

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

Thought for the Day

*Music is a means
of Rapid
Transportation*

- John Cage

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 for 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

November
2007

NEWSLETTER

Hubbard applauds the working effort between the State and Transit Providers

Jerry Hubbard with the Federal Transit Administration was the guest speaker at the 2007 KPTA/KYTC Conference in Lexington. Hubbard was very appreciative of the working relationship between the Office of Transportation Delivery and the Kentucky Transit Providers.

He said, he has traveled across several states and has never seen such camaraderie in transit as in Kentucky. He continued to say that working together will get the job done so much better and for each person to have such respect for each other makes for a wonderful end result.

KPTA wants to thank Mr. Hubbard for pinch hitting when one of the guest

speakers did not show up. We feel it made for a better session with his information on aging in transit. Thanks again.



Jerry Hubbard, Federal Transit Administration and Vickie Bourne, Executive Director of Office of Transportation Delivery spoke to KYTC/KPTA Conference.

2007 Kentucky Transit Hall of Fame winners inducted

The fourth annual Transit Hall of Fame inductees were announced at the 2007 KPTA/KyTC Conference.

Barry Barker (Executive Director of TARC), Pam Whitter (Transportation Director with HART), Joe Sheilley (Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Office of Transportation Delivery) and Pam Shepherd (Executive Director of FTSB) were the newest inductees into the Transit Hall of Fame.

Their transit peers selected Barker, Whitter, Sheilley and Shepherd.



Joe Sheilley 2007 Transit Hall of Fame member

These individuals join previous inductees Vickie Bourne, Executive



Pam Whitter, Pam Shepherd and Barry Barker the newest inductees to the Transit Hall of Fame.

Director of the Office of Transportation Delivery, Buddy Fugua, retired Transportation Director of GRITS, Sue Jeffers, Transportation Director of BUS, Shirley Cummins, Executive Director of RTEC, Beecher Hudson, Transportation Director with American Red Cross Wheels Louisville, Bonnie Rhoades, retired Transporta-

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From The Desk of The President

Dear KPTA Members:

From the desk of the President

I want to thank everyone for participating and making our Bi-Annual Conference one of the best ever. A special thanks goes out to Pam Shepherd our Conference Chair who did another outstanding job in putting on a 1st class conference. I want to thank Vickie Bourne and her staff from the Office of Transportation Delivery for all there help. A Big Thank You goes out to all our conference sponsors and vendors because without you our conference would not have been special. To all KPTA members and participating agencies thanks for a record attendance.



Please mark down on your calendars January 23-25, 2008. This is the date for the Annual KBT Conference. The conference will be held in Frankfort at the Capital Plaza Hotel and Frankfort Convention Center. As we receive more details on the conference I will have our KPTA secretary send an e-mail to all KPTA members.

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

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

TARC's Barry Barker named APTA Manager of the Year

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) has recognized TARC's Executive Director Barry Barker as the Outstanding Public Transportation Manager of 2007. Barker received the award at the APTA annual meeting in Charlotte, N.C., last month. He was recognized for his passion and commitment to public transportation and the national leadership he has provided for improving service for older adults and people with disabilities.

"The quality of life in our communities is only as good as it is for the least advantaged members of our communities. Access to all our society has to offer is an absolute must if our communities and the individuals in them are to thrive," Barker said in the

award submission. He is active in the federal United We Ride effort and served as a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging in 2006.

Other recent awards given TARC include:

Republic Bank's We CARE Awards - 2007 Large Employer Award

2007 Mayor's International Award - Commitment to Metro Louisville Multicultural Community

Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging - Outstanding Community Service Award

2007 Clean Fuel Award - Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

KPTA Award winners.

Continued from page 4

SPECIALIZED SERVICE AWARD

This year we are initiating a new award category. In response to the availability of working relationships with other agencies and people in the transportation field. In recognition of these accomplishments the award for Manager of the Year goes to **Paul Maxwell of Fulton County Transit.**

NEW TRANSFORMATION AWARD

Have you heard of the summer movie "The Transformers"? Well this agency has undergone a major Transformation! The director has mended fences and built bridges with many since taking his position with this agency. We have been impressed with his willingness to do whatever is thrown at him. His Right Arm has been right with him through it all. If you ever need anybody to help you with anything, call these guys! **Audubon Area Community Services, Inc. Transportation division, Green River Intra-County Transit System (GRITS)** is the recipient of the New Transformation Award.

