

**KPTA**June  
2003**NEWSLETTER**

# 2003 KPTA/KYTC Conference set for August in Lexington

The 2003 KPTA Conference is shaping up to be the finest show in many years. The event will be held August 11-14, 2003 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky. The expo is going to be housed in the newly renovated Heritage Hall.

KPTA has a block of rooms at the Hyatt Regency Hotel until July 10, 2003. Make your reservations before July 10 and mention you are with the Kentucky Public Transit Association Conference to receive the \$89 room discount.

Bill Millar, President of APTA, has agreed to speak at the Thursday lunch. We are very fortunate to have Millar attend our conference. So make plans to stay for the entire conference, because we want a large attendance for this session. Also, the Kentucky candidates for governor have been invited to speak at the Thursday lunch.

Other training sessions will include: National Transit Institute's "Violence in the Workplace", Ron Crouch will share data on the elderly population, Hendrika Buchanan-Smith and Jerry Franklin from the Federal Transit Administration, 511 System, Larry Doyle Kentucky Cares, Dr. Howard Taylor National Toxicology Specialist, Avail Technology will present the technology needs for your system and more.

The Rodeo participants and others can take advantage of two sessions on Monday afternoon. A training on wheel-chair lifts presented by Braun Corporation and driver fatigue and stress by First Transit.

The KPTA Rodeo will be held Monday, August 11 in the Cox Street parking lot. All systems need to send

*Continued on Page 6*

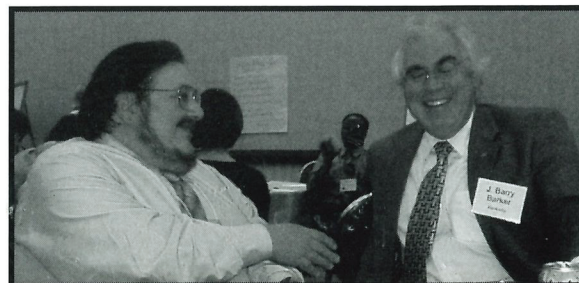
## FTA presents five state dialogue on disabled transportation

The Transit Authority of River City (TARC) hosted the 2003 Regional Dialogue on Accessible Transportation and addressed issues of accessibility to transportation and provided an opportunity to discuss accessible transportation services for individuals with disabilities and older adults. The event was held May 29-30 at the Hyatt Regency. Attendance was not open to the public and on an invitation-only basis.

Approximately 60

transit and disability representatives from Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia, including governmental representatives, transit industry executives, and disability rights advocates, participated in the Regional Dialogue. Their discussions focused on identifying the accomplishments as well as the

remaining challenges to be addressed related to accessible transportation services for individuals with disabilities and older adults, as



*Michael Winter with Federal Transit Administration and Barry Barker (TARC).*

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Dear KPTA Members:

The KPTA conference will soon be here. Be sure and register early. The Roadeo sign-up sheets will be in the mail probably before you get this newsletter. We are looking forward to at least one person and possible two from each transit system in the state. We are really looking for the best driver in Kentucky to send to Seattle, WA next June. (Yes the CTAA conference has been moved from Anaheim, CA to Seattle, WA and from the end of May to the second week in June. You can mark your calendars now.) You should have already received your golf sign-up sheets. This is going to be a great day also. We have scheduled the two events so that you can attend and participate in both events. There have been lots of interesting workshops and "fun" events planned also. And this will be our first ever indoor trade-show and the vendors are real excited about coming to Heritage Hall.



Quoting Hal Rogers, Kentucky Congressman at the KBT fly-in breakfast reauthorization is "still in negotiating state". From what I hear it will be until sometime this coming fall before it is resolved. So we have some time to "educate" our Congressmen of what we would like to see in the bill. Since our last newsletter the TEA 21 reauthorization bill now has a new name, SAFETEA. It is interesting to note that the CTAA and APTA have taken opposing stands on one issue, the Grass-Baucus Proposal (Senate Finance Chairman Grassley (R-IA) and Ranking Member Baucus (D-MT) are considering legislation to increase highway and transit funding without increasing the gas tax. To read the APTA side of the issue visit [www.apta.com](http://www.apta.com) the CTAA issues are found at [Zeilinger@ctaa.org](mailto:Zeilinger@ctaa.org).

