

Call FTSB
if you have
KPTA Newsletter Items.
859/233-0066 or email:
pshepherd@ftsb.org

The KPTA newsletter is published for the Kentucky Public Transit Association by Federated Transportation Services of the Bluegrass with the financial support of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Office of Transportation Delivery and Rural Transit Assistance Program. Any comments or suggestions should be addressed to Pam Shepherd, FTSB, 1460 Newtown Pike, Suite 209, Lexington, KY 40511.



Federated Transportation Services of the Bluegrass
1460 Newtown Pike, Suite 209
Lexington, KY 40511

Thought for the Day

Our local Catholic church has plans to bring their parishioners to services by bus; they plan to call it mass transit

- Robert Tanner

KPTA/KYTC Conference August 10-14, 2009 Hyatt in Lexington

The 2009 KPTA Conference will be held in Lexington, August 10-14.

Come join Kentucky transit agencies, Office of Transportation Delivery, vendors, speakers, etc. from across the state.

The Hyatt Regency has been chosen as the host hotel. The vendor expo will be held adjacent to the hotel at the convention center.

Preliminary arrangements include the KPTA Rodeo written test and road course on Monday, August 10, 2009 at the Cox Street parking lot next to the Convention Center. Also, driver and supervisor training will be conducted in the afternoon.

Training classes and speakers have been scheduled for August 11-14, 2009.

The 2009 Vendor Show will be held again in the convention center. This will ensure all vendors will be together inside during the expo.

Vehicles and other exhibits will be in the same location. Lunch will be served on the trade show floor with prize drawings.

We will be sending out registration packets to all agencies in the coming weeks. Make sure you are watching your emails.

If you know of any vendors you would like to see at the conference call Pam Shepherd at 859-233-0066 or email pshepherd@ftsb.org.

Any member who would like to be on a committee, help with the conference, or have ideas for training sessions please let Pam know.

Other special events include the KPTA Golf outing at the Kearney Golf Course off Georgetown Road in Lexington.

Check out the KPTA's website (kypublictransit.org) for additional conference information.

KPTA/KYTC Fall Mini Conference

"On the Road Again"

KPTA/KYTC held their Mini Conference on August 27-29, 2008 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Frankfort. Shirley Cummins with RTEC was the chair of the mini conference. KPTA wants to thank Shirley for all her hard work.

On the Road Again was the theme and at the end of the session RTAP scholarship prizes were given.

The opening reception began on Wednesday, August 27 at 6 p.m. with "The McClain Cloggers" a clogging group from Georgetown, Kentucky including Pat Puckett with OTD and music provided by Rick Hannon with Complete Music of Kentucky. The hospitality hour was sponsored by American Bus and Accessories.

The official conference began on

Thursday, August 28, 2008 with Vickie Bourne, Executive Director of the Office of Transportation Delivery, giving the welcome. David F. Schilling, Community Planner with the Federal Transit Admin-

Continued on Page 2



David Schilling, Community Planner with Federal Transit Administration was the presenter during the conference.

From the Desk of the President

Dear KPTA Members:

Before you know it spring will be here and winter will be a distant thought. Unfortunately we still have to deal with the winter chill but at least we can dream.

The Kentucky General Assembly is in session and I encourage every member to set up a meeting with their representative and senator. You need to let them know all the wonderful things you are doing in your area concerning transportation. Remember if they don't hear from you we can't complain about the legislative process. My mother used to tell me if you can't be a part of the solution don't complain about the problem.



Finally, I want to remind all members to write in their calendars the dates of August 10-14, 2009. That's the date of our Bi-Annual KPTA Conference which again will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky. We need Vendors to sign up to participate in our expo and we need members to volunteer to serve on the various committees. Pam Shepherd, Executive Director of FTSB will again be our Chairperson for the conference. Please contact Pam at 859.233.0066 if you are interested in participating in the conference.

As always, I want to thank the membership for their ongoing support of KPTA.