STATEWIDE OVERALL TRANSIT SYSTEM

The Overall Transit Award goes to an agency that has accomplished quite a bit since the last conference. Some of the accomplishments are: They completed the \$4.9 million Laurel Co. Transit Center, currently building a transit center in Somerset, they are in the design stage of the Trolley cafe which will hopefully open the first of the year or early spring.

They have 166 dedicated Employees, a fleet of approximately 200 vehicles all equipped with AVL/MDTS, camera systems, and currently working to have Smart Cards added to the buses. In 2006 they provided 482,501 rides. The agency operates in 12 counties and received its first operating funds in 1990. They also serve and have one of the highest Medicaid populations in the Commonwealth. This agency continues to look for opportunities to improve and serve the citizens of their community as well as the Commonwealth. They have helped Agencies from one end of Kentucky to the other.

We would like to recognize this agency as well as the Director! You can't mention the agency without the lady! She has been nominated for Entrepreneur of the year thru EKV and Highlands Corp. Shirley Cummins and **Rural Transit Enterprises Coordinated, Inc. (RTEC)** is The Overall Transit System for 2007!!

2007 KPTA Golf Tournament



2007 KPTA Golf Tournament winning team included from left to right: John Walsh (National Bus Sales), John Woodford (First Transit), Ed Brady Golf Chair, Brent Ritchie (Mentor Engineering) and John Langendorf (FTSB) not pictured.



2007 KPTA Golf Tournament second place team included from left to right: Jodi Alford accepting for Ronnie Thomas (TACK), Robb West (First Transit), Ed Brady Golf Chair, Greg Rogers accepting for Jeff Hackbart (Frankfort Transit), not pictured Greg Chapell (USS Seating).



Ed Brady presented Jim Fryman, Maysville Transit the third place trophy for 2007 KPTA Golf Tournament. Team included: Eric Bach, Eddie Wenz, Craig Brammer and Jim Fryman.

TARC Enters into Multi-Faceted Partnership with Humana

What started as a request for more frequent trolley service in downtown Louisville, Ky., earlier this year has blossomed into a ground-breaking and multi-faceted partnership between the Transit Authority of River City and Humana, Inc., one of Louisville's largest employers and a Fortune 500 health benefits provider.

As a direct result of these discussions, Humana is now paying TARC to allow its 8,500 downtown employees to ride the transit system fare-free, using an employee ID as a pass. Humana is also partnering with TARC on a demonstration project to provide real-time next trolley arrival information in the lobbies of its offices: Humana has supplied the screens and computers for the lobby displays, while TARC equipped its trolleys with an Automatic Vehicle Location system and paid for the software licenses.

Humana also promotes transit use by its associates through transit fairs, new-employee orientation sessions, and development of park-and-ride lots.

TARC Executive Director J. Barry Barker called the partnership "a win-win, not just for Humana and TARC, but for the employees (who) will use our service. We have changed the outlook of riding the bus. Rather than searching for the fare and being reminded daily of how much it costs, they can simply show their Humana ID."

While TARC has similar arrangements with the University of Louisville and Louisville Metro Government, Humana is the first private company to participate.

Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson, an enthusiastic supporter of the Humana-TARC program, has been helping TARC solicit other businesses to offer transit benefits by sponsoring corporate breakfasts and developing park-and-ride lots. "This program has numerous benefits," the mayor said. "It saves families money on gas; it saves families money on parking fees; it saves wear and tear on cars; it helps save the environment; and it helps TARC improve and expand its services."

Brent Densford, director of workplace solutions for Humana, noted that the pass program has led to an increase in TARC ridership among the company's employees of 7 percent in June and 23 percent in July.

Before developing the pass program, Humana was spending about \$125,000 on passes and tickets for its employees. The company has five office buildings and several remote parking sites located within about a mile of each other, all along two streets in downtown Louisville. TARC's trolley service connects all of Humana's downtown sites, so rather than create its own shuttle service; Humana saw an advantage to using the existing TARC service.

Humana has found that buying into the employee pass program makes it much more convenient, and cheaper for employees to use the trolley to shuttle from their remote parking lot to their office. The program also creates an incentive for employees to give up their parking space and use TARC for the entire commute.

