



AS THE WHEEL TURNS

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UP THROUGH THE RANKS AT TTA



By Vickie Shaffer

Following up on the news article last month about **Taylor Carter's** retirement from TTA Operations Manager, we have good news about promotions that have followed Mr. Carter's departure. The successful management and delivery of public transit services requires a unique mix of skills and experience that is not readily available by calling the WV Work Force office or running an ad in the newspaper. It has been a career long goal of mine to help TTA establish a work environment in which we look to our own workforce for supervisors and managers.

Jeff Heintz has been promoted to Operations Manager, a position to which he brings 20 years of experience in TTA supervision. Jeff also brings to his new post an unshakable belief in the value and importance of our transit service to the customers who ride and to the community at large.



Curtis Hodges will fill Mr. Heintz's role as the Senior Operations Supervisor and will be joined by **Fred Adkins** who has been



promoted from Operations Dispatcher to Operations Supervisor. Curt was promoted to Operations Supervisor in 2006 after working as a TTA bus operator for 20 years. Mr. Adkins began his career at TTA in 1991 and has advanced through the ranks from his start as a Cleaner.



Janie Fraback was promoted to Operations Dispatcher early in 2007 after four years on the road working as a TTA

Dial-A-Ride driver. Operations Dispatcher **Rachel**



Fashbaugh also began her career at TTA in 2005 as a Dial-A-Ride driver. She was advanced to a Dial-A-Ride Dispatcher in the same year and moved into the Operations Dispatcher's position in 2006.

Brian Frazier has been promoted from Dial-A-Ride Supervisor to Operations Supervisor. Brian began his TTA career as a Dial-A-Ride driver in 2003 and was promoted to a Dispatcher in Dial-A-Ride within three months after he started work. He was promoted to Dial-A-Ride Supervisor in 2006.



Our newest face on the TTA management staff is another Dial-A-Ride driver! **Norman "Nike"**



Andrews, was promoted to Operations Dispatcher on January 7, 2008. Nike Andrews started working as a TTA Dial-A-Ride driver in 2005.

The Executive Management of TTA takes a lot of pride in the advancement of these TTA employees through the ranks to their new positions as supervisors and managers and wish them all good luck. Just think. When I retire next year, even the General Manager and CEO **Paul Davis** will have begun his climb to the top from behind the wheel of a TTA bus!



Milestones

YEARS OF SERVICE

George Presley	41
David Parsons.....	35
Vickie Shaffer	27
Deborah Bryan	24
Stella Fowler	23
John Bocook	23
Jim Forto	22
Larry Collins	21
Curtis Hodges	21
Roger Kipp	20
Mark Hunt.....	20
Pat Gilkerson.....	20
Jeff Heintl	20
Paul Davis	19
Ed Payne.....	18
Chuck Boggs.....	17
Robert Patrick	17
Fredrick Adkins	15
Danny Stanley.....	14
Jim Pine	13
Judy Plybon.....	13
Albert Thomas.....	10
Julian "Lee" Spires	10
Roger Camp.....	9
Renee Mullins	8
Greg Kipp	8
Scott Stultz	8
Dianna McCallister	8
Oral Moncer	8
John Smiley	8
James Howerton	7
Robert King	7
Thomas McRae.....	6
Shaun Upchurch	5
Randy Rodriguez	6
John Webb	5
Janie Fraback.....	4
Brian Frazier.....	4
Priscilla Lawson	3
Donnie Tiller	3
Larry McNeely	3
Edwin Ferguson	3
Jerry Singleton	3
Carole Holbrook	3
Peggy Miller	3

David Mannon.....	3
Rachel Fashbaugh.....	2
Millard Stollings.....	2
Norman Andrews	2
Brian Wray	2
Ben Martin.....	2
James Edmonds	1
Aaron Higginbotham	1
Charles Evans II.....	1
Samuel Lancaster	1
John Mills	1
Tamara Wireman	1
Joseph Sallee.....	-
Jason Stowers.....	-
Jeffery Connor.....	-
Anna Cummings.....	-
Denny Wheeler	-
Keith Murdock	-
William Long.....	-
Derrick Scott.....	-
Keith Murdock	-
Cathy Young	-
William Long.....	-
Rhonda Kelly.....	-
Ronald Thomas.....	-
William Luker.....	-
DuVaughn Hale.....	-
Gary Robertson.....	-
Paul Slone.....	-
Mary Marcum	-

Birthdays!