Sincerely,
Beecher Hudson
KPTA President
Director of WHEELS Transportation Louisville Red Cross

2008 Human Service Transportation Brokers

- Region 1 LKLP
- Region 2 PACS
- Region 3 GRITS
- Region 4 LKLP
- Region 5 GRITS/RTEC
- Region 6 FTSB
- Region 8 BUS
- Region 10 FTSB
- Region 12 RTEC
- Region 13 LKLP
- Region 14 SVT

KPTA/KYTC Conference
August 10-14, 2009
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Lexington, KY

KPTA/KYTC Mini

Continued from page 1
istration (FTA) was the main speaker during the conference. Schilling prepared the transit agencies for a federal audit. He made them aware of all the information, which needs to be in everyone's office for the federal auditors.

Other sessions included as always an insightful talk from Dr. Howard Taylor with National Toxicology about drug and alcohol testing.

The entertainment was provided by Humorist Bob Parks from Henderson, KY.

2008 KPTA/KYTC Mini-Conference in Frankfort



Pam Whitter (HART) enjoys Humorist Bob Parks with other KPTA members during the 2008 Mini Conference.



OTD employees Ann Estes, Dee Stamper, Kristy Broyles, Eric Perez, and Gail Mayeux.



Mike Woods with LKLP and Vickie Bourne with OTD chat during the conference.



Stacy Prater and Joyce Hinkle from Sandy Valley Transit during the information session of the Mini Conference.

*Kentucky Transit
Providers attend activities at
KPTA/KYTC Mini
Conference in Frankfort.*



Shirley Cummins, Freda Parsons and Rita Smith from RTEC work diligently during the KPTA Mini Conference.



Louis Lindsey, OTS; Bjarne Hansen, MCTA; Jodi Alford, TACK; Mark Davis, PADD; Phyllis Duel, OTS; and Chuck Steinhof, WHEELS.

Sowder named Director of Transportation at Kentucky River Foothills

David Sowder joined the staff of Kentucky River Foothills

Development Council, Inc., in January of 2008 as the Director of Transportation. Originally from Rockcastle County, David attended Eastern Kentucky

University pursuing a degree in Pre-Law and now resides in Richmond, KY. Before his position with Foothills, David worked at RTEC under the direction of Shirley Cummins as Procurement Agent and Project Manager on two of RTEC's major transit construction projects.

Since his time as the director of transportation for Foothills, he has added new routes a city to city connector route from Berea to Richmond, a commuter route from Winchester to Lexington, and is working on new commuter routes in four other counties, and the Winchester-Clark County transit which serves as an in-town bus service. Along with the expansion of the new routes the Demand Response has increased by 75% and now is providing over 8000 trips per month and over 2500 fixed route and still growing.



KPTA Bus bids opened at RTEC

The KPTA sealed bids for vehicles were opened at RTEC's conference room in Mount Vernon on Wednesday, February 18th. Vendors in attendance are shown in the photo (left to right). David Clawson, National Bus; Jeff Pappas, TESCO; Rob Roy, American Bus; Scott Mullendore, Mid-South Bus; and Jack Richardson, TESCO. Those attending the bid opening from RTEC include Shirley Cummins, Freda Parsons, Heather Taylor and Gary Reppert.

Bids were received from other vendors including Ilderton Conversion, Jack Kain Ford, BF Evans Ford, Steve Austin Autos, and Shepard Bros.

The next step is to review the bids and determine the best responsive bid. When a selection is made, a recommendation will be sent to the Office of Transportation Delivery for approval to award a contract. The members of KPTA will be notified of the successful vendor(s).



Bus vendors at RTEC for the KPTA bus bids from left to right: David Clawson, National Bus; Jeff Pappas, TESCO; Rob Roy, American Bus; Scott Mullendore, Mid-South Bus; and Jack Richardson, TESCO.

will be displayed in various shelters located in the metro area.

To further TARC's commitment to the arts, TARC publicly supports the Fund for the Arts through a Fund for the Arts illustrated bus again this spring. Look for the bus to hit the streets in April.