Taken from Passenger Transport, October 8, 2007

Kentucky Rural Transit Assistance Program Committee Members

MIDWEST DIVISION

Pam Whitter - HART

CENTRAL DIVISION

Pam Shepherd - FTSB

NORTHEAST DIVISION

Jim Fryman - Maysville Transit

WEST DIVISION

Mark Davis - PADD

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

Shirley Cummins - RTEC

STATE LEVEL

Paula Cissell, Policy Analysis III
Della Davis, Staff Assistant
Office of Transportation Delivery
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Send items for the
KPTA Newsletter

Call Pam Shepherd at 859-233-0066
or email at pshepherd@ftsb.org

TANK Looks to the Future with Transit Network Study

Northern Kentucky, as a major player in the greater Cincinnati region, is experiencing transportation challenges unique to suburban areas that lie near major metropolitan downtowns. These challenges include major highway congestion and gridlock, two transit agencies working cooperatively to provide service to the urban core, and the increasing request for reverse commute transportation to accommodate job growth in the suburbs.

The Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky in Fort Wright, Kentucky provides local transportation within northern Kentucky, as well as commuter service into and out of the central business district of Cincinnati.

In early 2005, TANK started a process to begin to plan for the future of transit in northern Kentucky by initiating the TANK Transit Network Study. This study took a hard look at the trends, challenges, and opportunities facing the region to create a plan for public transportation. Now complete, the plan serves as a guideline for future operation and investment to year 2030.

The Transit Network Study has helped to create a regional dialogue about TANK's role in creating a promising future for northern Kentucky. It addressed the value of the regional transportation system, along with the needs and desires of the people who matter most: those who live and work in northern Kentucky.

Representatives from more than 20 public and private agencies participated in the TANK Transit Network Study Advisory Team, including representatives of the regional planning commission; city and county agencies; urban planners; the international airport; universities; and other important stakeholder and advocacy groups. Wilbur Smith Associates was the consultant selected to conduct the study.

Throughout the process, TANK also engaged the public in the information-gathering and decision-making process. The transit agency held three public forums to gather valuable feedback from passengers and northern Kentucky citizens, and disseminated study information through the TANK web site, e-mail, bus pamphlets, newspaper articles, and more. As a result, the agency received tremendous feedback that helped to create the best possible plan for northern Kentucky.

The major components of the study were an Existing Conditions Analysis and recommendations.

Before the study team could begin planning for the future, it needed an accurate "snapshot" of the forces and issues that create today's northern Kentucky. For the Existing Conditions Analysis, the team analyzed travel data showing where and how people move throughout the region to determine current travel patterns.

TANK also conducted a demographic analysis, studying characteristics of the population to identify

opportunities for growth in transit ridership. In the early stages of the study, TANK reviewed more than two dozen local and regional transportation and land use plans to ensure that the vision created in the Transit Network Study is consistent with those of its planning partners.

Early on, TANK conducted a peer review of transit systems of similar size to see how well it is performing in key areas of comparison. The agency then gathered data on its existing routes and trips to identify areas for improvement and to understand how well it is doing in meeting the region's travel needs.

TANK used the information gathered in the Existing Conditions Analysis to help the study team create recommendations and alternatives for service and capital investment to the year 2030, including more than 25 short-term changes.

The short-term recommendations focus on low-cost and no-cost approaches to attracting new riders and adding efficiency to the existing TANK system. Most of them suggested changes that would expand service to the growing sectors within TANK's service area, improve the efficiency of the existing bus network, and reduce unproductive routes.

TANK created a timeline for implementation for each of the short-term recommendations; many of them were either implemented during the last fiscal year or are scheduled to be implemented this year.

The long-term recommendations represent the future vision of what TANK will look like and how it will operate in 10 to 25 years. This vision calls for a rapid, efficient, and user-friendly transit system that will create improved mobility throughout the region while encouraging investment around the improved transit system.

TANK designed this plan so it can be implemented over time in small or large pieces, depending on available funding and opportunities. Specific recommendations include:

- ✓ Rapid Transit Ways in selected corridors, which would get buses out of traffic and to their destinations quickly and at a greater benefit to passengers;
- ✓ Transit Hubs, areas to bring multiple routes together and provide frequent service to passengers;
- ✓ Major improvements to transit stops;
- ✓ Improved transit technology, including trip planning and real-time passenger information; and
- ✓ Encouragement of transit-oriented, high-density development.

