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AND
ROADEO
2016**



August 5 - 8, 2016

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Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport**

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ROADEO AGENDA

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 6TH

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Driver registration & Photographs Taken

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM Mandatory Drivers Meeting [Waverly Room]

12:30 PM - COMPLETED Mandatory Driver Written Testing (Paratransit) [Dunmore Room]

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Mandatory Pre-Trip (Fixed Route and Paratransit)

Mandatory Passenger Assistance/ Wheelchair Securement (Paratransit)

12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Judges Registration

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Mandatory Judges Meeting [Dunmore Room]

5:15 PM Depart for the RailRiders baseball game from hotel lobby

Transportation sponsored by
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SUNDAY, AUGUST 7TH

***All attendees must take transportation provided to and from hotel and airport. First shuttle leaves at 6:30am**

7:00 AM Driver Check-In/Continental Breakfast [Airport]

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7:30 AM Driver Walk-thru / Judges Check-In [Airport]

8:00 AM Rodeo Competition begins at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Airport

Water & Snacks sponsored by



AFTERNOON

Award Presentation & Luncheon at Hilton Scranton [Electric City Ballroom]

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SAVE THE DATES

for the PPTA 2017 Winter Meeting

January 11-13, 2017

**at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel,
State College**



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2016 PARATRANSIT DRIVERS

Vince R. Athorn

Lebanon Transit

Vince resides in Lebanon, Pa with his wife Darlene. They have 5 children. He has been a paratransit van operator for 8 years, 3 months. This will be his first PPTA state roadeo. Vince says "I thoroughly enjoy serving others. I have had a service-type job most of my life. Although I am nervous about the roadeo, I am excited about the competition aspect of it. Every day is a new challenge in a driving vocation, but it is the customers I pick up that make the experience worthwhile.

Robert "Bobby" Christman

Wayne County Transportation

Bobby resides in Waymart, Pa with his wife Nancy. They have 3 children and 10 grandchildren. Bobby says "I am excited to compete with other experienced drivers. My most interesting driving experience was driving across country with my wife Nancy and my dog, 10,000 miles. I enjoy meeting different people and senior citizens. I make it a point for everybody to feel safe have an enjoyable time".

James Downam

Suburban Transit - Easton Coach - Norristown

James resides in Norristown, Pa with his wife Karen. He has been a bus operator for 3 years. This is his 6th state roadeo. Out of the 5 times he was the state champion twice. He has also had the opportunity to participate in the National Roadeo 2 times. James says "I am a retired Marine. Helping others less fortunate brings me the greatest joy. I find every day an interesting experience dealing with consumers. I am proud to say I have been married for 20 years and have a wonderful son".

Kyle Hess

Easton Coach

Kyle resides in Nazareth, Pa with his son Eric. He has been bus operator for 4 years; he operates the Chevy Express 3500 paratransit Van. This will be his 4th PPTA state roadeo. Kyle says "I love the transportation industry and working in it. I enjoy the roadeos because it is a great way to show case my skills as a driver. My most interesting driving experience was driving during Hurricane Sandy. I love my job".

Danielle "DJ" Johns

Suburban Transit Network, Inc. - TransNet

DJ resides in Schwenksville, Pa with her husband Chad and their two children. She has been a bus operator for 2 years and operates the 25' wheelchair bus. This will be her first PPTA state roadeo. She has achieved the TransNet Partner Award and was awarded the Employee of the month in December 2014. DJ says "I am nervous but excited about competing in my first roadeo. Driving for TransNet is actually my first job. I really like meeting and helping people. I never pictured myself as a professional driver but I have grown to love the day-to-day challenges of the job".

George Johnson

Suburban Transit Network, Inc - Buxmont Transportation

George resides in Warminster, Pa with his wife Helen. They have 4 children and 10 grandchildren. He has been an operator for 13 years and operates the Wheelchair Van. He has participated in 4 PPTA state roadeos and 1 APTA roadeo. He has placed 2nd & 3rd in previous years. George says "I enjoy reading, music and meeting other people. I also enjoy traveling".