On May 28<sup>th</sup> President Bush signed the "Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act" into law. As part of this act, states will receive \$20 billion in additional cash from the federal government. Of that amount \$10 billion is specifically to help states with their Medicaid obligations. The understanding is that these funds are being allocated to each state proportionately to their current Medicaid spending, but the states themselves can choose how to use this additional Medicaid funding. The other \$10 billion (\$5 billion in FY 2003 and \$5 billion in FY 2004) will be allocated to states purely on the basis of their total population. According to the act, states can use these funds toward any "essential government service" or compliance with and "federal intergovernmental mandate," just as long as this extra federal assistance is spent on programs, services or activities already in states' budgets. Isn't Public Transit an "essential government service"? Think about it!

Sue Jeffers, CCTM, KPTA President  
Transportation Director  
Bluegrass Community Action Agency

# CTAA Conference in Philadelphia



Beecher Hudson (American Red Cross WHEELS Louisville) and Ed Brady (American Red Cross Lexington) gave presentations to the American Red Cross group at the CTAA Conference in Philadelphia.



Della Davis and Paula Cissell representatives from the Office of Transportation Delivery enjoyed the CTAA reception.



Kim Adair (PATS) and Rajen Shah (GRITS) in Philadelphia.



Mike and Lois O'Keefe (TACK).



Mike Jackson and Johnnie Davidson (LKLP) on the CTAA Expo floor.



Shellie Adams and Petra Espinoza (KRFH) at the CTAA Expo.

*Kentucky Transit  
Providers attend activities at  
2003 CTAA Conference  
in Philadelphia*



Helen Lester and her husband and David Ware with BUS enjoyed the trade show lunch in Philadelphia.



Sue Jeffers and Wanda Trimble (BUS), Beecher Hudson (ARC WHEELS-Louisville), Shirley Cummins and Linda Proctor (RTEC) before the CTAA training sessions.

## Road Trip...Tranist service driver gets to know her riders

Susie Clarkson is a bus driver.

"My grandson thought at first that I drove a school bus," she said.

Instead, Clarkson drives for Bluegrass Ultra-transit Service, which specializes in transporting the elderly and disabled. Her route is concentrated in Danville, but the company serves 11 counties.

"I keep busy just in Boyle County," Clarkson said.

Clarkson has been a bus driver for more than 15 years and has transported some of the same people for more than a decade. It can be an emotional job.

"We're not supposed to, but you can get attached to these people. You can't help it."

Every Monday and Wednesday, Clarkson takes Charles Hazelrigg of Danville from the Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center to the McDowell Wellness Center at 9:30 a.m.

Clarkson maneuvers the bus back through the emergency and visitor entrance of the hospital, which is no easy task.

"It's a really tight squeeze.

We've had a couple buses and ambulances back here at once, and there's no room to move," she said.

Things get worse when traffic backs up and ambulances start pouring in.

"I've had to circle the block a couple times and then try it again," she said.

While waiting for Hazelrigg, another bus arrives and waits for Clarkson to pick up her passenger.

After dropping off Hazelrigg at the Wellness Center, Clarkson stops and records her mileage.

"You've got to keep track of all your mileage for the billing," She said.

Medicaid pays for its patients to ride the bus to medical appointments. Anyone else can ride for \$1 a mile with a \$5 minimum, and rides must be scheduled 72 hours in advance. "It helps us block out our schedule better," she said.

Clarkson has a few minutes between riders, so she stops at the company's service station to have the bus's fluids checked.

Clarkson has had buses break down over the years, but she said she loves her job.

"It's not an office or a factory. You get to meet

people, and I love driving."

It also gives her a chance to spend time with her family, including her daughter Chasity and two grandchildren.

"I just love them. I try to spend time with them in the evenings," she said.

