

Minutes from the MAPT Region 8 meeting on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 held at Zeeland Public Schools Transportation Center. We had just over 20 Region 8 members in attendance for the meeting and we welcomed Carrie Barnhart from Otsego our newest member.

Jane Bykerk shared with the group about the National Technician Competition held in Texas. Hudsonville Technician Mike Knopper and Traverse City Technician Dean Councilar represented Michigan in the competition. The mechanics learned a lot and enjoyed their time in Texas competing against other Technicians from across the country. Hats off to Bill Tousley who started implementing the Technician Competition during the Mechanics Expo.

Darrell Stoughton Transportation Director in Allegan is looking at schedules and tentatively the School Bus Rodeo is scheduled to be held again at Allegan Middle and High School.

We welcomed our guest Gary Bubar the new MAPT Executive Director. He shared with our group concerning proposed legislation and changes to some legislation that have happened regarding the school bus safety zone around buses and the motor carrier safety act which allows insulin dependent diabetics to drive a school bus. Talked about concern of school bus inspections and what folks are working at coming up with a process that will make sure inspections happen on a timely manner.

President Elect, Cindy Bourdon was at the meeting and is looking at locations for our MAPT Conference and Technicians, Support Staff Expo. Also Gary Bubar is working with Butch Hart to come with a location for the driving championship. These events were held during the same week last year.

Gary Bubar gave a presentation about children and their stages of development in regards to traffic safety. A video on children and traffic safety was very informative. Very good conversation was held regarding students and how they think and process information and why they do some of the things they do. Why and how we can make loading/unloading zones safer.

Allendale Public Schools and Grandville Public Schools are using Zonar for their GPS location and mapping. Zeeland Public Schools received a \$50,000 Grant through NAPT and Zonar to install the hardware in the Zeeland Public School buses sometime between now and Christmas.

Other items talked about, fact sheets look at information and handouts regarding safety of school buses compared to other vehicles. We handed out three different fact sheets put out by NHTSA. www.NHTSA.gov

- Fact #1 from NHTSA, that school buses keep an annual estimated 17.3 million cars off the road surrounding schools each day, making air cleaner.
- Fact #2, from NHTSA, school buses are the safest mode of transportation for getting children back and forth to school and gave some percentages and statistics about teen drivers, adult drivers and school buses.

- Fact #3, from NHTSA, school buses are designed to be safer than passenger vehicles in avoiding crashes and preventing injuries and talked about the differences of the bus compared to Mom and Dad's cars.

Good information to share with your Administrative Team, PTO's, drivers and staff.

Spring Lake shared how they have eliminated over 300 stops this school year to reduce cost in their transportation department. Also they eliminated noon kindergarten transportation.

Rockford shared the results of the crash that they had this school year with an empty school bus. When the driver opened the first aid kit he found that the band aids and some of the other supplies of gauze had pretty much crystallized. So this is just a reminder note for all districts regarding the useful life of materials in your first aid kit. Have you ever replaced the bandages, gauze, compression bandages, or the contents of the bodily fluid clean up kit?

Our Region shared with Cindy, the President Elect and Gary Bubar about what perceives to be a lack of communication from MAPT to the membership. However, "The Road Ahead" is not put out in hard copy and it is electronic and a lot a people don't understand that or understand when the electronic copy for the "Road Ahead" comes out so that they can view it and can stay up to date on issues regarding student transportation.