

TRANSIT EXPRESS

Visit us online at www.wytrans.org

The Newsletter of the Wyoming Public Transit Association

2007 WYTRANS AWARDS

WYTRANS honored outstanding transit professionals October 13 at the annual awards banquet, held in conjunction with the 19th Annual Conference and Bus Rodeo. Awards for WYTRANS Agency of the Year, Transit Administrator of the Year, Dispatcher and Driver were selected by WYTRANS members. The 2007 winners are highlighted in this edition of *The Wyoming Transit Express*.

2007 WYTRANS Agency of the Year Riverton Senior Center

Nomination by Linda Burt, Director

The Riverton Senior Center offers as one of their many services the Public Transportation Service for Riverton (RPTS). The Riverton Senior Center



Riverton Senior Center staff accepting award at Awards banquet.

continually promotes RPTS on their radio program, monthly newsletter, and flyers in the community. The Riverton Senior Center has expanded the services of RPTS

to include nearby transportation challenged communities. The expanded weekly services are meeting the needs of Hudson, Kinnear, and Pavillion.

RPTS brings riders into Riverton to shop for groceries, go to medical appointments, beauty shop appointments, to the Senior Center, meet with friends, and other activities. This has helped to eliminate the isolation of living in a small community. Our other expanded service includes a "medi-bus" that takes people to dialysis treatment, cardiac rehab, and therapy in nearby Lander. The "medi-bus" and extended services have proven to be an excellent addition to our services that are offered seven days a week.

RPTS is very visible in the community and an asset to the community and keeping people active in the community. Riverton Senior Center offers many services, programs, and activities to our seniors and community, focusing on health, community involvement, socialization, nutrition, transportation and others. The Riverton Senior Center coordinates services with businesses throughout the community. We participate in health fairs, winter fairs and other community projects and programs. For all the mentioned services, programs, and activities the Riverton Senior Citizens Center was named the 2007 WYTRANS Agency of the Year. 🚌

2007 Driver of the Year - John Fernandez

Nomination by Rita Farmer, Director Meeteetse Senior Citizens

John Fernandez, Director of the Meeteetse Recreation District, pilots the Recreation District van to Cody, Wyoming each and every week to ensure that Meeteetse's senior population has an opportunity to see their physicians, get medications, and groceries. He then takes them to their favorite restaurant to have lunch. Without this service many, if not all, would have to seek this type of individual care elsewhere. That could become a financial burden to a majority, not to mention the feelings they may harbor about being a nuisance or bother to someone else.

John makes sure that everyone has been taken care of and delivers them back home safe, happy, and emotionally secure in the knowledge that he will be there for them next week, and the week after that. He is always more than a shuttle driver; he has developed a true friendship with all involved. 🚌

2007 Transit Administrator of the Year Michael Wackerly

Nomination by Steve Ainslie, Transit Operations Manager

Michael is the Transit Administrator for Jackson's public transit system - START. Michael has held this position for five years and during that time, he has accomplished many things. Michael found the money,

through grants and other sources, to purchase thirteen buses at a cost of about \$3.5 million. This helped START build a new image and really become a successful transit system.

Michael's leadership and perseverance allowed us to set up commuter service to Teton Valley, Idaho. This was an extremely complicated process that was three years in the making. There were many hurdles

that had to be overcome. Not only were we dealing with the State of Idaho and two municipalities in Idaho, we were also dealing with a completely different FTA jurisdiction. But, service over



Michael Wackerly and Joe Dougherty

Teton Pass started on April 16th and is running smoothly.

Michael has also been working to find the funding for a permanent home for START. There is very little land in Jackson that is suitable for a bus barn and the cost is absolutely astronomical. But, that is not stopping Michael. START cannot grow until a permanent and adequately sized home is found, so this funding has to be found. Failure is not an option! This is a task that would easily overwhelm most people. But Michael continues to work towards that goal. He is tireless in this regard.

All of the above things are good for the organization. But Michael has also been good for the START staff in general and me in particular. Michael has a great sense of humor and always lends a sympathetic ear when I need someone to vent to. He helps me out when he sees I am swamped and provides encouragement. He is patient and understanding and provides friendly reminders of project due dates. For all of these things, Michael is the *WYTRANS Transit Administrator of the Year*. 🚗

2007 Dispatcher of the Year - Dennis Zoller

Nomination by Linda Burt, Riverton Senior Citizens Center

Dennis Zoller, Dispatcher/Supervisor for the Riverton Public Transportation Service (RPTS), has



Dennis Zoller and Joe Dougherty

been with RPTS for seven years and has proven to be an outstanding team leader. His "can do" attitude makes a positive impact on the whole transportation team. Dennis not only provides service as the supervisor and dispatcher, he drives the vehicles, works on the vehicles, keeps the bus garage in great shape, and is a team player that anyone would want on his/her team.

Dennis' positive attitude inspires all his team, and his enthusiasm is very contagious. Dennis is very conscientious about his work in all areas including his paperwork. The riders enjoy Dennis and his great sense of humor and caring attitude. He is kind to everyone he meets and will go the "extra mile" to help where he can. 🚗

Special Thanks



Debbie Ehlers, Libby and Steve Kurtz were honored at the Awards Banquet for their years of service to WYTRANS. Pictured above from left accepting awards from Joe Dougherty, WYTRANS President.

2007 WYTRANS BUS ROADEO WINNERS

The 19th Annual WYTRANS Bus Roadeo was held Saturday, October 13, at the Faith Assembly of God Church in Casper. Eleven contestants from transit and social service agencies around Wyoming competed for the first prize of \$1,000 and an all-expense paid trip to the 2008 National Bus Roadeo in New Orleans. **Deb Lind** from START in Jackson won the competition, scoring 603 points out of a possible 700.

Harold Shelley from Riverton Public Transportation placed second with 601 points. **Bruce Ruward** also from Riverton Public Transportation was third with a score of 597 points. **René Velis-Merino** of START placed fourth with 593 points. **June Kossert** of CATC placed fifth with 588 points.

WYTRANS would like to thank the Bus Roadeo Coordinators, judges and volunteers who helped make the day a success. The roadeo competition could not be done without volunteers! Mark your calendars now for the 2008 Bus Roadeo to be held in Jackson on October 4, 2008. 🚗



START Driver Deb Lind accepts first place certificate and check from WYTRANS President Joe Dougherty at the Bus Roadeo Awards Banquet, October 13, in Casper.



Harold Shelley, Second Place



Bruce Ruward, Third Place



René Velis-Merino, Fourth Place

Escort Competition Winners



René Velis-Merino and Deb Lind, First Place



Mervyn Mills and JoAnn Myers, Second Place

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 WYTRANS Award Winners
- 2 WYTRANS Award Winners Continued
- 2 Special Thanks
- 3 WYTRANS Bus Rodeo Winners

The Wyoming Transit Express is published by the Wyoming Public Transit Association, 21444 Highway 150 South, Evanston, Wyoming, 82930. This publication is made possible through a grant from the Section 5311 Rural Transportation Assistance Program from the Federal Transit Administration through the Wyoming Department of Transportation, 5300 Bishop Boulevard, Cheyenne, WY 82009.

Thank you to all of the 2007 Conference Donors!

CATC – Casper Area Transportation Coalition

Cheyenne Transit Program

Douglas Senior Center

Emily Howery, Riverton

Holiday Inn on the River, Casper

Mobilitat

START, Town of Jackson

The Braun Corporation



WYTRANS
21444 HWY 150 S.
Evanston, WY 82930
Phone: (307) 679-3220
www.wytrans.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