Clarkson's day begins at 6:45 a.m. and ends around 4:30 or 5 p.m.. She takes her bus home with her every night and said she rarely drives her own car.

"On the weekends, I don't want to have to drive anywhere," she said.

The next stop is to pick up two elderly women for their dialysis treatments. One of them is Clarkson's neighbor, Betty Tate.

"She's just the best driver there is," Tate says.

Clarkson pulled up in front of Tate's house and loaded her wheelchair onto the lift. Then, she locked the wheelchair in using supports anchored in the floor and a shoulder strap.

"This is where I get my exercise," Clarkson says as she bends over to tighten a strap.

Tate said she appreciates Clarkson's care for her riders.

"I feel safe riding with her. I've known her since she was a little girl," she said.

Clarkson is also trained in passenger and wheelchair assistance, defensive driving, first aid, CPR and bloodborne pathogen care, which comes in handy sometimes, she said.

It's time to pick up Hazelrigg from the Wellness Center and take him home. The Wellness Center is just down the street from the dialysis center, making it a quick trip.

She helps Hazelrigg's nurse with his wheelchair at his house, then waits to make sure they get in the house without problems.

Then it's back to the bus stop on South Fourth Street. Clarkson's next appointment isn't until about 2:30 p.m., so she's got some time off for lunch. Sometimes she goes back to her house on Walnut Street.

"It's some down time to eat and chill, then it starts all over again," she said. "But it's the best job I can imagine."



Susie Clarkson

## Mayeux retires from OTD after 28 years

Gail Mayeux, Branch Manager of Public Transportation, is retiring from the Office of Transportation Delivery on July 31, 2003.

She began her career with Kentucky State government 28 years ago in the personnel division of transportation and then went to the Division of Urban Regional & Planning as a librarian. Mayeux worked for several years in Section 16 B-2 reporting before becoming a project manager for 5311 in Central and Northern Kentucky areas.

Mayeux was instrumental in working with Vickie Bourne, Executive Director of OTD, on implementing the drug and alcohol policy for Kentucky Public Transit. Also, helping to start new 5311 and 5310 agencies in Kentucky. She worked diligently in helping the OTD staff in the implementation of the Empower Kentucky project. Also, has always been willing to help in any way with questions from Drug and Alcohol to public transit issues to anyone. She also has sacrificed her time, energy and dedication for her work.

Congratulations on your retirement and thanks for all your help over the years from the Kentucky Public Transit Association.

## Rowland resigns from Lextran

Steve Rowland, Executive Director of LexTran, has resigned his position. Rowland's last day will be June 30, 2003.

Rowland has worked at LexTran for the last 10 years. He came to LexTran as an employee for DAVE Management Company in 1993.

The LexTran's board of directors wants to have an interim executive director in place by July 1, 2003.

Best wishes in your next position and good luck.

**2003 KPTA/KYTC**  
**Lexington, Kentucky**  
**August 11-14, 2003**  
**Hyatt Regency Hotel**

## KPTA Expo Registered Vendors

- ◆ American Bus Company  
(*Ice Cream Social Sponsor*)
- ◆ Avail Technologies  
(*Golf Awards/Door Prizes Sponsor*)
- ◆ American Cooling Technology
- ◆ Blue Bird of Tennessee, Inc.
- ◆ Braun Corporation
- ◆ C.E. White Company
- ◆ Freedman Seating Company
- ◆ Gillig Corporation (*Event Sponsor*)
- ◆ Griffin Industries Biodiesel
- ◆ Ilderton Conversion Company  
(*Tues. Opening Reception Sponsor*)
- ◆ National Bus Sales and Leasing, Inc.  
(*Roadeo Sponsor*)
- ◆ Q'Straint
- ◆ Rieskamp Equipment Company, Inc.
- ◆ Shepard Bros. Inc.
- ◆ Transmatic
- ◆ Sure-Lok, Inc.

*Registrations at press time*

## 2003 KPTA/KYTC.....

*continued from page 1*

their drivers to this spectacular event. The winner will win an expense paid trip to Seattle, Washington to the CTAA Roadeo competition in May 2004.