The TANK Transit Network Study will serve as a resource and planning tool for the northern Kentucky/greater Cincinnati region. TANK has already incorporated recommendations from the study into several regional transportation plans and corridor studies. Implementation of the recommendations began in 2006 and will continue as funding opportunities become available.

Taken from Passenger Transport, October 8, 2007

2007 KPTA/KYTC Conference Honors Transportation Representatives for Exceptional Work

Outstanding Overall Statewide Transit System



Shirley Cummins, RTEC, Executive Director, presented the 2007 Outstanding Overall Transit System Award from Paula Cissell, KyTC.

Kentucky Outstanding Transit Manager & Western Kentucky Section 5311



Paul Maxwell, Fulton County Transit, presented the 2007 Outstanding Transit Manager Award from Paula Cissell, KyTC.

Outstanding Western Kentucky Section 5311 Transit Agency



Paul Maxwell and Rebecca Beasley, Fulton County Transit, is presented the 2007 Outstanding Western Kentucky Section 5311 Transit Agency Award from Paula Cissell, KyTC.

Outstanding Central Kentucky Section 5311 Transit Agency



Pam Shepherd, FTSB, is presented the 2007 Outstanding Central Kentucky Section 5311 Transit Agency Award from Eric Perez, KYTC

New Transformation Award



Dan Lanham and Michael Hughes, GRITS, is presented the 2007 New Transformation Award from Paula Cissell, KYTC

Kentucky Outstanding Statewide Section 5310



American Red Cross WHEELS Louisville, is presented the 2007 Outstanding Statewide Section 5310 Transit Agency Award from Paula Cissell, KyTC. From left to right Dawn Johnson, Donna Deloney, Wilma Massie, Fred Harris, Chuck Steinhof, Beecher Hudson and Paula Cissell, KYTC.

Kentucky Outstanding Statewide Section 5311 Transit Agency



Mona Whitaker and Mike Buckles, Daniel Boone Transit is presented the 2007 Outstanding Statewide Section 5311 Transit Agency Award from Vickie Bourne, KyTC.

Outstanding Eastern Kentucky Section 5311 Transit Agency



Joyce Hinkle, Sandy Valley Transportation Services, presented the 2007 Outstanding Eastern Kentucky Section 5311 Transit Agency Award Paula Cissell, KyTC.

Clean Fuel Award



Mary Lou Franzoni, TANK and Barry Barker, TARC is presented the Clean Fuel Award from Della Davis, KYTC.

Statewide DBE Award



Donna Tooley, Community Action of Southern Kentucky presented the 2007 Kentucky Statewide DBE Award from Paula Cissell, KyTC.

2007 KPTA Rodeo Activities

First Place



Wanda Trimble, BUS, presented a first place KPTA Rodeo trophy to Lola Swinney, RTEC. KPTA will send Lola to the National CTAA Rodeo in New Orleans, Louisiana in June 2008.

Second Place



Wanda Trimble, BUS, presented a second place KPTA Rodeo trophy to Bobby Lawson, RTEC.

Third Place



Wanda Trimble, BUS, presented a third place KPTA Rodeo trophy to Steven Weakley, American Red Cross Louisville.

Rodeo Participants & Judges



Thanks to all who participated.



KPTA Members Enjoy Activities During Conference



Wanda Trimble pets a horse at Old Friends Farm during the outing on Tuesday morning during the conference.



TACK employees enjoys lunch at Jonathon's Restaurant.



Rodeo participants prepare for the written test for the competition.



Eric Perez, Della Davis and Dee Stamper with the Office of Transportation listen during Vickie Bourne presentation.



John Woodford, First Transit, at the vendor expo.



Everyone enjoys speakers before the closing breakfast.



Rebecca Hall and Greg Rogers, Frankfort Transit listen to speakers.



Participants listen during a presentation after the KPTA Rodeo.



Bjarne Hansen, Murray-Callaway Transit, Mark Davis, PADD, Kim Adair and Gary Kitchin with PATS during a session.



Chuck Steinhofer and Wilma Massie with Red Cross Wheels Louisville.



Mike Rogers, Ashland Bus, Jennifer Wedding, GRADD, Phyllis Duel and Louis Lindsay with Owensboro Transit during lunch.



All enjoy the big night out for big winning during the casino.

