to life in general. So often in life we master the tasks which we are given without a thought to the years that will follow. We take for granted that our minds and bodies will remain the same and not degrade with the passage of time. Don't believe the lie that you can't teach an old dog "new tricks." A wise old dog will learn the new tricks so that he can keep up with the young pups that will one day nip at his heels. Young pups learn lessons from the older dogs they look up to.

Regardless of age or position here at TTA you constantly fill the role of both student and mentor. In

the military there was an expression that described a very competent individual. It was said of that man "He has all of his stuff in one sock and every piece of it is stenciled." The more I experience in life, I've come to realization that there is no such individual. We need to embrace change and new things in our lives. At the same time we need to get back to the basics and learn again the old lessons that we may have taken for granted.

The Work Rules are a prime example of the analogy I am trying to draw. They are not glamorous or exciting but then neither is lifting heavy weights over your head with maddening repetition. The physical act is not always a joy but the end results are well worth it. Mental approach is the key to any type of training. The Work Rules are more than just a list of regulations. When taken in their totality they serve a higher purpose. Acceptance of this thematic framework will mold you into the type of employee that your co-workers and our customers appreciate.

When you begin lifting weights and exercise at an older age it may initially become painful. The strengthening of muscles makes it less likely that you will pull a muscle while in the performance of a mundane task such as tying a shoe lace. When you challenge yourself to study the Work Rules, you set yourself up to become the role model/mentor that you were meant to be. Ron Wheeler and George Presley were not built like Arnold Swarzenegger, but their work habits and dedication to duty made them the giants that we came to revere. In life success many times is not measured in the big things that we have done. More often than not, success is gauged by the little things that we have done with monotonous repetition. Life (and a career) is not a sprint . . . it's a marathon. What are you doing now that will enable you to successfully finish the race?



From the Chief



By Scott Stultz

Congratulations

We would like to send out our congratulations to **Larry and Kathy Collins**. The couple celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Christmas Day 2011 with their three children and five grand-children. Larry is a Bus Operator with TTA.

Shop Talk



By Danny Stanley

On Wednesday, November 23, 2011; U.S. **Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood** announced a final rule specifically prohibiting interstate truck and bus drivers from using hand-held cell phones while operating their vehicles. In September 2010, FMCSA issued a regulation banning text messaging while operating a commercial truck or bus and PHMSA

followed with a companion regulation in February 2011, banning texting by intrastate hazardous materials drivers.

The final rule prohibits commercial drivers from using a hand-held mobile telephone while operating a commercial truck or bus. Drivers who violate the restriction will face federal civil penalties of up to \$2,750 for each offense and disqualification from operating a commercial motor vehicle for multiple offenses. Additionally, states will suspend a driver's commercial driver's license (CDL) after two or more serious traffic violations. Commercial truck and bus companies that allow their drivers to use hand-held cell phones while driving will face a maximum penalty of \$11,000.

"When drivers of large trucks, buses and hazardous materials drivers take their eyes off the road for even a few seconds, the outcome can be deadly," said Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "I hope that this rule will save lives by helping commercial drivers stay laser-focused

on safety at all times while behind the wheel."

Dispatcher's Corner



By Janie Fraback

Wow, we made it through the holidays! Now it's time to remember that kids are going back to school and winter driving. We have had some really warm weather for our region. However winter does come here in the Tri-state.

If we all remember to give ourselves a little extra time, slow down and try to be ready for the winter roads we should all make it without much trouble.

The roads that we drive daily are easy to remember where the water runs across the road. It's the ones we are not on that can be a little tricky. If you hear or see tire spray that's a good indication that the roads are not frozen.

If you see kids outside, it's always a good idea not to trust that you know what they are going to

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do next. Children get to playing and enjoying the winter weather and sometimes forget to be safe. That’s why it is our responsibility to be extra careful when driving, especially in inclement weather.

Be ready for the unexpected, give yourself extra driving time, put an extra blanket in the car, grab a bag of kitty litter, salt or de-icer, and slow down. Someone one asked me “how fast do you want to be going when you leave the road”. Good question to have an answer to.

Editor’s Corner



By Jennifer Woodall

HOLD ON TO YOUR HARD HAT !!

Already 2012 looks to be a very exciting year here at TTA. If you remember in 2010 TTA was awarded a grant that was just over \$1.5 million to make some much needed improvements to its buildings and infrastructure.

Thanks to the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) grant TTA was able to purchase new tires, paint TTA Center, purchase security lighting for the bus shelters and replace the security fence at the Maintenance Facility on Virginia Avenue. But wait, that’s not all.....we installed new fuel tanks, a backup generator and purchased and installed new radio systems in both the buses and Dial-A-Ride vans.

Just as we prepare to close out the ARRA grant, we are gearing up for our latest endeavor! We will be expanding and renovating the TTA Business Offices. We have more employees than ever before and we are running out of workspace.

Since our last newsletter we have secured a firm for architect and engineering services to oversee the project. The architect has started developing preliminary conceptual drawings and we hope to be accepting bids for construction in the near future. We will be adding about 4,200 square feet to the existing structure by adding a second floor.

In addition, the existing main floor areas are going to be modified to expand dispatch and driver rest facilities, among other things.

This project is made possible following the receipt of a \$1.2 million grant, awarded through the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration's Bus and Bus Facilities program and an additional \$308,000 through the WV Division of Public Transit.

Within the next couple of months the TTA Business Office Staff and Dispatchers will be re-locating to temporary construction trailers for construction to begin. While this will be a little inconveniencing, we are extremely excited knowing what the end product will be.

We look forward to keeping everyone posted on this exciting project as it comes to fruition.