The 2003 KPTA Golf tournament will be held at Kearney Hills Links Golf Course. This is an exceptional course for all golfers.

Two delicious evening meals are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday night. Receptions will proceed both dinners.

Freddie Gobel will entertain on Tuesday night and a Casino Night is planned for Wednesday evening for your entertainment.

This years vendor expo will be marvelous. So make sure all vendors you do business with are aware of the expo. Any interested vendors can call Pam Shepherd at 859-233-0066 or email [pam.shepherd@ftsb.org](mailto:pam.shepherd@ftsb.org).

Make your plans today and don't be left out of these activities.

Complete schedule of events is included in the center of the newsletter.

## FTA presents .....

*continued from page 1*

well as the next steps for integration of transportation into employment, education, and other aspects of community life.

Speakers included Michael Winter, director, Office of Civil Rights, Federal Transit Administration (FTA); Mary Johnson, editor, Ragged Edge magazine; and TARC Executive Director J. Barry Barker, the regional leader for the Dialogue.

"America is home to more than 54 million people with disabilities who work, play, shop, vote, pursue an education, raise families, and volunteer in their community," Barker said. "Providing more transportation choices to people with disabilities enables them to live their lives more fully, helps transportation operators observe the letter and spirit of the ADA, and makes our communities richer and more livable. Our goal is to continue identifying consensus issues and possible solutions that will enhance greater awareness and availability of accessible transportation for people with disabilities."

The 2003 Regional Dialogue on Accessible Transportation was sponsored by the FTA; Easter Seals Project ACTION; and the Center for Independent Living, based in Berkeley, California.

The FTA is responsible for ensuring the development and implementation of a comprehensive transportation system for all Americans. This responsibility includes oversight of Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance as it relates to transportation for individuals with disabilities. Easter Seals Project ACTION promotes cooperation between the transportation industry and the disability community to increase mobility for people with disabilities under the ADA and beyond.

The 2003 Regional Dialogue was part of a series of six dialogues taking place around the country over the course of this year. In addition to Louisville, other presentations have been held or will be held in Kansas City; Dallas; Los Angeles; Anchorage; and Washington, D.C. While these dialogues are a result of the National Dialogue on Accessible Transportation held last year, they will each be tailored to meet needs within the region.

Preceding the 2003 Regional Dialogue, TARC hosted the Louisville Dialogue on

Accessible Transportation Wednesday, May 28, at TARC's Union Station headquarters. These discussions also focused on accessibility to transportation for persons with disabilities in the greater Louisville community. Michael Winter of the FTA was the guest speaker. Attendance at the Louisville Dialogue was open to the public.



Shirley Cummins, RTEC, Marsha VanHook, ARC of Kentucky, at the Regional Dialogue on Accessible Transportation.



Michael Winters, (FTA), Jeffery Holden, John Woodford, Holly Dukes, Pam Dohoney, and Kathy Miller (TARC) at the Regional Dialogue on Accessible Transportation.

## Woodford retires from TARC after 25 years

John Woodford, Assistant Executive Director of TARC will be retiring on June 30, 2003.

Woodford, 51, started with TARC in 1978. He served as director of planning and assistant general manager/operations before being appointed assistant executive director in 1987.

Woodford also spent three years as the Executive of Allen County Regional Transit Authority in Lima, Ohio.

"John has been a talented and energetic assistant director," Barry Barker, Executive Director of TARC, said.

The Kentucky Public Transit Association would like to thank John for his many years of service to the organization and wish him well in all his endeavors.

# TAKSO and TANK Team up for Free Concert and Free Parking

Ft. Wright, Kentucky — The Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK) will provide free shuttle service for Kentucky Symphony Orchestra (KSO) Summer Series concert attendees.

What is better than a free concert? A free concert with free parking! That's why the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky, and Sisters of Notre Dame Academy have teamed up to offer free shuttle service from the Notre Dame Academy parking lot to the Devou Park Amphitheater during all KSO Summer Series concerts. The shuttle will run from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and return trips will begin immediately after the concert is over.