Andrew "Andy" Kirka

Suburban Transit Network, Inc. - Tri County

Andy resides in East Greenville, Pa with his wife Jean. This will be his first roadeo. Andy says "I am 36 years old, married and have 4 step children. I am very excited to participate in this roadeo. While driving, I see interesting things every day. I love my job; I love to help folks every day. I believe in helping out my community every day. I love working with my fellow coworkers".

Kelly Kreps

Perry County Transportation Authority

Kelly resides in Newport, Pa with her husband Ben. She has been a bus operator for 15 years. This will be her first roadeo.

Bernie Lamont

Perry County Transportation Authority

Bernie resides in Millerstown, Pa with his wife Linda. They have 2 children and 3 grandchildren. He has been driving as a bus operator for 2 years. This will be his first PPTA roadeo. Bernie says "I really like my job".

Russ "Hodge" Little

Perry County Transportation Authority

Hodge resides in Newport, Pa with his wife Barbara. He has been a bus operator for 10 years. This will be his first PPTA roadeo.

Joseph "Joe" McDaniel

MV Transportation - Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

Joe resides in Philadelphia, Pa. He has been a bus operator for 19 years. This will be his first PPTA roadeo. He has achieved 12 awards including the Driver of the Year Award. Joe says "I take my job very seriously; I am excited to compete since I have never done it before. I love my clients and look forward to seeing them. Knowing they depend on me makes me happy".

Sheila L. Miller

rabbitransit - Central Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

Sheila resides in Middleburg, Pa with her husband Stephen. They have 3 grown kids and 3 grandchildren. She has been a bus operator for 6 years. She operates the 17 Passenger Paratransit bus. This will be her first roadeo. Sheila says "I am very excited to be competing in the roadeo. One of my most interesting driving experiences was when I was driving a school bus. I got rear-ended by a student; he said he couldn't see the bus because he was blinded by the sun. I love my job and think the people I work with are great".

Thomas "Tom" Murray

Wayne County Transportation

Tom resides in Honesdale, Pa. He has been a bus operator for 13 years. This will be his first PPTA roadeo.

Krista "Krissy" Prentice

Suburban Transit Network, Inc. - Buxmont Transportation

Krista resides in Willow Grove, Pa. She has 3 children and 3 grandchildren. She has been an operator for 4 years and operates the Paratransit Vehicle. She placed 3rd in PPTA's 2014 State Roadeo and in 2015 competed in the National Roadeo and WON Most Spirited Award. Krista says "I enjoy coming to the Roadeos to compete, meet new drivers and share stories. I enjoy driving my customers to various locations, knowing they appreciate the service. Free time, I play the viola in several orchestras and try to find time for my grandchildren".

Sean Sowers

First Transit – Access Transportation

Sean resides in Finleyville, Pa. He has been a bus operator for 5 years. He operates the Lift Paratransit Ford E450. This is his 2nd PPTA roadeo. Sean says "I feel honored to compete in the roadeos. I enjoy my job very much. I like meeting passengers. They are the most rewarding part of my job".

Leon Tann

MV Transportation - Southeastern Pennsylvania

Transportation Authority

Leon resides in Abington, Pa with his wife Shelly. They have two children. He has been a bus operator for 18 years. This will be his first PPTA roadeo. He achieved the "Driver of the Year" award in 2014. Leon says "I like sports, spending time with my daughter and going out with the "Mrs.". I love this chance to compete, win big and bring another title home. My driving experience is good and I love my job of 18 years and counting".

Sean Tompkins

County of Lackawanna Transit System

Sean resides in Clarks Summit, Pa with Sandy and their 2 children. He has been a bus operator for 18 years. This will be his first roadeo. Sean says "I am a family guy who loves camping, and traveling. I am a cycling coach / STS Cycling of Pa. I am a small business owner. I take pride in my work and enjoy helping with the public. I am looking forward to testing my driving skills in this roadeo".