KPTA presents awards during 2007 conference

The Kentucky Public Transit Association awarded three distinguished awards during the 2007 KPTA Conference in Lexington, on August 22, 2007.

The first award presented to Gary Scott, with RTEC, as the 2007 KPTA Dispatcher of the Year. Gary has been with RTEC since January 25, 2002.

Gary handles a hectic schedule and makes daily adjustments to accommodate the fluctuations of travel needs with a calm professional manner. His years of experience and training have served him well and are instrumental in the successful daily dispatching of RTEC's services.



Gary Scott, RTEC, was presented the KPTA Award for Outstanding Dispatcher of the Year by Jodi Alford, TACK.

Gary has been dispatching the RTEC fleet for over five years. Prior to jumping on board the RTEC bus, he worked in a factory for 24 years and brought computer knowledge and skills to his position at RTEC. His loyalty to his previous employer was apparent and helped him with the opportunity to dispatch for RTEC. When he accepted his position as dispatcher in January of 2002, his computer and personable skills immediately complemented his position in the transportation industry. Gary has served RTEC well.

It goes without saying that dispatching is a hectic and challenging position. It is not unheard of for a dispatcher to juggle two or three phone calls, radio communications, and computer operation all at the same time. Gary manages to do all these tasks and maintain his calm, collected composure in even the most heated or stressful situations. He is quick to solve problems and find alternate routes to unforeseen transportation barriers. He has exceptional attendance and is very dependable. Gary is very familiar with all 12 counties RTEC operates in and knows every driver by the sound of their voice (well over 130 at any given time). So he can interchangeably cover any dispatch station without difficulty. He is also very helpful and skilled at making driver schedules when schedulers take vacations.

The 2007 Driver of the Year was presented to Joe Miller from TANK, Miller has exemplary customer service skills and because of such is continually picked to operate added service. He is a very dedicated employee and has always been

flexible with his schedule to work around the organization's needs. In his 15 years of service he has developed a reputation of professionalism and ability to handle the most sensitive of situations. His exceptional interpersonal skills, patience, and generous heart have won him the respect and admiration of both his peers and superiors. Miller maintains a positive attitude even under the most challenging and stressful of situations and always has a smile on his face.



Joe Miller, TANK, presented with the KPTA Award for Outstanding Driver of the Year from Shirley Lewis, CVADD.

Since the beginning of his career as a bus operator, Miller has always represented our organization at special events, parades, and school presentations. He mentors other bus operators and is always willing to lend them a helping hand. He also, at one time, served as Tankman, our organization's mascot.

Aside from his great personality and people skills, Miller maintains excellent attendance and safety record (no preventable accidents in seven years). Miller is an all-around great operator and individual (and a huge NASCAR fan).

The third award was presented to Wilma

Betts Massie from the American Red Cross WHEELS Louisville as the 2007 KPTA Volunteer of the Year. Wilma works tirelessly for the WHEELS program. She averages over 25 hours per week in our office as an Administrative Assistant. She accumulates



Daniele Milholland, FTSB presented Wilma Betts Massie ARC-Louisville with 2007 Volunteer of the Year.

Continued on Page 10

Another Record October for Lextran

For a second consecutive October, Transit Authority of Lexington (LexTran), hit an all-time high number of passenger boardings. Increased overall ridership and passenger fares resulted in a total of **360,718** boardings for the month, compared with the previous one month high of **333,541** in October, 2006, an increase of 8.1%.

Increases were seen across the board, including total passenger fares, transfers, University of Kentucky students and passes, and a new and improved football shuttle during UK home games.

LexTran General Manager Terry Garcia Crews said the new record is a reflection of service improvements, increased frequency, and community attitudes about mass transit.

"With gasoline prices hovering at three dollars per gallon, consumers are looking for transportation alternatives and ways to save money. There seems to be a renewed interest in public transportation in Lexington, and we at LexTran are doing all that we can to serve the community in that capacity," she added.

KPTA presents

Continued from Page 4

data, completes reports, works on the monthly billings, performs secretarial duties, works on special projects, purchases supplies, maintains departmental files, does computer data entry, monitors drivers, coordinates other volunteers, assists both the Director and Assistant Director with their duties, serves as a Backup Scheduler and, on occasion, drives. Basically, she supports this program with a tremendous amount of time, energy, talent, and dedication. We would be hard pressed to function without her help.