Aren't They Great?

Milliard Stollings.....	02/02
James Edmonds.....	02/07
Janie Fraback.....	02/10
Aaron Higginbotham.....	02/16
John Webb	02/18
Shaun Upchurch.....	02/23
Judy Plybon	02/26

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



JOKES

Second Opinion

After the doctor gives the patient his diagnosis, the patient says, "Can I get a second opinion?" The doctor says, "Sure, come back tomorrow."

Senior Moment

An elderly woman called 911 on her cell phone to report that her car had been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the dispatcher: "They've stolen the stereo, steering wheel, brake pedal and even the accelerator!" she cried. The dispatcher said, "Stay calm, an officer is on the way." A few minutes later the officer radios in, "Disregard," he says. "She got in the back-seat by mistake."

The Curfew

This young man was elated when he turned eighteen in a state where the curfew is 11:00 p.m. for anyone under seventeen years of age. He told his Dad how happy he was that now he could stay out until 3:00 a.m. if he wanted. "Yes you can stay out as late as you want, but the car is under seventeen and it has to be in the garage by eleven."

From the Chief

By Scott Stultz



We would like to send out our congratulations to **Tyler Davis**, son of Paul (General Manager) and Sandy Davis, who recently won the position of first chair, first tuba in the West Virginia All-State Band. Tyler, who is a Sophomore at Huntington High School, won this award last year as a Freshman and repeated the honor again this year. Congratulations on this amazing accomplishment!

Shop Talk

By Danny Stanley



Let's begin this month with a TTA Maintenance Department construction update. In the new two bay section of the garage that's under construction, the section for the drainage area has been poured and waiting for the concrete to cure. Weather permitting; the next step will be pouring the concrete for the floor. After that portion of construction has been completed, the steel structure beams can then be erected.

The interior painting continues. The majority of the ceiling and walls within the garage area have been completed. What remains are the individual storage rooms, the tire room, and the entire floor within the garage. (Yes, the floor also gets painted.)

The delay on the construction of five track's pit is the fabrication of the exhaust duct for the ventilation system. Hopefully it will arrive the last week of January and construction can

continue. Unfortunately this has delayed construction for over a month now.

Along with all the construction, new lighting throughout the garage is being installed with the Miniature Bi-pin Base Long Life Fluorescent High Output Lamps. The Phillips bulbs are a 54-watt cool white 46" long bulb and each unit has four bulbs per unit for a total of 216-watts of light per unit. Over in what is one through four tracks, a total of 26 units have been installed. The Phillips bulb average rated life is 20,000 hours. Between the white paint and the new lighting in this area, it may be wise to have your sunglasses handy when venturing into that location.

Work Zone Safety Tips to Live By

Annually in work zones there are nearly 800 fatal and over 37,000 serious injury crashes. In addition, congestion and delays are mounting, and the frustration level of the driver is rising.

Safety Tips to Live By

- ◆ **Stay Alert!** Dedicate your full attention to the roadway.
- ◆ **Pay Close Attention!** Signs and work zone flaggers save lives.
- ◆ **Turn on Your Headlights!** Workers and other motorists must see you.
- ◆ **Don't Tailgate!**
- ◆ **Don't Speed!** Note the posted speed limits in and around the work zone.
- ◆ **Keep Up with the Traffic Flow!**
- ◆ **Don't Change Lanes!**
- ◆ **Minimize Distractions!** Avoid changing radio stations and using mobile phone while driving in the work zone.
- ◆ **Expect the Unexpected!** Keep an eye out for workers and their equipment.
- ◆ **Be Patient!** Remember the work zone crew members are working to improve your future ride.