Art Ware

County of Lackawanna Transit System

Art lives in Jefferson Township, Pa with his wife Sarah and son Brady. He has been a bus operator for 13 ½ years. This will be his first PPTA roadeo. Art says "I am honored to have been selected by the staff of County of Lackawanna Transit System to participate in this roadeo. I have too many interesting driving experiences to name just one. COLTS is a rewarding place to work and a great company in general".

Virginia "Jenny" Zeszutek

First Transit - Freedom Transit Washington County

Jenny resides in Beallsville, Pa with her husband Mark and son Logan. She has been a bus operator for 3 ½ years. She operates the Paratransit Ford E450. This will be her first PPTA roadeo. Jenny says "I am very excited to participate in my 1st roadeo. I enjoy helping passengers and my fellow employees".





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2016 FIXED ROUTE PARTICIPANTS

Glen Barber

Luzerne County Transportation Authority

Glen resides in Pringle, Pa with his wife Renee. They have 3 children. He has been a bus operator for 16 years. This will be his first roadeo. Glen says "The majority of my passengers have become like family and I enjoy meeting new people every day".

Ricardo Cancel

rabbitransit - Central Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

Ricardo resides in York, Pa with his wife Sheila LaBoy. They have 4 children. He has been a bus operator for 28 years; the past 6 with Rabbit Transit. He operates the 30' and the 40' bus. Over the years he has achieved the Safety Award and the 2010 Customer Choice Award. Ricardo says "I have passion for driving and also the roadeos give me the opportunity to improve my skills and meet other drivers from other transit systems".

Matthew Clinger

Altoona Metro Transit

Matthew resides in Altoona, Pa with his wife Clarissa. He has been a Gillig bus operator for 4 years. He has participated in 3 PPTA State Roadeos and 2 APTA roadeos. He placed 2nd 1 time and 3rd place 1 time at PPTA's state roadeo. Matthew says "I am excited to be competing in my fourth state roadeo. I am a father of two children and I am a volunteer fire fighter at Newburg Fire Department in Logan Township".

Percy Hagenbuch

Centre Area Transportation Authority

Percy resides in State College, Pa with his wife Melissa. They have one daughter, Emily. He has been a bus operator for the past 17 years. He drives the New Flyer & Gillig. Percy says "I'm an easy going guy who loves to participate in the roadeos because it sharpens your driving skills every year. I just love to drive and talk to my passengers on a daily basis".

William "Dale" Holland

Altoona Metro Transit

Dale resides in Altoona, Pa with his wife Jayne. They have one son. He has been a Gillig bus operator for 40 years. He has participated in 25 PPTA State roadeos and 6 APTA roadeos. He placed 1st place 3 times; 2nd place 2 times and 3rd place 4 times at PPTA's state roadeo. Dale says "Every day is a new experience".

Justin Holt

River Valley Transit

Justin resides in Williamsport, Pa with his wife Stacy and their 3 Children. He has been a Gillig bus operator for the past 6 years. This will be his 5th PPTA roadeo. This year he competed in the APTA roadeo in Charlotte NC. He has achieved the Safe Driver Award from NSC two times.

Leonard “Lenny” Howlett

River Valley Transit

Lenny resides in Williamsport, Pa with his wife, Irmtraud Meinghardt-Jones. They have 2 children. He has been a bus operator for 27 years. He operates Gillig and New Flyer buses. He has participated in 20 PPTA State roadeos and 9 APTA roadeos. He serves as the President for the Local 1496 ATU and has earned the Safe Driver Award from NSC for past 23 years.

Angela Kanj

Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority.

