

AS THE WHEEL TURNS



December-2017



By Paul E. Davis

Performance Report

Ridership for the month of October 2017 is up by 36 customers compared with October 2016. The increase was distributed across the routes. The Marshall Service was the leader with an increase of 1,444 boardings. Year-to-date ridership is down by 3,206 from last year.

The cost of operation in October 2017 was \$26,555.39 more than in October 2016 and \$109,009.29 less than budgeted. Year-to-date operating expenses have increased two percent and are seventeen percent below budget. Operating revenue in October was \$138,238.32 less than in October 2016 and \$6,758.20 more than budgeted. Year to date, revenue is \$32,790.27

ahead of budget which equals to an 8% favorable variance.

Pullman Square

Pullman Square celebrated its 13th Anniversary this month. It is hard to imagine Huntington without Pullman. As I recall, thirteen years ago we were standing in the pouring rain celebrating the opening of a downtown development that would change our City forever.

Black Sheep Burrito is opened this month in the old Uno's space. The new restaurant looks great. Early indications is that they will be a nice addition to Pullman.

TTA Christmas Awards

The annual awards was held on December 3, 2017 at 1:00 P.M. The dinner was held at the 4-H Camp. Four Seasons catered the event and as always, there was plenty of good food for everyone. The turnout was great, 78 people were in attendance this year. Good time was had by everyone.

Christmas Parade

TTA and the Downtown Huntington Partners came together and had a party for about 10 children from the City Mission. The celebration was held just before the Huntington Christmas parade at TTA Center. In addition to eating cookies and drinking hot chocolate, the children all received a gift from Downtown Partners and TTA. While we were partying, Batman and the National Guard transportation unit visited the children. A good time was had by all.



Milestones

YEARS OF SERVICE

Deborah Bryan-Bator	34
Curtis Hodges	31
Mark Hunt	30
Jeff Heintl	30
Paul Davis	29
Chuck Boggs	27
Robert Patrick	27
Danny Stanley	24
Julian “Lee” Spires	20
Greg Kipp	18
Scott Stultz	18
Dianna McCallister	18
John Smiley	18
Randy Rodriguez	15
Janie Fraback	14
Brian Frazier	14
Donnie Tiller	13
Carole Holbrook	13
David Mannon	12
Ben Martin	12
Norman Andrews	12
James Edmonds	11
Jeffery Connor	10
*Denny Wheeler	10
Keith Murdock	10
Ronald Thomas	9
Cathy J. Reed	9
Mary Marcum	9
David Budd	9
*Donnie Adkins	9
Randall Waller	9
Lonnie Black	8
Mark Taylor	7
Tom Day	7
Jennifer Woodall	7
Brenda Wells	7
Scott Williams	7
Casey Steele	6
Howard Curtis	6
John Scott	6
Randy Mullins	5
Gene Bragg	5
Brooks Johnson	5

David Ball	5
Nick Preston	4
Tony McCoy	3
Nick Smith	3
Tyrus Masters	3
Lonnie Bledsoe	2
David Browning	2
Darrell Chatfield	2
Tina Long	2
Mark Collins	2
Keith Dickman	2
Rebecca Wright	2
Brian Keyser	2
Erin Weston	2
Robert Howell	2
James Scyoc	2
Crystal Phillips	1
Donald Frye	1
Kenny Lusk	1
Anthony McPherson	1
Jeffrey Hensley	1
Jeffrey Williams	-
Wayne Burton	-
Caleb Newsome	-
James Merritt	-
William New	-
Stephanie Nibert	-
Terry Schrock	-
Quentin Bailey	-
Betty Wood	-
Christopher Ferguson	-

TTA Welcomes the New Employees

These employees have all been hired over the last few months. We would like to give them a warm TTA welcome!

William New.....Operator
 Stephanie Nibert...Dispatch
 Terry Schrock.....Mechanic
 Quentin Bailey.....Operator
 Betty Wood.....Office
 Christopher Ferguson..DAR

Thank You!

To all those who entered the No Shave November contest. Thank you for your participation and involvement in Colorectal and Prostate cancer awareness.

The contestants were: Paul Davis, Jeff Heintl, Brian Frazier, Rob Howell, Norman Andrews, Curt Hodges, James Scyoc, Nick Smith, and Caleb Newsome.