Wilma joined the Louisville Area Chapter of the Red Cross as a secretary on paid staff. She was here when the Transportation program started in the seventies and has remained here ever since. Some time back, she retired from her paid position. The next day, she was back as a volunteer doing the same things as before with the same dedication she has always brought to her job.

Ms. Massie's knowledge of transportation in general and the WHEELS program in particular make her an excellent sounding board for ideas, a confidant for discussions, and a trusted advisor. Over the years we have had many good volunteers. None, however, have provided the magnitude of assistance as we receive from Wilma. We sincerely appreciate all that she does for Louisville WHEELS program and hope that you will convey that appreciation to her by honoring her with this award.

Among the recent successes of LexTran's service has been the revamped UK Football Express. This year, a campus circulator was added to the regular downtown to campus route, along with an express route from the Red Mile for fans from Louisville, LSU, and Florida. So far this year, the football shuttle has carried a total of 4,253 passengers. Last year's total was 1,099.

FTSB goes public

Federated Transportation Services of the Bluegrass, Inc. (FTSB) becomes a public transit provider. FTSB has taken over public transportation in Bourbon, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties and a deviated fixed route system in Morehead.

FTSB started their organization in 1981 as a transit coordinator and in 1999 became a transportation broker in Fayette County and now they are the newest public transit provider in Kentucky.

The City of Morehead (Morehead Area Transit) did not want to continue managing the deviated fixed route system, but they wanted to keep the service. FTSB stepped up the plate and took over the system with an aggressive marketing plan. FTSB's Rural Transit Coordinator, Kevin Leek met with business operators, Morehead State University and others in the area to make the public aware of the service. FTSB began using the radio, local newspaper, student newspaper and flyers in the area. Ridership has increased tremendously and FTSB has extended service hours from 5 a.m.-7:30 p.m. daily and added Saturday to the schedule.

FTSB has also taken over Community Action Transit System (CATS) in Bourbon, Harrison and Nicholas Counties as a demand response public transportation provider.



FTSB's staff from left to right: Kevin Leek, Pam Shepherd, Sharon Burge, Petra Espinosa, Michelle Brooks and Daniele Milholland.

KPTA KPTA Award winners from OTD

EASTERN REGION SECTION 5311

What can I say? They have had their hands full! Since taking the position, the Director has had some controversy and adversity to overcome. She has handled it all with grace, and never seemed to sweat it!

The agency serves a rural five county area including Floyd, Pike, Johnson, Magoffin and Martin Counties. The Agency is under the direction of a very dedicated individual, Executive Director, Joyce Hinkle. We would like to recognize the Eastern Region, Section 5311 Agency, **Sandy Valley Transportation Services, Inc.**

CENTRAL REGION SECTION 5311

Our office received numerous requests for those needing transportation in Harrison, Nicholas, and Bourbon Counties. The winning Agency stepped up to the plate when Public Transportation was not available. A great marketing plan was implemented, and ridership is increasing each month.

They also answered the call when Morehead Transit asked for assistance in running their program. They have increased public awareness, ridership, and are improving the overall accessibility of Public Transportation in Morehead.

The agency has been more than willing to assist other agencies and the State in times of need. For that reason, we are pleased to announce that **FTSB** is most deserving of the FY 2007 Central KY 5311 Award.

WESTERN REGION SECTION 5311

The Western Region Transit system of the year is a medium sized Section 5311 Agency. Over the last five years or so this agency has taken many steps to improve their administrative organization and the efficiency of service delivery.

The agency used 100% local funds to build a small but sufficient and most of all efficient maintenance facility. In the last year alone they have completed two capital grants, one of them for a central office facility. Both of these grants were brought in under budget and ahead of schedule, a considerable accomplishment when dealing with a construction project!

The agency's very conservative fiscal management has been second to none in making use

of limited federal, state and local funds. They provided 79,560 trips and traveled 878,580 miles.

This year's award for the Western Region System of the year goes to the **Fulton County Transit Authority**. We would like to mention that Kenney Etherton, former transit manager and current City manager shares part of the credit for this award.

STATEWIDE SECTION 5311

Next we would like to present our Statewide Section 5311 Award. The Agency has been in operation since 1986. They have won numerous awards in the past and we would like to add this one to the collection! They operate a demand-response system, in the following counties in eastern Kentucky: Clay, Jackson, Lee, Owsley, and Wolfe.