"Parking in Devou Park can be challenging at times and we want to make the Summer Concert Series as easy and enjoyable as possible. Enlisting the support of TANK makes this a win-win situation not only for KSO and TANK, but most importantly for the general

public," said J.R. Cassidy, KSO Music Director.

This collaboration is a first between TANK and KSO. "Our hope is that people will try the shuttle at one of the KSO concerts, see how easy it is to ride TANK and then try us for a

larger event such as Riverfest or Tall Stacks," said Gina Douthat, Director of Communication and Development for TANK.

The Summer Series kicked off on June 14 with "Stars and Stripes Forever" a Sousa-style concert with encores a-plenty. The KSO Boogie Band plugs in its

live jukebox with "Funkytown" on July 12 and the series concludes on August 30 with Simply Sinatra a tribute to the "Chairman of the Board" with vocalist John Vincent.

All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Devou Park Amphitheater, suggested donation: \$5. Attendees can call 859/431-6216 or visit [www.kyso.org](http://www.kyso.org) for additional information on the concert series. Detailed shuttle information can be obtained by calling 859/331-TANK.



*Send KPTA news articles to  
[pam.shepherd@ftsb.org](mailto:pam.shepherd@ftsb.org).*

## Rigby retires from FTSB Board of Directors

Ester Rigby, Director of Bluegrass Community Services, has retired from her position and from Federated Transportation Services of the Bluegrass, Inc. (FTSB) Board of Directors. She served on FTSB's board for over 20 years and was one of the original board members.

Rigby has been an advocate for transportation issues on the local and state level during her tenure. She is the chairman of the Special Advisory Committee on Transportation on Services Citizen.



*Sue Jeffers, (BUS and FTSB Chair) presents Ester Rigby with a silver bowl for 20 years of service to the FTSB board of directors.*

## LexTran conducts training sessions at the Shriners Hospital

The Lexington Transit Authority conducted a training session at the Shriner's Children's Hospital on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. The event was organized by Laura Smart at Shriner's Hospital to teach residents how to use public transportation. Public Transportation is very important to many of the residents at Shriner's Hospital who are unable to drive a personal automobile. Smart came up with the idea to get them integrated into the public transit system while they were still in the hospital as a way of transitioning them into the community.

LexTran offers public transportation services to people with disabilities on all their routes. They can ride for ½ fare all the time and this summer everyone rides for 25 cents. "Even while at the hospital, LexTran has taken patients from Shriner's out for special rides in the community. It has offered them a break from the hospital and learning experience as well, says Newman."

## TARC names new Assistant Executive Director

Alyce French Johnson, a 26-year veteran of TARC and a former coach operator, has been named assistant executive director of the Transit Authority of River City. She replaces John Woodford, who is retiring August 1. She will serve as assistant to TARC Executive Director J. Barry Barker.

Johnson, 46, started her career with TARC in December, 1977 as a customer information representative and became a bus driver in October, 1978. She was active in the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1447, culminating in her election as business agent/president in March, 1996. She was appointed TARC's transportation director in January, 2000 where she coordinates the operation of TARC's 285 buses and

supervises 400 drivers. Johnson will begin her new job July 1.

Johnson received a Bachelor's of Science degree from Spalding University in May, 2000 and is working on a Master's Degree in Management from Webster University. She is a graduate of Leadership Louisville and is currently participating in the Bingham Fellows program. She was named one of the nation's "25 Most Interesting People in Transit" by Metro Magazine in 2002 and received Today's Woman "Savvy Sister Award" that same year.

In addition to her professional role, Johnson is an associate minister of the Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

"Alyce will prove to be an exceedingly capable successor," said Barry Barker, Executive Director of TARC.



# Transit Provides a Link "Wherever Life Takes You"

*By J. Barry Barker, Executive Director, TARC*

Giving people of all ages more transportation choices helps them live their lives more fully. Why? Because "getting there" is the first step in utilizing the resources a community has to offer, such as employment, education, housing, medical services, shopping, and, for some, basic shelter in times of crisis.