Submitted By Peggy Holsclaw, TARC Marketing

Adair new General Manager Paducah Area Transit

The PATS Board of Directors voted to remove the "Acting" part of the title, and make Kim Adair the new General Manager of Paducah Area Transit System following an Executive Session on September 24th.

Adair had been the Acting General Manager since the departure of former GM Gary Kitchin in April, and was one of three finalists for the position at PATS. Board Chairman Chip Cox cited several reasons for Adair's hiring, including the job she had done as Acting GM for the previous 5 months, along with her 11 years of experience in transit, most of which was spent as Assistant Manager.

Cox also cited overwhelming support from PATS employees who praised Adair's work as

Acting GM, and urged Board members to promote her to the position.

In an article in the Paducah Sun, Adair places a priority on improving communication, and relationships with other agencies, as well as local and state government.

"We need to make sure communication lines are open with city and county governments, and the state, and we need to be keeping them informed and letting them know what's going on," Adair said.

PATS Chairman Chip Cox said the board chose Adair after reviewing 10 to 15 applications and interviewing three finalists.

"One of the things we were impressed with was the way employees made comments about the job she's done, particularly increasing morale and bringing people together," Cox said. "It's always a priority," he said, but even more so "with the cutbacks and all the things that have happened."

Cox also praised the work Adair did in getting PATS chosen as one of eight transit systems to participate in the first phase of the federal Mobility Services for All Americans initiative. PATS' selection was largely based on a proposed partnership with other regional transit authorities; two or three of the eight agencies chosen will receive federal funding to implement their plans.



Kim Adair new General Manager of Paducah Area Transit System

Rodeo Judges and Drivers needed for KPTA Rodeo Competition on August 10, 2009
Contact Wanda Trimble:
502-695-4290 ext 217

TARC celebrates art.

Continued from page 6

Associate Professor of Humanities Dr. Annette Allen, are collaborating to produce a unique public exhibition. Participating artists and poets will pair off to produce text and image responses to their interpretation of the word "Shelter." Their pieces

WHEELS takes a new direction in transit

After 32 years with the American Red Cross, Louisville Wheels Transportation was established and began business on July 1, 1008.

The American Red Cross Board of Directors decided that it no longer wanted to operate a transportation program. In 2007, discussions began with the Red Cross Board and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet as to how to dissolve the Wheels program.

Beecher Hudson, President of the Kentucky Public Transit Association, was approached by the Transportation Cabinet to see if he would be interested in starting a new entity to replace the Red Cross Program. Beginning in January 2008, Beecher and his team began to put together the new Louisville Wheels. An application for 501 (c)

(3) status had to be submitted, drivers and staff had to be rehired, personnel manuals with all new policies had to be written, brokers had to be hired to secure employee benefits, vehicles, land and buildings had to be transferred from the American Red Cross to Louisville Wheels Transportation, contracts had to be renewed in the new agency's name, bank accounts had to be

opened, and numerous other things had to be done within a six month period of time.

Beecher accepted the position as Chief Executive Officer and his long time assistant at Red Cross, Chuck Steinhof, accepted the position of Chief Operating Officer. Dr. Elayne Morris, retired TARC Manager, is the Chair Person of the new Board of Directors. All of the Red Cross drivers, mechanics, dispatchers, and administrative assistants were hired by Louisville Wheels.

Louisville Wheels Transportation provides services in Jefferson, Bullitt, Spencer, Shelby, Oldham, Henry, and Trimble counties. We will drive over 1.6 million miles a year, providing 150,000 trips annually.

The Louisville Wheels Transportation Center is located at 1134 South Preston Street, Louisville, Kentucky in the downtown area of the Smoketown / Shelby Park community. On 3.525 acres of land, we have a parking lot, office building, and maintenance facility.

It is our goal to continue providing specialized transportation for many more years to come as we begin the new era of Louisville Wheels Transportation, Inc.



Wheels administrative staff with the new company from left to right: Dawn Johnson, Wilma Massie, Fred Harris, Chuck Steinhof, and Beecher Hudson.

