

Georgia Association for Pupil Transportation  
45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
“Reaching New Horizons”  
June 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Mountain Creek Inn Conference Center, Callaway Gardens  
Pine Mountain, GA

February 23, 2009

Dear Friends of Pupil Transportation:

It seems like yesterday that I was typing this same letter to go out for our last conference, but it is that time of year again! It is hard to believe how fast the time goes in this business. This year's conference has a host of changes, starting with location. Due to renovations currently limiting the hotel space and conference center, this year's conference has been moved to the Mountain Creek Inn and Conference Center at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, GA. Planning for this move has been over a year in the making and while it will be a new experience and not what we are all used to, that can often be a good thing.

We also have an entirely new format for the schedule of the conference. After speaking with many of you as you left the trade show last year, and considering all of the budgetary issues that we are all facing, the trade show times have been changed to better accommodate the needs and desires of our vendors. Rather than having the show spread over two days while the conference rolls on limiting your contact time with your customers, we will be concentrating exclusively on the trade show on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. There will be no other sessions going on at that time so our vendors will have our undivided attention! There are also some excellent opportunities for our Bus Level, Fleet Level and Corporate Level sponsors to host some informational seminars on Tuesday afternoon. Please see the attachment labeled “Additional Opportunities” that accompanies this letter.

For those new to the conference and those returning, this is one of the best opportunities in the state to be in contact with more than 300 officials from all levels of the pupil transportation industry. Please allow me this opportunity on behalf of the Georgia Association for Pupil Transportation (GAPT) to invite you and your company to participate in this ever growing and exciting conference and trade show.

I look forward to working with each of you in making this year's trade show the best yet. Please let me know if I may be of service to you in any way.

Sincerely,

Jim Black  
Chairman, Trade Show Committee

**Schedule for Vendors:**

Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – No Scheduled Events for Vendors

Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Vendor Registration and Booth Set Up

Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:00am – 11:00am Vendor Registration and Booth Set Up  
1:00pm – 5:00pm 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Trade Show

Vendors are clear to break their booth down after the closure of the trade show on Wednesday afternoon or on Thursday morning for those that are staying. Booths need to be down and removed by 9:00am on Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Please remember that there will be no other conference activities during the time of the trade show on Wednesday. All attendees will be visiting the trade show during that period.

**Booth Selection/Assignment:**

With the new location, the layout of the trade show floor is completely new. All efforts will be made to space vendors so that you are not located next to or across from a company with competing products. However, space is limited, but I will do the best that we can. Location preference will be by level of sponsorships then by date that the registration document was received. I will make every effort to accommodate your requests for specific location if that particular booth is still available.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SPACE IN THIS YEARS SHOW IS LIMITED. I WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO GET A BOOTH FOR ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN ONE, BUT THE QUICKER YOU RETURN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM, THE SOONER YOU CAN BE GUARANTEED A SPOT.

***Please note:*** Deadline for Early Registration is May 31, 2009.

All checks should be made payable to: **Georgia Association for Pupil Transportation**

Registration Form should be sent to Jim Black via any of the following methods:

**US Mail**

Jim Black  
Paulding County School District  
Transportation Department  
522 Hardee Street  
Dallas, GA 30132

**Fax**

(770) 443-8037 with a cover sheet to the attention of Jim Black

**Email**

[jblack@paulding.k12.ga.us](mailto:jblack@paulding.k12.ga.us)

Confirmation of receipt for your registration form and your check will be emailed upon receipt.

Should you need to contact the Mountain Creek Inn and Convention Center or ship any items prior to arriving at the show, please contact them directly at 706-663-2281 for information and directions on where to ship and how to mark.

I look forward to seeing you in June and working with you during the conference. Should you need to contact me for any reason leading up to the conference, I can be reached in my office at (770) 443-8003 ext 10160 or via email at [jblack@paulding.k12.ga.us](mailto:jblack@paulding.k12.ga.us).

Sincerely,

Jim Black  
Director of Transportation  
Paulding County School District  
522 Hardee Street  
Dallas, GA 30132  
(770) 443-8003 ext 10168