This may be the first for them with their new name: We would like to recognize The Statewide Section 5311 the **Daniel Boone Community Action Agency, Inc.**

STATEWIDE SECTION 5310

This agency is the largest 5310 system in the state, and provides transportation to the Elderly and Disabled in the counties of Jefferson, Bullitt, Spencer, Shelby, Oldham, Henry and Trimble. In FY07, over 137,000 Elderly and Disabled persons were transported in this seven-county area.

This agency operates a fleet of 73 vehicles.

Louisville Red Cross WHEELS continues to demonstrate their ability to provide this needed service in a superb manner, and we are honored to present this award.

STATEWIDE DBE

We are excited to award this year's Statewide Outstanding Transit System for utilization of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises to an agency that went over their goal for FY07. As a matter of fact, it was 6,000 % over their goal. The award goes to the **Community Action of Southern KY**.

CLEAN FUEL AWARD TARC and TANK

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KPTA Conference addressed by many speakers



David Clawson, National Bus Sales spoke on Accident Prevention.



Ed Wilson, General Counsel for Health and Family Services discussed HIPAA Regulations.



Lynn O'Connell from the University of Kentucky Transportation Center did a review on ITS adaptations of Transit Agencies in Kentucky.



Joe Crabtree with the University of Kentucky Transportation Center.



Wilbur Smith's Tim Sorenson



Chris Zeilinger, CTA, talked about the "Changes in Buy America & Charter Bus Regulations and Whats New in the Federal Regulations".



Stan Cave, Governor Fletchers Chief of Staff.



Learning Through Laughter with Bob Owen a Motivational Speaker.

Dr. Howard Taylor, National Toxicology Specialist discussed the problems with drug testing in a Mock Drug Testing Training.

Franzoni and Aiello head up TANK

Mary Lou Franzoni was named general manager of the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky, in Fort Wright. In her new position, she is responsible for day-to-day internal operations and management of the \$19 million agency.

Franzoni, a contracted manager from First Transit, has more than 20 years of experience in the transit industry. Recent positions include transportation director at Chapel Hill Transit in Chapel Hill, N.C., assistant general manager at Alexandria Transit Company in Alexandria, Va., and operations manager at Foothill Transit in West Covina, Calif.

The TANK Board of Directors recently announced Andrew Aiello as deputy general manager, a newly created position, responsible for external relations for the three-county transit agency. Aiello will focus on government relations, communication with external stakeholders, and will oversee marketing, planning, and communications efforts.

The TANK board renewed its management contract with First Transit last April. The new contract, effective July 1, will run three years with two one-year options. First Transit has managed TANK for 35 years.

Aiello, a TANK employee since 2004, most recently served as assistant director of communications and development. Prior to that, he was senior planner for Atlanta's metropolitan planning organization, the Atlanta Regional Commission. Aiello began his career at the Georgia DOT, managing the environmental compliance process for major transportation projects.

Portions taken from Passenger Transport, June 25, 2007.

New Employee in OTD

Wendell Clark is the newest employee at the Office of Transportation Delivery. He brings diverse skills and experience as he serves as Project Manager for the following agencies: Frankfort Transit, Paducah Transit, Murray Calloway Transit, Fulton County Transit, City of Bowling Green, Bowling Green Housing Authority, and the Central Kentucky Community Action Council.

Wendell is a native of Worthington, Kentucky and attended Raceland High School. Upon graduation from Raceland, Wendell attended



Wendell Clark

Berea College. While at Berea, he received many awards and served as Senior Class President.

After college, Wendell joined the U. S. Navy and served aboard the USS Montpelier, a

fast-attack submarine out of Norfolk, VA. After his tenure in the service, Wendell and his wife, Sarah, then moved to Knoxville, TN, where he worked on the Department of Energy programs at BWXT Y-12 Weapon's Facility. Wendell then attended the University of Akron School of Law, and actively participated in many activities including the Moot Court Honor Society and the Akron Trial Team.

2007 Kentucky Transit Hall

Continued from Page 1

tions Director at Owensboro Transit, Gary Kitchin, General Manager with Paducah Transit Authority and Gail Mayeux, retired from Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Office of Transportation Delivery.

Congratulations to the new inductees they are well desired of this honor.