2009 KPTA/KYTC Conference

Vendor Expo

August 12, 2009

Reserve Your Space Now!!!

Call: Pam Shepherd 859-233-0066

email: pshepherd@ftsb.org

PATS responds to ice storm

PATS buses played several roles in support of relief efforts in the wake of late January's devastating ice storm.

On Tuesday, the 27th, PATS buses began carrying some victims of the power outages to warming shelters throughout McCracken County. Wednesday's combination of freezing rain, snow, and sleet forced PATS into carrying dialysis patients only and suspending the fixed route and Dial-A-Ride for the day, but Thursday, the 29th, the fixed route resumed on an abbreviated schedule, Dial-A-Ride resumed a full schedule on cleared roads and more people were carried back and forth to warming shelters, where they could get a hot meal, water, and some rest.

Tuesday night, February 3rd, PATS buses were called upon by the Paducah Housing Authority to transport residents from Ella Munal Housing Project to warming centers, as some residents were risking their lives by using gas stoves to heat their apartments and the decision was made to evacuate the apartment complex.

At press time, PATS continues to transport victims to and from warming shelters, and teams of electricians to and from areas devastated by the ice storm, as residents continue to struggle with the aftermath.

TARC's reaction to the ice storm

When snow and ice blanketed Louisville on Wednesday, Jan. 28, bringing subfreezing temperatures, downing trees and power lines and cutting off power to more than 200,000 customers locally, TARC made sure all routes had coverage. About 80% of the 185-bus fleet pulled out of the garage and as the storm continued to worsen buses remained on all routes.

From Jan. 30 to Feb. 2, TARC 3 paratransit vans and Yellow Cab, which supplements paratransit service, transported 236 persons, many of whom depend on electricity for their medical needs, from their homes to either shelters or homes of relatives. They also transported people from overflowing shelters to the downtown Louisville YMCA for showers since the shelters had limited water capacity in what became known as "shower shuttles."

"Our team went above and beyond the call of duty," said TARC Executive Director J. Barry Barker. "We had a plan and it was executed to

perfection. I was amazed at how many people had smiles on their faces even during the worst of the weather."

In spite of challenging conditions, people got to dialysis, made it to work, were shuttled to and from emergency shelters and The Frankfort Avenue Trolley Hop went forward as planned. While people had complaints and saw some delays,

TARC received many commendations from the community.

One car-free passenger who says he rides TARC daily wrote, "I want to pass along my thanks to all your staff who provide and support this great service. Today must surely have been a rough day to be out there in the snow, for a bus driver especially. But, I'm very thankful



(my bus driver) was."

Another regular rider summed it up this way: "Thank you (TARC) for all you've done throughout this awful week."

TARC celebrates art this spring

TARC is celebrating the arts in Louisville this spring with a series of events featuring art and local artists. The series of events is called "Art Moves People."

In March, TARC is partnering with the Family Scholar House to celebrate the "Women of Wisdom: Women on the Move" art show. Family

Scholar House is a non-profit agency that gives single parents the support they need to obtain a four-year degree. The atrium at Union Station will serve as a gallery for up to 50 works by women artists who will donate half of their proceeds to the Family Scholar House. The art will be on view until March 26 at Union Station Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Children's art is always a big hit with TARC and this year is the 11th Annual Design-a-Bus contest for school-aged children. Louisville Metro and its "Possibility City" theme is the focus of this year's



contest. Students from the metro area are asked to create posters of places they would like to go on TARC. A total of 12 winners will be chosen and their art will decorate a bus that will be used in service in the Louisville metro area and in TARC's youth education programs. To celebrate 10 years of the contest, TARC's marketing department gathered pictures of kids' artwork from the last 10 years and designed a new ceramic mug with bus pictures from some of the past winners. The mugs are on sale for \$5.

