

**2007-2008 CHAPTER OFFICERS**

*Matt Conti – President/Director
Chuck Paquette – Vice President/Alt Director
James Dark – Treasurer
Peg Gilbert – Secretary*

**MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING
Thursday, October 9, 2008**

Today's meeting was held at Syracuse City Transportation Dept. President Matt Conti called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. We were led in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 20 members present. A special thank you is extended to Syracuse City for hosting the meeting today.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Pat Bailey, seconded by Tim Durham, to accept the minutes from the last meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's

A motion was made by Diane Watkins, seconded by Bob Peters, to accept the Treasurer's Report from the last meeting with a balance carried forward of \$1,888.99. The balance carried forward in our Professional Development fund is \$210.20. Motion carried. We will later discuss putting our raffle winnings from the conference into the professional development fund. We won \$750. We would put the initial cost of the tickets (\$300) back into the regular account - so \$450 could go into the PDF.

Correspondence

Chuck Paquette shared Ruth Koch's e-mail with the group – expressing her concern for our chapter as well as the SBDI situation state wide.

Committee Reports:

Safety Committee: No report at this time.

Poster Contest:

The Committee is making a brochure to send out to all districts to try to help the program to grow more. A recent poll of local Chapters has shown that the program has been growing - more districts are having local contests – but not sending the winners on to the state level. Some did not even realize that they could send them further – let alone how to do it. The brochure will explain in detail about the contest, how it works as well as poster specifications. It is meant to be very “user friendly” for districts not familiar with the program. Deb Stevens presented the brochure to the NYAPT Board and they were very receptive to the idea. The NYAPT website has a booklet that explains the rules but is very hard to find.

Rodeo:

It was a great success again this year! Jim Ellis is especially excited about the success of the special needs portion also! We still discussed the possibility of a catered lunch of some sort or prepared bagged lunches and all eating together at a designated "lunch time". A whole hour may be too long – maybe ½ hour would be better. We also discussed doing some of the door prizes during lunch because that part takes so long. We could also have some of the smaller door prizes grouped together and given out with the bagged lunch. Bob Peters also suggested the possibility of a location more local for the site. He will look into a few places. We would have to let Deb Stevens know ASAP so she can let Oswego County Fairgrounds know one way or the other.

Operation Safe Stop: No report at this time

Steering Committee:

Ted spoke about all the amazing things that our Chapter has accomplished over the past years. We need to revitalize our meetings – give people a reason to come. It is important that we develop training opportunities. We will try to have a specific topic of interest at each month. Please, if anyone has anything specifically of interest to you – let us know! Some of the ideas we already have are – record keeping – personnel issues – the new 19-A program coming soon – safe routes plus safe stops – no travel roads – walking distance – bring district policies along. We also hope to be able to get someone from Albany to come for a meeting to discuss Article 19-A. We will need to discuss PJ's Law – which involves new training for drivers and attendants. It is our hope to align our chapter meetings better with the corresponding state chapter. "A Leading Chapter" – NAPT is coming out "Webinare" Conferencing Courses that we also are looking into utilizing. West Genesee has a state of the art seminar room that we could possibly use. James Dark will check that out for us. Our goal is to become "A Leading Chapter" – we are very excited about the many options we have to look forward to. As you will note on the <http://www.cnyapt.org/schedules.html> Website, our next 2 meetings will be on Wednesday's (One of the points of interest from Chuck's earlier survey was the day of the week for our meetings – so we are listening!)? We need to fill out the dates for our meetings starting in January – so bring your calendars to the November meeting!

SBDI Committee: No Report At this time.

Pupil Safety + Safety Camp:

The local committee has not met since safety camp – but it was a big success. There were 110 people in attendance (89 drivers and attendants plus 21 instructors) – Over 30 school districts were represented and 5 contractors. The State Committee met in Albany for the quarterly meeting and they want to "develop a roadway" to get more people involved. Some discussion took place about a change in location. Hobart has been very accommodating and a great site but the weekend they have available at end of June – is somewhat of an issue as it is always graduation weekend. The evaluations do all say that those that attend love the location so it's a tough call. If the dates are changed then the location would have to change. The next safety Camp will be in 2010 –the wheels are already in motion!

Much discussion will follow.