The Great Philosopher

By Fred Adkins



Socrates, an ancient Greek scholar and intellectual leader who lived from 470 BC to 399 BC would often stress that “virtue was the most valuable of all possessions; the ideal life was spent in search of the good. Truth lies beneath the shadows of existence, and that it is the job of the philosopher to show the rest how little they really know. It is written that one day an acquaintance met the great philosopher and said, “Do you know what I just heard about your friend?” “Hold on a minute ‘Socrates replied. “Before telling me anything I’d like you to pass a little test. Its called the Triple filter Test.” Triple Filter?” asked the man. That’s right, “Socrates continued. “ Before you talk to me about my friend, it may be a good idea to take a moment and filter what you are going to say. That’s why I call it the Triple Filter Test. The first filter is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?”

NO,” the man said, “actually I just heard about it and wanted to tell you”

“All right “said Socrates. “ So you don’t really know if it’s true or not. Now let’s try the second filter, The filter of goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my friend something good?”

“No, on the contrary, it is bad”

“So Socrates continued, “you want to tell me something bad about him, but you’re not certain it’s true. You may still pass the test though, because there’s one filter left: the filter of usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my friend going to be useful to me?”

“No, not really,”Replied the man.

“Well,” concluded Socrates, if what you want to tell me is neither true, nor good, and nor even useful to me, why tell me at all.

And the man walked away in silence.

The reason I am using this story is for the simple reason it’s a very good and wise life lesson. If we

all here at TTA would use this Triple Filter Test in the work place, think what a better place we could create. Gossip is a very corrosive and useless practice. It never leads to a good end. It hurts people, cause’s division in our workforce, which is totally opposite of what we are trying to achieve. Some people like to spread gossip on others because they think if everyone is talking about the other person they are not talking about them. This is a very silly assumption and one that is not true. So, please let’s all work together and try to stop the gossip train by using the triple filter test that is over two thousand four hundred years old. If it has been around that long it must really work. It was invented by Socrates, who some say was the wisest man of his time, and indorsed by me (FRED) who some say is the Well we won’t go there!

Tips to a Slimmer Waist

The keys to weight control is eating right and exercising. Here are some tips that are less obvious that will help you take off the weight fast.

- Eat Breakfast - Regular meals and occasional low-calorie snacks help prevent the famine-then fest Syndrome. Fill up first thing with energizing high-fiber cereal, whole grain bread and fruit.
- Serve yourself half the amount you usually eat if you tend to eat everything in front of you. Make less food look like more by using smaller plates.
- Regular aerobic exercise such as walking, biking or swimming help burn fat and calories.
- It takes about 20 minutes for your brain to receive the signal that you’re full. Put your fork down between bites; chew slowly; and savor each flavour and texture.

Jeff’s World

By Jeff Heintl



A Brave New World

Well it hasn’t been quite a month and yet I still have all of my hair. I wouldn’t be surprised if it was a little greyer than it was last month! As I’ve bumped into people these past few weeks the number one question has been “Hey Jeff, how is the new job going?” After a moment of reflection and a deer-in-the-headlights look I tell them “BUSY!” The most accurate description of my job is this . . . It’s like jumping on a tricycle as it is headed downhill and trying to get your feet on the pedals. Every day I seem to get another bruise on my shins.

Starting a new job is almost always the same no matter what you do. The hard part is letting go of what you’ve been doing before you can focus on your new assignment. Nobody else could possibly do as good a job as you did with your former responsibilities. That sentimentality wears off real quick when you begin to attack your NEW responsibilities. In fact, after the first week I developed a sick pleasure in doling out my former duties. You can now see Curt Hodges, Fred Adkins and Brian Frazier experiencing the same feelings that I was having. It’s all new and it’s all yours and it is a short learning curve!

One of the first things I had to come to terms with is that the buck that formerly stopped at Taylor Carter’s desk is now stopping at my desk. With Taylor retired, it is now my job to implement those 20 years of wisdom that he passed on to us. How did he ever find time to get everything done? I’m working longer hours, but the days aren’t any longer. I no sooner turn around from hanging up my jacket and people are telling me goodnight.

The best part about my new job is that there is always something new going on. There is always something new to learn and I love the challenges that each day seems to bring. The

worst part about the job is the reports and the paperwork. Don’t get me wrong, I love living in America but where does it all end in this country? When you look back to the Ohio Valley Bus Company days the reports were all done by hand or typewriter. Today my computer can do the work of 10 former employees and yet I have no more slack time than they did. It’s almost as if there is some hideous creature hiding amongst the archives conjuring evil spells designed to generate more reports and paperwork.