TARC's graphic designer, Erin Back, has been painting one of the Gallopallooza horses that are used to raise money for Louisville's beautification agency, Brightside. The horse, dubbed "TARC, Baby, TARC," will on display in the atrium of Union Station in April. In keeping with the city's on-going "Possibility City" theme, Erin is incorporating transportation possibilities into her design.

University of Louisville art course Associate Professor of Fine Art Mary Carothers, and

Continued on page 10



PATS taking part in research project

PATS' Mobile Driver Training Simulator could play a role in a research project conducted by the University of Iowa. The research is designed to look into the impact of prescription and over-the-counter drugs on the driving performance of professional transit bus operators. The Post-Accident Testing Heuristics (PATH) project is in the pilot/planning phase currently. In January, John Morrison with Cahill Swift, a Boston based consulting firm and a sub-contractor on the project, visited Paducah to test eye-tracking equipment and learn more about Simulator scenarios which could be used in the research project.

PATS Drivers Jimmy Schoering, Chris Burns, and Tanya Steffan donned glasses fitted with eye tracking equipment and drove the Simulator so Morrison could test the equipment and give it a "trial run." The eye tracker records the

movement of the eye during driving. The three PATS drivers were perfect subjects for the test since one wears glasses, one wears contact lenses, and one wears neither.

Morrison also worked closely with PATS Mobile Training Supervisor Delbert Steele to learn more about how the FAAC Simulator can create scenarios for drivers during the research project.

If the project continues to the experimental phase, PATS Mobile Simulator could be used for 2 months in Iowa City, IA, as a team of volunteer subjects drive the Simulator over an 8 week period to test the effects of prescription and over-the-counter medications on professional drivers.

The end result could provide valuable information on how to make transits safer for both passengers and drivers.

LKLP puts "Seniors on the Go"

LKLP's Seniors on the Go (SoGo) program offers seniors in the four county service area of Leslie, Knott, Letcher and

Perry counties the opportunity to have evening public transportation services to counter isolation and support seniors' participation in the life of their community.

The project also offers safety training to older drivers and educates older adults about the transportation options available to them. The agency expects the program to decrease the dependence on driving of many older adults living in the rural, isolated communities and result in increased usage of transportation services.

SoGo is made possible through a demonstration grant from the National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST) in Washington, D.C. LKLP is

one of eight community organizations selected in a competitive, nationwide application process to have received a grant from the NCST to work creatively to meet the transportation needs of older adults living in the community.

According to the NCST, more than 300 public, private and faith-based aging/ human services and transportation organizations from 46 states plus the District of Columbia applied.



Rep. Jimmie Lee spoke to the KPTA members about the proposed legislature session issues at the November KPTA meeting.

During the course of this demonstration grant, LKLP has provided over 700 seniors from senior citizens centers, the opportunity for trips outside the normal scope of activities. Seniors have traveled over 3,700 miles on trips ranging from evening arts activities to visits to the Kentucky Amish communities.

LKLP has produced a new transportation brochure through the program and is also providing older driver safety training and pedestrian safety training at the senior citizen centers and outreach offices in the four counties.

The agency is also partnering with the Area Agency on Aging to host a Transportation and Aging Summit to examine future senior transportation issues.

LKLP has also had a site visit from the NCST to provide technical assistance and to explore some of the challenges of providing transportation in a rural area.

Established in 2006, the NCST is co-administered by Easter Seals and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration and the U.S. Administration on Aging. The Center's mission is to provide technical assistance and training and support innovations that enhance transportation for older adults at the community level.

For more information about SoGo, please contact LKLP Public Transportation Director, Mike Woods at 606-436-8853 or m.woods@lklp.net.



Gail Mayeux with OTD and Shirley Cummins with RTEC review the Drug and Alcohol proposals which were submitted.

One millionth passenger rides with MCTA

The Murray Calloway Transit Authority welcomed the 1,000,000th passenger on February 9, 2009. Mary Kinley of Murray was the recipient of a Super Pass that will provide her with free transportation for the next year.