The winner was Jeff Heintl.☺ He chose the Prostate Cancer Foundation to receive the money raised for No Shave November.

<https://no-shave.org/>



**Aren't They Great?
December Birthdays**



Randall Waller	12/18
Carole Holbrook	12/19
Donnie Adkins	12/27
Jeffery Williams	12/30

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

JOKES



Q: What do you get if you cross Santa with a detective?

A: Santa Clues!

Q: What did the Gingerbread Man put on his bed?

A: A cookie sheet!

Q: What is a snowman's favorite lunch?

A: An Iceberger!

Q: What do you call a snowman party?

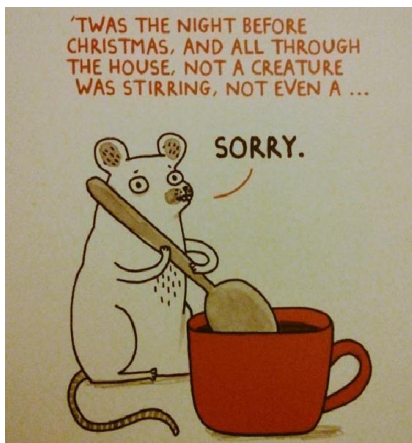
A: A Snowball!

Q: What did the big candle say to the little candle?

A: I'm going out tonight.

Q: Which of Santa's reindeer has bad manners?

A: Rude-alph!



Jeff's World

By Jeff Heini



We Are So Privileged

As we move forward into the New Year, I think it is important that we all pause and reassess where we are in life. The month of January takes its name from the Roman god Janus the two-faced god. It looks backward (past) and forward (future).

2017 was a very challenging year for me personally. Cancer was an unpleasant intrusion that made its unwanted presence known in my life. I was blessed to live in an area with good health care but the outlook for many is tragically bleak. We take so much of life (including our health) for granted. We fail to appreciate all that we have until it is compromised. I would challenge each of you to make an honest reassessment of your life. Take time to treasure what you DO have at this point in your life. Your health, your family, your friends, your freedoms ... these nuggets of gold should be savored

because they come with no guarantees.

As we move into 2018, I challenge you to bring your reassessed life to work with you each and every day. We have the privilege at TTA to make a difference in at least one person's life. As you stop to pick up a customer, lower the kneel, smile and greet them with a good morning. Believe it or not you may have made someone's life a little brighter. Never underestimate the power of a smile! An ounce of friendliness, that bending low to help someone, may be the only act of kindness that person will experience. Life is frequently unkind and is often not fair. Each day WE have the opportunity to be difference makers in the world we share.

Professionalism and pride in your work are really expressions of gratitude. We are so blessed to have our jobs.

When a mechanic goes the extra mile while doing a service job, he is returning thanks to the community that has placed great confidence in him and his skills. Cleaners can't be satisfied with just getting a job done. When they insist on putting a "final finishing touch" on a mundane chore, he or she tells the public at large that we care about our equipment and facilities.

When a driver pauses at a bus stop for the one that was running a little late, we are saying that their appointment or job is important to us too.

To paraphrase our PASS training: the true test of your skill as a professional is how well you perform when everything is NOT going well.

We serve a community that is hurting. The daily news is filled with proof that our world is much darker today than the one in which we grew up. In each of us glows at least a flicker of light and hope. The synergistic effect of our combined potential can shine as a beacon of hope to our community that today will be a better day.



From the Chief

By Scott Stultz



The Giving Season

It has been said that the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas is the most charitable portion of the year in America. According to Giving USA, Americans gave \$390 Billion to charities last year. That was a record amount of charitable giving, and much of it was given during the last few weeks of the year.

The impetus for this generosity could be the religious celebrations and gift exchanges associated with the Christmas Season, the Salvation Army bell ringers, or just the end of the tax year. Whatever the reason, we seem more willing to help others during this time.

It is wonderful to see the good and caring nature of the American people on display this time of year. However, I would like to remind everyone that those in need are with us all year long – not just in December.

There are many organizations that provide assistance to people in need throughout the year. Examples of organizations in the Huntington area helping their communities include churches, the Salvation Army, and the Huntington City Mission. Those organizations provide food, shelter, clothing, and hope to people in need, and they

could use your help throughout the year.