Sometimes the route to getting there is not directly on a bus or train, but with a transportation link made available to customers through partnerships, products and programs developed by an agency. At the Transit Authority of River City (TARC), we're providing critical transportation links through three innovative products and programs: TARC's Route & Child Care Map, Smart Commute Mortgage™, and Safe Place.

## ***Route & Child Care Map***

TARC's Route & Child Care Map, introduced in February 2003, provides a comprehensive listing of child care centers in metro Louisville served by TARC bus routes. Child care centers are clearly marked along TARC routes with an icon, and listed separately, grouped according to neighborhoods, with names, addresses and phone numbers. The map also features tips on choosing child care. TARC's Route & Child Care Map is a valuable resource in helping TARC fulfill its commitment to remove the lack of transportation as a barrier to employment, and in helping our current and potential customers make the vital connection between TARC transportation, child care, and their place of employment. The Map is available at no charge at TARC Customer Service centers, by mail, or via the TARC Web site, [www.ridetarc.org](http://www.ridetarc.org).

## ***Smart Commute Mortgage***

TARC introduced the Smart Commute Mortgage March 7 in a collaborative effort to make the American dream of home ownership more readily available in the Louisville-Jefferson County Metro area. The Smart Commute Mortgage rewards buyers who purchase a home near public transportation by adding commuting savings of up to \$250 per month to income for loan qualification purposes. Eligible properties must be located within a quarter mile area of TARC bus routes that provide service seven days a week. TARC's partners in program are Fannie Mae; the Coalition for the Advancement of Regional Transportation; Louisville/Jefferson County Information Consortium; National City Mortgage, Republic Bank & Trust Company, and Louisville-Jefferson County Metro Government, which is also providing

additional help for low-income clients who may not be able to qualify for a Smart Commute Mortgage.

The Smart Commute Mortgage was created as a pilot program by Fannie Mae (FNM/NYSE), the nation's largest source of financing for home mortgages. In addition to Louisville is one of seven cities where Fannie Mae currently offers the Smart Commute™ Mortgage. Other cities include Atlanta, Chicago, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, the Twin Cities, and Salt Lake City.

## ***Safe Place***

TARC and Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1447 began their partnership with Safe Place in 1995. The program works by creating a network of "Safe Places": businesses and public locations that display the distinctive yellow and black Safe Place logo on their premises indicating their partnership with the local youth service agency. In cities where transit systems participate in the Safe Place program, buses and light rail cars connect youth in crisis to Safe Place assistance. While each system may follow a slightly different procedure, at TARC, when a young person boards and asks for Safe Place assistance, the bus operator contacts the radio dispatcher, who calls a road supervisor. No fare is required. A road supervisor then meets the bus at a specified destination in route and takes the youth to the local Safe Place shelter.

TARC's collaboration with Safe Place has been and remains a "win-win" partnership. It demonstrates our commitment to be a community partner, it reinforces the perception that riding transit is safe, and operators and road supervisors gain a sense of satisfaction for helping youth. Just this year in January, an alert TARC operator connected two teenage girls to a Safe Place shelter after stopping his bus near the Greyhound terminal where they were standing, hoping to find a way back to their home in Ohio.

The benefits to Safe Place include an expanded reach of the Safe Place network, and more Safe Place partners in the community. Currently, 32 transit systems across the nation are Safe Place partners. The Safe Place transit team can consist of bus operators, road supervisors, the local transit union, executive management, marketing and public relations. Innovative programs and services can ensure that public transportation fulfills its commitment to be there, "wherever life takes you," for all of its customers.

**Call FTSB  
if you have  
KPTA Newsletter Items.  
859/233-0066.**

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## Thought for the Day

*"Some of us have great runways already built for us. If you have one, take off! But if you don't have one, realize it is your responsibility to grab a shovel and build one for yourself and for those who will follow after you."*

*-Amelia Earhart*

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