

TRANSIT EXPRESS

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The Newsletter of the Wyoming Public Transit Association

News from October 2011, WYTRANS Board Meeting

The Wyoming Public Transit Association Board of Directors held a meeting October 12, 2011 in Casper, Wyoming. The following are some of the highlights from the meeting.

Change in Training Procedures

WYTRANS will no longer charge its members a fee to attend paratransit driver training sessions. Instead of class attendees paying a registration fee, the board decided to revamp the structure of membership dues. Total WYTRANS membership dues will now be based on an agency's transit budget as well as the number of buses the agency operates.

Change in Reimbursement Policy for WYTRANS Members

Reimbursements for training expenses will now be paid by WYDOT only. WYTRANS will not be offering reimbursements for training expenses. This change applies to WYTRANS Conference expenses as well as driver training courses. **All training expenses may be submitted to WYDOT for reimbursement.** Requests for training expense reimbursements should be submitted to WYDOT on the regular monthly billing report. WYTRANS will have scholarships available to help with training expenses.

WYTRANS Conference Details

The 2012 WYTRANS Annual Conference will be held June 20-22, in Gillette, Wyoming. This year's conference will again feature a mandatory WYDOT funding session on Friday, June 22, 2012. Look for additional details about the conference in an upcoming issues of *The Wyoming Transit Express*.

The official board minutes will not be approved until the next board meeting.

Welcome and Farewells

WYTRANS would like to welcome **Gary Gilbert** of the Carbon County Senior Center to the WYTRANS Board of Directors. Gary was appointed by the board to fill the remaining portion of **Marge Myers'** term. Marge retired from her position in Crook County this summer.

Also, retiring this year is WYDOT Local Government Coordinator, **Rich Douglass**. Rich has been a valuable asset to public transit in Wyoming and he will be missed.

Thank you Marge and Rich, for your years of service and best of luck in your future endeavors!



2012 Legislative Reception

The Wyoming Public Transit Association will be holding its annual reception to thank all Wyoming Legislators for their hard work and service.

The reception, which is hosted jointly by WYTRANS, AARP Wyoming and the Wyoming Association of Senior Project Directors, will be held **March 5, 2012**. All WYTRANS members are encouraged to attend to personally thank their local representatives.



Current WYTRANS Trainers *As of 10-31-2011*

Ed Baker

CATC, Casper

Gloria Bulow

Child Development Services, Riverton

Tina Fisher

Eppson Center for Seniors, Laramie

Jim Forrest

STAR, Rock Springs

Jerry Franklin

Senior Friendship Center, Torrington

Isabelle Hoenes

Child Development Services, Riverton

Emily Howery

Community Entry Services, Riverton

Aubrey Hutchings

Coach America, Gillette

Renae Jording

Cheyenne Transit Program

Roberta King

WRTA, Riverton

Jim Krubeck

Cody Council on Aging

Lori Lowham

Lincoln Self Reliance, Kemmerer

Deanna Mason

Salt River Center, Afton

Jeremy Minor

START—Jackson

Joe Park

Lincoln Self Reliance, Afton

Misty Plott-Barbula

Sheridan Senior Citizen's Council

JD Smith

Weston County Senior Services, Newcastle

William Uhl

UW Transit & Parking Services, Laramie

Gregg Witzgall

START—Jackson

Letter from WYTRANS Trainer Liaison - Faye Nash

Hi everyone. Hope all is going well. Just want to remind everyone that has not returned their choices for the dates of the Bus Roadeo for 2012 to in fact do so as soon as possible. I know summer seems a long way off, but it will be here sooner than we think. I will be sending to all the trainers a copy of the "Transit Driver Study Guide for the WY-TRANS Bus Roadeo" as soon as I get it updated. This study guide will be sent to all the drivers who register to attend the roadeo. Also a note to the trainers, once you become a trainer you are no longer able to compete in the roadeo. I will be sending a flyer to everyone as soon as the date, times and place has been set. Please make copies and post everywhere.

On another note--hope your training is going great guns. I am anxious to come watch you do your thing. Please let Jaime and myself know as soon as you have set a date.

Keep in mind---good performance is taken for granted, poor performance is always recognized. 

Letter from WYTRANS Board President

The WYTRANS Board of Directors is seeking the input of all WYTRANS members with regard to updating the bylaws of our organization. The bylaws were last updated in 2003.

Please take this opportunity to read the current bylaws and understand what changes are being proposed. An electronic version of the bylaws may be found on the WYTRANS web site at <http://www.wytrans.org/bylaws-2003.pdf>.

The Board will have a conference call on December 7, 2011, to discuss proposed changes. All proposed changes or amendments must be approved by a majority vote of WYTRANS members. Voting will be by written ballot. Ballots and the proposed changes will be mailed to all WYTRANS members following the December conference call.

Thank you for your time, effort, and dedication to the Wyoming Public Transit Association.

Sincerely,

Jeri Bottenfield

Jeri Bottenfield
WYTRANS Board President



The Purpose of WYTRANS and the Benefits of WYTRANS Membership

The mission of the Wyoming Public Transit Association (WYTRANS) is *to advocate for transit, coordinate transit, and educate the public about transit*. WYTRANS accomplishes these purposes through representing the Wyoming Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grantees in coordination with the Wyoming Department of Transit (WYDOT), FTA and with the Wyoming legislature. In the past, WYTRANS has successfully lobbied the legislature to increase the amount of funding available for public transit in Wyoming.

Some basic goals of WYTRANS are:

- Seek out more funding for transit.
- Provide safe, cost effective rides to meet local transit needs.
- Train drivers and managers.
- Facilitate support and coordination between agencies.

WYTRANS provides manager and driver training for grantees, using Federal Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) funds provided by WYDOT. WYTRANS offers various training workshops and certifications at very nominal costs. ***The training program is for all transit providers***, and with a WYTRANS membership, transit providers pay no registration fees for training such as *TSI Paratransit Operator*. In response to FTA's mandatory drug and alcohol testing for safety sensitive transit employees, WYTRANS provides training materials and support by having information on testing services and FTA requirements.

Additional information about WYTRANS is available on the website at www.wytrans.org.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 7, 2011— WYTRANS Board Conference Call

March 5, 2012—Legislative Reception—Cheyenne

March 6, 2012 — WYTRANS Board Meeting—Cheyenne

June 20-22, 2012—WYTRANS Annual Conference—Gillette

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