Professional Development Committee:

Judy Clarke would like to Be Chairperson for this committee. She has many great ideas!

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Lobby Day is February 3, 2009 in Albany
- The surveys that Cindy Raulli sent for everyone last week – only 1 person responded to. We will cover the survey now as a chapter and the results will be passed on to you as soon as they are compiled.
- Anyone interested in being part of the State Pupil Safety Committee to review the National Standards Manual – let Cindi Raulli know. Anyone can be part of the committee. It would not be necessary to travel to Albany to attend the meetings. The Chairperson of that committee is Rich Gallagher.
- We will be looking at our Chapters By-Laws – which were adopted in 1999. Since the 10 year mark is just around the corner – we would like to adopt a new set.
- Cynde Iscar from OCM BOCES – She is responsible for Drug Testing and setting up the 30 Hour Basic Course for Drivers and the 10 Hour Basic Course for Monitors + Attendants – has expressed a concern that is affecting all of us. Usually a course is offered in the spring and in the fall of each year. This is proving to now be insufficient – people who need to take the class are being shut out. She would like to offer 1 more course during the year – BOCES has not been willing to add another one. The districts that pay BOCES for this Service need to voice their opinions plus possibly send letters (From their Superintendents) – In some cases drivers have been late in receiving courses they need and are not meeting their 1-year deadline.
- In the mean time – Carol Hawk from Weedsport is having a 30 Hour Basic for that area – She may be able to fit some Drivers in. Her phone number is 834-9760.
- A motion was made by Deb Stevens, seconded by Chuck Paquette, to nominate Ronald Pitoniak + Jason Cayea (New Safety Officers at First Student), Debbie Lilley from North Syracuse and Diane Miano from Hannibal for membership in our chapter. Motion carried. Welcome to all of you!
- It was noted that there was no longer a link on the NYAPT website for our local CNYAPT website. So I am putting a link in these minutes for all of you: <http://www.cnyapt.org/> This way, once you open the link – you can save it to your desktop or in your favorites.
- Here is a link for Ted's website as well – for easy access to his site as well – <http://www.safetyrules.net/>

Round Table

Debbie Lilley	Glad to be back at work. What criteria does everyone use for hiring their Special Needs Drivers?
Diane Watkins	ES-M had a really nice opening this year – just a few minor adjustments.
Tammy Payne	North Syracuse had a somewhat hectic – but things are finally calming down. There are all new people in the office now.
Diane Miano	Thanks for the warm welcome everybody! She is glad to be here!
Ted Finlayson -Schueler	He has recently been facing issues with boards wanting to change walking distances. He has put a calculator on his website – to calculate safety % for each mode. All you do is plug in the current + proposed changes.
Roxanne Bocyck	She is very happy to be here! She has a Route Log Book for each one of us – A gift from PTSI!
Cindy Raulli	She + Bob are very happy for all the expected changes for our Chapter!
Sharon Morsdorf	She's very happy to be here!
Terri Smith	Things went very well during their opening.
Jason Cayea	He just became a Safety Officer for FS – West Syracuse in September- so he still has a lot to learn. He welcomes that and is very happy to be here!
Ronald Pitoniak	He's very happy to be here today! He had no idea there was so much to know!
Deb Stevens	She's very happy that she got to go to a NYAPT Board meeting finally!
Chuck Paquette	He's very glad to be a part of the chapter officers again and part of all the exciting changes that will be taking place!
Matt Conti	They had a really good opening this year – Thanks for coming everybody! He's ready to move “Full Steam Ahead!”
Pat Bailey	They had a great opening and she is very proud of the whole First Student Team!
Peg Gilbert	Out opening was great his year at ES-M! As Diane said – just a few minor adjustments!
James Dark	He reminded everybody about dues being due! There is a form on our http://www.cnyapt.org/reminders.html -Actually the school year is from July 1st – June 31 st - so dues need to be done that way as well. So many of us are actually “Overdue” at this point. If you aren't sure if you are paid up – just check with him.

Adjournment & next meeting information

A motion was made by Diane Watkins, seconded by James Dark, to adjourn the meeting at 12:02 p.m. Motion carried.

Out next meeting is Wednesday, November 19, 2008 @ Barbagallo's – An agenda will follow shortly.

Respectfully submitted:
Peg Gilbert