Angela resides in Erie, Pa with her spouse Khaled; they have 4 children. She has been a Gillig bus operator for 5 years. This will be her first PPTA roadeo. Angela says “After being a passenger for more than forty years I never imagined I would become a bus driver. My original goal after getting my class A license was to drive tractor trailer. With four children I wanted to stay close to home so I began working for the Ohio Department of Transportation as a Highway Technician. There I participated in 5 Truck roadeos. When I was asked to represent the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority, I was not only honored but excited for the opportunity to do this course in a passenger bus. As a driver, I have to say the most interesting thing are the passengers. The people you meet are so diverse, from the women dropping off her children at school to the elderly going to pick up groceries. They are all so grateful for the service we provide. Every day I feel like I have made someone’s day easier. Working for E.M.T.A. has not only been an excellent way to provide for my family, but it is also one of the most rewarding jobs I have ever had the privilege of working”.

Stan “Zippy” Karge

Luzerne County Transportation Authority

Stan resides Nanticoke, Pa. He has been a bus operator for 7 years. This will be his first PPTA roadeo. Zippy says “I enjoy the job and getting to know the passengers. I like being able to help the new passengers learn and understand our system. I am very glad to have the chance to represent L.C.T.A. in this roadeo.

Pat Kassor

Luzerne County Transportation Authority

Pat resides in Plains, Pa with his two children, Pat Jr. and Breanna. He has been a bus operator for 19 years. This will be his first PPTA roadeo. Pat says “I love dealing with the public and driving bus”.

Marcelo Motta

County of Lackawanna Transit System

Marcelo resides in Scranton, Pa and has 3 children. He has been a Gillig bus operator for 8 years. Marcelo says "This is going to be my first roadeo, I am excited but not confident yet".

William "Bill" Motyka

River Valley Transit

Bill resides in Williamsport, Pa with his wife Brittany and their 3 children. He has been a Gillig bus operator for 3 ½ years. He has participated in 2 PPTA roadeos. Bill says "I like providing transportation to the public and enjoy the challenge of the roadeo competition".

Randall "Randy" Norris

rabbittransit - Central Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

Randy resides in York, Pa with his wife Esther; he has 3 children and 1 grandchild. He has been a Gillig bus operator for 35 years. He has earned "Driver of the Year" award and several "Safety" awards. Randy says "It is a great privilege and honor to be away from my daily routine and be with drivers from different places to compete in the Roadeo. To compete is a challenge and exciting experience. Win or lose the victory is always in my heart as I do my best".

Thomas (OP) J. Oprosky

MV Transportation Inc. - Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority & Freedom Transit

Thomas resides in Belle Vernon, Pa. He has been a Gillig bus operator for 6 years. This will be his first PPTA roadeo. Thomas says "I am very humbled and honored to be in the roadeo. I am very happy with my job. I love the people I work with and the customers".

David Pricher

River Valley Transit

David resides in Williamsport, Pa with his wife Colleen and their 2 children. He has won the "Safe Driver Award" from NSC. David says "I have been employed by River Valley Transit as a bus operator for almost two years. This will be my first roadeo and I am very excited to compete. A very busy and exciting time for me was during the Little League Baseball season; I was able to transport people from around the globe. This job enables me to meet and interact with riders from the local community".

Zenon “John” Rinylo

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

John resides in Turnersville, NJ with his wife Lynn. They have 4 children and 5 grandchildren. He has been a bus operator for 38 years and operates the 40 ‘New Flyer. He has participated in 22 PPTA roadeos and 23 APTA roadeos. He has finished 23 times in 1st place at SEPTA’s ROADEO; 1st and 3rd place at the APTA roadeo and 17 1st place at PPTA’s roadeo. John says “I love competing in roadeos. I have met so many interesting people; I have learned a lot from other drivers and traveled to many parts of the country. My most interesting driving experience was when I was the bus driver in the movies “The Sixth Sense” and “Unbreakable”. Bruce Willis shook my hand and said “thank you”. At the same time they told me not to go over bumps because Haley Joel Osment’s chin was resting on the window sill of the bus. (Haley Joel Osment was the child actor in the movie) Talk about pressure”.