'PACS driver is counselor on wheels'

Varied lives come together under PACS bus driver's care

The first rider of the day is a neatly dressed, gray-haired woman who climbs aboard the minibus with a tote bag in her hand. She has Alzheimer's disease.

She rides the bus frequently, and she prefers a seat on the front row. Finding her place, she settles in and stares through a tinted window into the morning sun.

The door closes against the November chill. "Swoosh." It sounds like a big, grateful exhale.

"Can you fasten your seat belt?" The driver asks, glancing up at the woman's image framed in a mirror next to the sun visor.

"I think I can," she says.

A warning signal beeps. The bus backs onto LaFayette Road.

Brenda Mackey and her passenger begin their trek across town to an adult care center, and another day begins for Pennyriple Allied Community Services (PACS) bus No. 7 in Hopkinsville.

Mackey, a 34-year-old single mother, drives about 150 miles every weekday for PACS. She keeps a picture of herself and her 2-year-old son, Jacob, taped to the sun visor. A little angel medallion dangles on a string from the rear view mirror.

The bus can carry 12 passengers in seats and two in wheelchairs.

There is a mechanical lift on the rear passenger side to raise wheelchairs up into the bus.

Mackey works the control on the lift and often says something like, "Are you ready, kiddo?" As if she and her passenger are about to ascend on a carnival ride. Many of Mackey's passengers are old enough to be her grandparents. She babies them, especially the ones in wheelchairs.

This isn't the best-paying job Mackey has had since finishing high school. She's been a cosmetologist, a teacher's aide and a medical office assistant. She's worked in a factory and in a nursing home.

Mackey, who was hired by PACS in February, she believes it is the most rewarding job she's had.

Mackey sees herself as a counselor on wheels. As the bus creaks and rattles over every pothole in the road, she considers her passengers' hardships.

Quite simply, it is Mackey's job to move people around who can't move very easily. Some are old and fragile. Some are ill. Some have emotional or mental disabilities. Some just can't afford a car.

In school, many people learn a harsh joke degrading people who ride the "short bus." Mackey has thought of that often since she began working for PACS.

"I used to make fun of the short bus. Now I drive the short bus," she says.

Mackey sees things every day that many people can ignore. She sees people at their best and at their worst.

Every passenger has a different need.

Last summer, a man in his 20's with cerebral palsy slipped out of his wheelchair before Brenda could get him out of his house and into the bus. As he fell to the floor, she grabbed him around the chest and went down with him. Then she stayed down on the floor with him until help arrived.

Some of Mackey's passengers seem to not recognize where they are or where they are headed. They sit bundled up in a wheelchair with a blank stare. Usually, they are going from a nursing home to a dialysis center or a doctor's office.

The cars around the bus, the ones with young, healthy drivers, cannot see into the bus. But Mackey cannot avoid the reality of her passengers' experiences.

"Sometimes your life fits into everybody else's life. You see a little bit of yourself in all of them."

Today, like most days, Mackey's zigzagging route around Hopkinsville and Christian County will begin to wind down when she picks up several workers from Trace Industries on the bypass. Trace employs people with disabilities.

For the first time on this day, the bus is noisy. The talk turns to Thanksgiving plans and favorite pies — chocolate, chess and pecan.

"Can I come to your house for Thanksgiving, Scott?" Asks a young man whose voice is hopeful and childlike.

"Yeah, I'll have plenty."

"Where do you live, Scott? I bet it's pretty where you live."

One by one, they depart.

The last rider is a middle-age woman who is staying temporarily in a private home in the county. She tells Mackey that she is ready to go back to her regular group home. She is lonely in this new place.

Mackey listens, but then it is time to let her passenger go.

She stops the bus and opens the door.

"OK, princess, here we are. Home sweet home."

Quick Info: The PACS buses Pennyriple Allied Community Services runs 63 cars, vans and minibuses in the nine-county Pennyriple region. The non-profit agency employs 67 drivers.

PACS provides about 20,000 passenger rides a month. Vehicles travel about 40,000 miles a month. On average, PACS uses 9,500 gallons of fuel a month.

Medicaid and other funding sources generate about \$175,000 a month for the largest portion of the transportation service.

Transportation is available to anyone age 60 or older at no cost. Younger passengers, who are not covered by medical or social services programs, pay \$4 round trip in the city of Hopkinsville, or slightly more for roundtrip transportation in the county.

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