No contribution is too small. Five or ten dollars may not seem like a lot to us, but it can really add up for these organizations. In addition, you could volunteer your time and talents to help those organizations to fulfill their missions if you do not have money to give.

Another thing to keep in mind is that most contributions you make to charitable organizations are deductible on your year-end tax return. Therefore, you can be a blessing to others while lowering your federal tax burden for the year. You should consult your tax preparer for specific information regarding the tax considerations of your charitable contributions, but be aware that most of them are deductible.

Remember, when the bell ringers and red buckets are gone, those in need will still be with us. To borrow the phrase from the Salvation Army – need knows no season.



Shop Talk



By Danny Stanley

TTA would like to welcome Terry Schrock, our newest mechanic, to TTA's Maintenance Department. Terry hired in the department on 10/24/17. Previously he was a mechanic with the Cabell County Schools Transportation Department before coming to TTA. Please welcome him when you see him in the garage.

In the shop we have put the 3700 series out of service to get them ready to sell. That includes removing the GFI fare boxes, radios, and the video systems. One other vehicle that was removed from service is Dial-A-Ride Van 745.

The Maintenance Department has a task going on with a couple of the buses that the rear main seal has been leaking, so we are bringing them in to have the transmission removed to replace the seal. This procedure normally takes two and a half days to complete.

I would like to thank those who helped erecting

the Pullman Christmas Tree this year. Terry Schrock and Tyrus Masters being first-timers helping to setup the lighted tree along with John Smiley who has previously helped for several years. Your hard work is greatly appreciated.

One other project we have been working on is refurbishing some older bus shelters. This consists of removing the old Plexiglas and installing painted perforated sheet metal.

And last, but not least, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.



TTA Center



By Janie Fraback

Merry Christmas!!!
What a joyous and busy time of the year. Here at the TTA Center we are getting ready for decorations and Christmas festivities.



There is a lot to do with decorating the conference room and all the windows. I do however have help and we get it done and looking festive. We certainly try to make it enjoyable to children and adults alike.

We all enjoy being a part of the Christmas season and all the fun that brings to the area.

We here at the TTA Center wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a safe Happy New Year.



Driver Tips



By Brian Frazier

Old man winter is knocking on our door. We have some veteran drivers and some that are new to TTA. I think these tips will benefit everyone here at TTA.

First off you should dress properly for the cold

temperature. In bad weather conditions you should slow down, it is important to keep our passengers safe. Anticipate poor road conditions, keep greater distances between you and other vehicles. This gives you more time to react to anything you may encounter on your route. Always be aware of the traffic around you, be a defensive driver at all times. Keep your windshield free of ice and snow for clear visibility of the roadways.



Editor's Corner



By Jennifer Woodall

The shopping and crowds. The back-to-back diet-busting parties. The interminable chats with the in-laws. We understand how easy it is to feel not so wonderful at this most wonderful time of the year.

So here are a few tips to help you cope:

Take a whiff of citrus – Researchers have found that certain citrus fragrances boost feelings of well-being and alleviate stress by upping levels of norepinephrine, a hormone that affects mood.

Squeeze here – The fleshy place between your index finger and thumb is called the hoku spot in traditional Chinese medicine. Applying firm pressure there for just 30 seconds can reduce stress and tension in your upper body. So if you start to feel overwhelmed by the holiday chaos, give your hand a squeeze and take a deep breathe.

Do less, enjoy more - We go overboard to please others during the holidays: shopping, cooking, sending cards, and attending every event. Instead, take care of yourself by saying no at least once – and maybe more.

Don't neglect whatever cracks you up – Laughing like crazy reduces stress hormones. That, in turn, helps immune cells function better.

Forget perfection - Stop obsessing over doing it all. The world is not going to

end if the house is a little cluttered or dinner is on the table a few minutes late. Focus your energy on enjoying the people in your life. Don't sweat the small stuff and your holiday will be much more enjoyable.

Dip into some honey – You'll get an instant kick and energy for the long haul. Plus, research shows that its antioxidant and antibacterial properties may improve your immunity. Here's a tip: The darker the honey, the more powerful the antioxidant punch.