In the coming years we will face many challenges together. No one person can claim to make this place work on its’ own. When *every* person does their part, TTA runs like a Swiss watch. Each person striving to be the very best at what they were hired to do makes TTA what it is today. It is my desire every day to see TTA become an even better to place to work than it was yesterday. A daily renewed vigor is what will keep us vibrant and relevant to the community that we serve.

This summer TTA will be crossing the Ohio River. We’ll have a brand new group of people to impress with our service. Expansion will bring a renewed focus on safety as well as a doubled effort to provide the best possible customer service. Full implementation of our new Drivers Safety Training as well as Pass Training will go a long way towards helping us to attain these two goals.

I look forward to getting this first year of service as Operations Manager under my belt. Change is the by-word for me and for all of us in 2008. As much as I enjoy new things there is none the less something to be said for getting into a predictable rhythm. With that in mind, I challenge everyone to join me in this big adventure that we call The Transit Authority – TTA!

Editor’s Corner



By Paul E. Davis

Hard hats, construction workers and heavy equipment are all common sites these days at TTA’s maintenance facility. As you may recall, TTA is the recipient of a grant to make improvement at our garage on Virginia Avenue.

One of the components of the project is for the addition of a new bus and van storage bay. The new bay is 25’ feet wide and 200’ long. When completed TTA will be able to store all its vehicles inside. The new bay will greatly enhance the longevity of the equipment and improve security, too.

Along with the new storage bay, the maintenance pits are being replaced. Over the years the concrete in TTA’s service bays had started to deteriorate causing some safety issues. The new bays will have greater lighting and an exhaust system that will circulate air in the pit. The exhaust system will improve the working conditions by removing any fumes that may accumulate in the pit.

The pits are not the only improvement the mechanics will see. One of the improvements will afford the mechanics the ability to see more clearly. All of the old lights are being replaced with new energy efficient high bay lights. The lights are much brighter than our current lighting system. The electricians have installed about 90% of them and the difference is unbelievable.

Along with the new lights, the entire shop is getting a fresh coat of paint from top to bottom. The painting, along with the new lights has really improved the working conditions in the shop area.

One more item I have had several people ask me about is the funding for a project this size. Well the answer is not an easy one, but here are the particulars. Grants that provide funds for project like this one comes from a variety of sources. The grant for the particular project is what we refer to a state-wide capital grant under the 49 U.S.C. Section 5309, of *the Safe,*

Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (*SAFETEA-LU*).

Generally a grant recipient (TTA) can apply for funding two ways. First, the recipient could apply directly to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for capital funds for a project. Secondly, they could apply to the State of West Virginia’s Department of Transportation’s Division of Public Transportation for funding. Generally, what happens in the second method, the WV Division of Public Transportation (WVDPT) completes a needs assessment of the public transit properties in West Virginia. They in turn formulate a State-wide master grant to FTA. Once the grant is approved, then the WVDPT awards the grants to the individual properties. Our grant is being managed in this fashion.

In either case, most of the time project funds for projects in West Virginia are earmarked by a member of congress. We are so fortunate to have the congressional leaders that represent us in Washington, DC. Congressman **Nick J. Rahall II** has supported transportation projects throughout my career at TTA. Every bus purchase and transportation improvement that we have made in the last 20 years has been aided by the Congressman in some way, including Pullman Square.

Although our Congressman works hard to make sure the West Virginia and his district get its fair share, he cannot do it alone. Senators **Robert C. Byrd** and **Jay Rockefeller** pushes the projects on the Senate side of “The Hill”. I like to say the Congressman makes sure the money is in the bank, and then the Senators write the check.

Another component of our success is the support that we receive from the State Division of Public Transit. **Susan O’Connell** is the director and is one person that works tirelessly to help improve public transit throughout the State. Without her guidance and support, our jobs would certainly be a lot tougher.

Thanks for supporting public transit in West Virginia. And thanks for supporting our projects in Huntington, WV.