



2009-2011 CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chuck Paquette – President/Director
Tim Durham – Vice President/Alt Director
James Dark – Treasurer
Peg Gilbert – Secretary

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Today's meeting was held at Syracuse City Transportation Department. President Chuck Paquette called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. We were led in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 25 members present. We are especially pleased to have a special guest today. Peter Mannella is joining us from Albany. Welcome Peter! A special thank you is extended to Transporttrack & SCSD for sponsoring the meeting and providing the great morning refreshments and lunch.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Chuck, seconded by Diane Watkins, to table acceptance if the last special meeting in August – until Chuck locates them. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Dave Deuel, seconded by Matt Conti, to accept the Treasurer's Report from the last meeting with a balance carried forward of \$2,633.24. The balance carried forward in our Professional Development fund is \$1,123.93. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Committee Reports:

Legislative Committee:

The Legislative agenda is posted on the NYAPT website. NYAPT wants to be sure they are "Speaking to our members" What things are important to us? What do we want NYAPT to advocate for us?

BOD:

Chuck attended - they met at the new site – The Holiday Inn Express on Western Ave in Albany. It went very well – the rooms were very nice.

Poster Contest Committee:

This year's slogan will be Be Aware – Know the Danger Zones!

Road-ee:

The Road-ee for this school year is May 22, 2010. They plan on getting the smoke bus and the sideways bus for this year. It should prove to be a fun filled learning day. A reminder that the food will be catered this year and everyone (including the judges) will have to pay the designated fee. As far as the State road-ee goes – the committee met with President Jim McCormick to go over "wrong goings" and learning from the past.

Special Needs:

Jim, Judy + Robin would like to extend thanks to all who attended and helped at the Safety Camp – It was a great success. 106 showed out of the 112 signed up. Many from our local districts – West Genesee and North Syracuse to name a couple.

Non – Public Bell Times: No report at this time.

Long Range Planning + Professional Development:**Pupil Safety Committee:**

Chuck has their agenda. Peter Mannella had a message from the state level – At the end of each and every day NYAPT always strives for the Safety of Children. It should always be the sole point of this committee. What is the SAFEST - not what will it cost.

Safety Camp:

Chuck attended the last Safety Camp Meeting – NYAPT is Re-doing the Website for Safety Camp – The Curriculum for it is finished and it will be conference style with many hands on activities. Many National “Headliners” will be in attendance!

Membership Committee:

We would like to have our membership grow – both at the local and state level. What if we weren’t there and had to depend on personal phone calls for information. Encourage those districts around you to become active members if they are not already involved.

SBDI/MI Advisory:**Operation Safe Stop:**

It will be on April 15, 2010 this coming school year.

Old Business

Reminder – this year’s dues are due – a form can be found on our CNYAPT website. Also – remember to pay up our state (NYAPT dues) if you haven’t already done so! Many people pay the state dues with the Annual Conference fee – but those numbers are way down this year so dues are way behind as well.

New Business

Peter Mannella had a question for us to discuss – what are our thoughts on “Universal Pre-Kindergarten?” It has been funded since 2000 – On a grant basis – Currently there is no money set aside for this and we cannot add them to the aid form. Many districts contract this out. They are now looking for it to become an aid-able program instead of a grant program. With Schools being P-12, instead of K-12. Do we want this to happen? Would these children be safer on our own buses? It would mean more costs all the way around – new training, more buses, special harnesses, special seats, etc. Some districts such as North Syracuse, and ESM are currently already doing Pre-K – The biggest concern they have is the Car Seat Bus – (Until Children turn 4 by Dec. 1st) Car Seats are a huge expense and they go out of code every few years. Is it possible to require parent transport until children are 4 and can ride “regular bus?” We need to compile our thoughts, ideas and concerns and get them to Peter so he can present them to the board.

Membership in NYAPT (and in our own Chapter) is down – we need to follow up on this.

There are 4 new members of NYAPT that are NOT members of our own chapter that should be. We need to take a good look at our membership list and the NYAPT membership list. We need to compare them and see where the “missing links” are. Pat Bailey has offered to head up a committee to work on all of this – she will need our help. We need to remain Large and Strong both locally and State Wide.

NYAPT has given a “Thumbs Up” to standardizing School Calendars.

There is a Transportation Law Course currently being written by Lawyers from the School Board Association. It should be complete by February 2010.

Some Local News – Leonard Bus Sales has repositioned some of their salesmen to be closer to where they actually live. So we may be seeing some new faces.

A Motion was made by Dave Deuel, seconded by Chuck Paquette, to nominate Greg Henric from Fulton for membership in our Chapter. Motion Carried. Welcome Greg!

A Motion was made by Ty Worrell, seconded by Pat Bailey, to nominate Shelley O’Reilly from First Student for membership in our Chapter. Motion Carried. Welcome Shelley!

A Motion was made by Chuck Paquette, seconded by Dave Deuel, to up our Webmasters fee from \$400 a year to \$500 per year and to pay him for the year. He has been receiving \$400 for the past 4-5 years and more work will be asked of him this year. We feel a raise is in order. Motion carried.

Peter said that on the NYAPT website it has just been approved for them to have an organizational Face Book page – kind of a “what’s going on” kind of thing.

In the past couple of months it has been brought to our attention that school districts CANNOT provide Non-Public Schools with any transportation for Field Trips or other extracurricular activities. We can only transport to and from school.

Another question posed to SED was - “Can we transport our own students during the summer months when school is not in session (for sporting events, etc.) – So far Marion has said no – She is checking into it. It may not be prohibited at this point – but if it is not required transportation – we may not get paid for it. We will have to wait for an answer. Peter took a moment to praise Deb Stevens for all of her hard work on making the poster contest program what it is today. She was to receive a plaque this summer at the conference but the wording was incorrect. He wanted to present her with the plaque today – Congratulations Deb – And Thanks for everything!!

According to our new Chapter By-Laws – we are now allowed to bestow “Honorary Lifelong Membership” to any of our retired members. Chuck Paquette made a motion, seconded by Dave Deuel, to bestow this upon Rich Rogers for his many, many years of active participation and service to our chapter. Motion carried. Congratulations Rich – on being our 1st Lifelong Honorary Member.

Congratulations again to Rich Rogers on his retirement – you will be missed a lot Rich! Enjoy!!

50-50 this month was won by James Dark (\$40) – Congratulations James!

Mike Kubera from Transporttrack gave a wonderful presentation on their camera systems. I am enclosing this link to their website for further information. www.transporttrack.com

Adjournment & next meeting information

A motion was made by Chuck Paquette, seconded by James Dark, to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m. Motion carried. No Round Table today.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 18, 2009 @ Barbagallo’s. Sponsored by Leonard Bus Sales.

Respectfully submitted:
Peg Gilbert