Victor Tarver

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

Victor resides in Philadelphia, Pa with his wife Crystal. Victor has one daughter and one grandchild. He has been a bus operator for 33 years and operates the 40’ New Flyer bus. He has participated in 7 PPTA roadeos; 1 APTA roadeos. He has achieved both the Safety and GM Customer Service Awards. Victor says “I find the job a daily challenge, yet enjoyable and satisfying. Most of all I enjoy providing safe courteous and professional service to our riders. I love the professionalism demonstrated daily and in each roadeo”.

Gary Worgan

MV Transportation Inc. - Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority and Freedom Transit

Gary resides in Washington, Pa with his wife Lillian and two daughters. Gary has been a Gillig Bus Operator for one year. Gary says “This will be my first PPTA roadeo, I feel it will be a fun experience! I am a people person, so being a Bus Operator is the right job for me. Every day is interesting because you never know what’s going to happen from one minute to another”.



SUMMER CONFERENCE AGENDA

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 6TH

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Driver registration & Photographs Taken

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM Mandatory Drivers Meeting [Waverly Room]

12:30 PM - COMPLETED Mandatory Driver Written Testing (Paratransit) [Dunmore Room]

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Mandatory Pre-Trip (Fixed Route and Paratransit)

Mandatory Passenger Assistance/ Wheelchair Securement (Paratransit)

12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Judges Registration

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Mandatory Judges Meeting [Dunmore Room]

5:15 PM Depart for the RailRiders baseball game from hotel lobby

Transportation sponsored by
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SUNDAY, AUGUST 7TH

***All attendees must take transportation provided to and from hotel and airport. First shuttle leaves at 6:30am**

7:00 AM Driver Check-In/Continental Breakfast [Airport]

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7:30 AM Driver Walk-thru / Judges Check-In [Airport]

8:00 AM Rodeo Competition begins at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Airport

Water & Snacks sponsored by



AFTERNOON

Award Presentation & Luncheon at Hilton Scranton [Electric City Ballroom]

Sponsored by



SUMMER CONFERENCE AGENDA

continued...

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7TH CONTINUED...

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Board of Director's Meeting [Waverly Room]

6:00 PM Dinner & Bocce Ball (offsite)
[Acaro & Genell Restaurant]

Bocce sponsored by



MONDAY, AUGUST 8TH

7:00 AM - 8:15 AM Networking Breakfast Buffet
[Electric City Ballroom]

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Committee Meetings

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Maintenance [Steamtown Ballroom]
Human Resources [Casey Ballroom A]
Planning [Casey Ballroom C]
Community Trans. [Casey Ballroom B]

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Operations [Casey Ballroom C]
Marketing [Casey Ballroom A]
Governmental Affairs [Steamtown]

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Safety [Steamtown Ballroom]
Ride Share [Casey Ballroom A]
Technology Adv. [Casey Ballroom B]
Financial Officers [Casey Ballroom C]

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM Membership Luncheon Meeting
[Electric City Ballroom]

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SAVE THE DATES

for the PPTA Spring
Conference & Expo

April 25-27, 2017

Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square



2016 Rodeo Committee

Dwight Huntington, Chair, Central Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

Maria Church, Suburban Transit Network

Mike Devaney, Central Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

Randy Flyte, Lehigh Northampton Transportation Authority

Chris Jordan, Centre Area Transportation Authority

Tim Miller, River Valley Transit

Ken Morder, Centre Area Transportation Authority

Carl Pysker, Lebanon Transit

Bob Schurer, River Valley Transit

Bonnie Stine, Central Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

Lisa Wolfrom, Central Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

**BIG thank you to the team at County of
Lackawanna Transportation Authority
for hosting the 2016 Rodeo**



**Thank you to the staff of the
2016 Rodeo Facility**



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