The Murray Calloway Transit Authority was established in 1980, and is a great example of the public transit in rural Kentucky. Murray Calloway Transit Authority has established itself as a dependable, cost effective service within the community. Our mission is to provide affordable transportation for



Bjarne Hansen Transportation Director of MCTA and Mary Kinley the 1,000,000th passenger.

people of Murray-Calloway County for educational, medical, recreational, and health care transportation needs. The Murray Calloway Transit Authority desires to make transportation accessible for local residents and businesses to operate and improve their way of life.

We want to thank all our passengers and look forward to serving another 1,000,000 riders. Please stop in our new location at 1111 Transit Way and see how public transportation can work for you. Again, congratulations to Mary and thank you to this community for all your support and patronage.

MCTA new Transit Center opens

Murray Calloway Transit Authority opens their new Transit Center which will house the administrative offices of the MCTA. The new transit center is located off Hwy 121 N on to Lowe's Drive. The actual Transit center is located off of Transit Way at 1111 Transit Way in Murray.

"Murray is a growing, thriving community and its bus riders will soon benefit from the services available in this modern transit center," said MCTA Board Chair Jennifer Morris. "In Murray and Calloway County, people are turning to public transportation to personally help reduce local traffic congestion and slow global warming. Murray and Calloway



New Murray Calloway Transit Authority transit center.

County is supporting those efforts by providing more transit services and options."

"We at MCTA understand that improving mobility in Murray and Calloway County is critical to improving the livability and the

economic vitality of the community and the entire region."

The project was funded by discretionary money from Congressman Ed Whitfield in the amount of \$1,749,201. The construction contains 5000 sqft of building and 1400 sqft of available rental space.

Free weekend rides for students grades 1-12

Beginning Saturday, February 21, 2009, students of all public and private schools, grades 1-12, will be eligible to ride all LexTran buses on Saturdays and Sundays at no charge. LexTran Launch/Free Kids Transport will be available to school children for the 2009 calendar year.

LexTran Launch is a community outreach initiative designed to educate area youth about the benefits and ease of using public transportation as well as provide an additional option for families on the go. "As a parent of a teenager, I know full well how many activities are scheduled for weekends," said LexTran General Manager Rocky Burke. "Providing free rides on Saturdays and Sundays for our kids gives families an additional option and incentive to ride LexTran buses," he added.

LexTran is partnering with Fayette County Public Schools and the Horsemen Charitable Foundation. Mary Browning, Chief Operating Officer of Fayette County Public Schools, hopes kids will take advantage of the free rides. "We're excited about the opportunity that the LexTran board has so generously offered our kids," she said.

LexTran Launch was officially introduced during a news conference today at Leestown Middle School. While kids of all ages are eligible and welcome to take advantage of the free rides, LexTran recommends that younger children be accompanied by an adult.

For information on LexTran schedules and routes, go to: www.lextranonthemove.org.

TANK to address General Assembly to fix local transit Funding Flaws

One of the major local funding sources for the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK) is flawed and in need of repair.

The **Kenton County Transportation Payroll Tax** provides approximately 50% of the local operating funds for TANK. In 2005, the Kentucky General Assembly capped the Transportation Payroll Tax in Kenton County at its current rate of 0.6% of the first \$25,000 of income. This cap has resulted in a freezing of revenues for Kenton County's share of the TANK system. Due to the lack of local funding, TANK's current budget is facing severe shortfalls. TANK is using approximately \$1.5 million annually in non-sustainable revenue (capital and reserve funds) to balance its budget.

TANK is seeking state legislation that would give the local government (Fiscal Court) authority to

increase the amount of taxable income under the Transportation Payroll Tax at a reasonable rate, not to exceed a predetermined index such as the Consumer Price Index. TANK and Kenton County are committed to educating state elected officials about this issue and its importance to Northern Kentucky's continued growth.

This local tax issue only impacts two counties in the entire state of Kentucky (Kenton and Campbell) and its passage would not impact any other transit system in the Commonwealth.

TANK would appreciate the support of KPTA member organizations during this year's legislative session. Talk to your state representative and tell them that TANK is important to the Commonwealth!