

# GAPT Newsletter

March / April 2007



## New Logo Adopted

The GAPT Board voted to adopt a standard logo for our association. It was designed by Lindsey Bland, daughter of William Bland from Screven County. The newsletter will display this logo and it will be available for use on all GAPT correspondence.

## Proposal for new alignment for GAPT Board Members

The issue you will be asked to vote on Wednesday of the conference is whether to go from -  
*12 representative GAPT board members, aligned under old Congressional Districts that are no longer in effect,*  
*or to*  
*16 representative GAPT board members, aligned under the Regional Educational Support Activity (RESA), districts.*

The rationale for the proposal follows. The current districts have no logical connection. They do not meet to discuss or share common information, and have no structural purpose other than an artificial alignment to select a representative to the GAPT Board. The RESA's are geographically logical groupings of districts with similar issues and concerns. They host transportation meetings monthly to quarterly depending on the individual RESA. This provides a logical conduit for information flow and representative participation. Also, if the demographics or challenges of a district change, there is a methodology in place that allows movement to a more appropriate RESA.

That is it in a nutshell. Under the new proposal the increase of 4 members will still leave the total board (Representative Members, Executive Board, Agency Members and At Large Members) under the limit established by our organizations by-laws.

**Next year's School Bus Safety Poster contest theme is "Stop on Red – Kids Ahead".**

### School Bus Watch

As of March 1, 2007, enrollment spreadsheets will no longer be needed. Individual enrollments will be accepted and can be obtained on the NSTA website at [www.yellowbus.org/sbw.htm](http://www.yellowbus.org/sbw.htm). Individual enrollment forms should be faxed (703-684-3212) or mailed to NSTA.

There are two distinct training courses for transportation personnel: Train-The-Trainer and End-User Training. Train-The-Trainer is a free, two-hour session geared toward school transportation directors and other supervisory personnel; using a master trainer as instructor. End-User Training, for school bus drivers, aides, mechanics and dispatchers, among other non-supervisory staff, is a one-hour session, also free of charge. This training can be instructor led, via DVD or self taught. To order the DVD, phone 866-821-3444 or email [sbw@yellowbuses.org](mailto:sbw@yellowbuses.org). Groups of 10 or less should fax their enrollment forms. Groups of greater than 10 should mail enrollment forms to:

*School Bus Watch  
C/O National School Transportation Association  
113 S. West Street 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Alexandria, VA 22314*

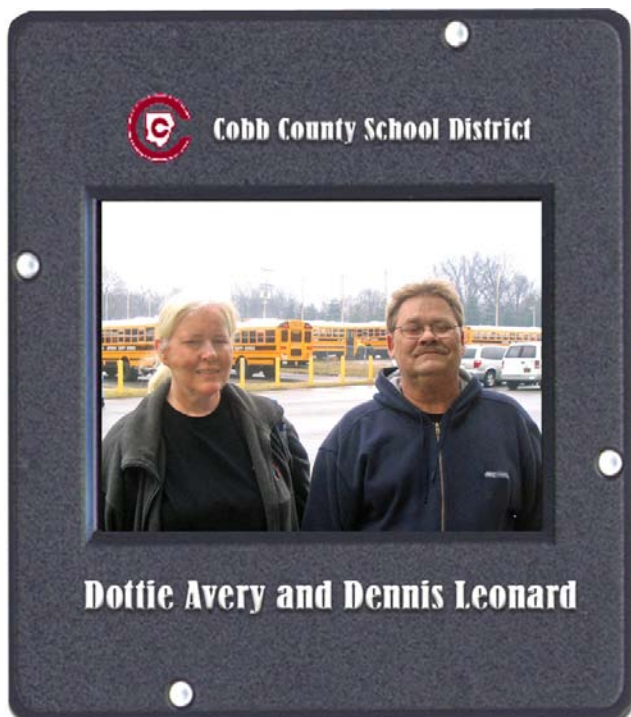
## Georgia holds Second Annual Special Needs Road-e-o, then on to Nationals

On Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, the 2nd Annual Georgia Special Needs School Bus Road-e-o was held in Cobb County. The event went so very smoothly that no one noticed Lanetta Mills (chair of the GAPD Special Needs Committee and host) or Beverly Skipper (Chairwoman of the Pupil Transportation Safety Council Foundation) doing their best duck act. You know the one. Calm and placid on the surface, just floating along, while out of sight under water they are paddling like mad to get where they are going.

We had 16 teams competing from 12 districts. In the Special Needs Road-e-o you are tested and judged as a driver/monitor team. You take a written test and must perform a variety of bus functions, the road course being one of the simpler. We had great results. The winner was a team from Cobb County, Dennis Leonard and Dottie Avery. Second place went to the team from **Gwinnett County, Robert Bodemuller and Tammy Paar.** Both teams were sent to the National Road-e-o courtesy of our sponsors MWD to compete for the national championship.

Both teams excelled at the National Road-e-o. The first major thing they accomplished was learning. They both took advantage of special training opportunities designed and conducted just for these Road-e-o participants by the nation's leading authorities. The knowledge received from this alone rendered them champions. During the Road-e-o itself, they both ran afoul of the same un-programmed event. Each year the Road-e-o committee puts in one event that is not pre-announced. This year, what started out as an emergency evacuation turned into a hostage situation, with an adult getting on the bus with a gun, a very difficult situation for which there is no single solution. However, it is the nature of these competitions that you have to have an answer, and neither of our teams had the "school book" solution the testers were looking for. That said, both of them had the fundamentals correct. Remain calm, don't be a hero and engage the hostage taker. That is the science. Everything after that is an art.

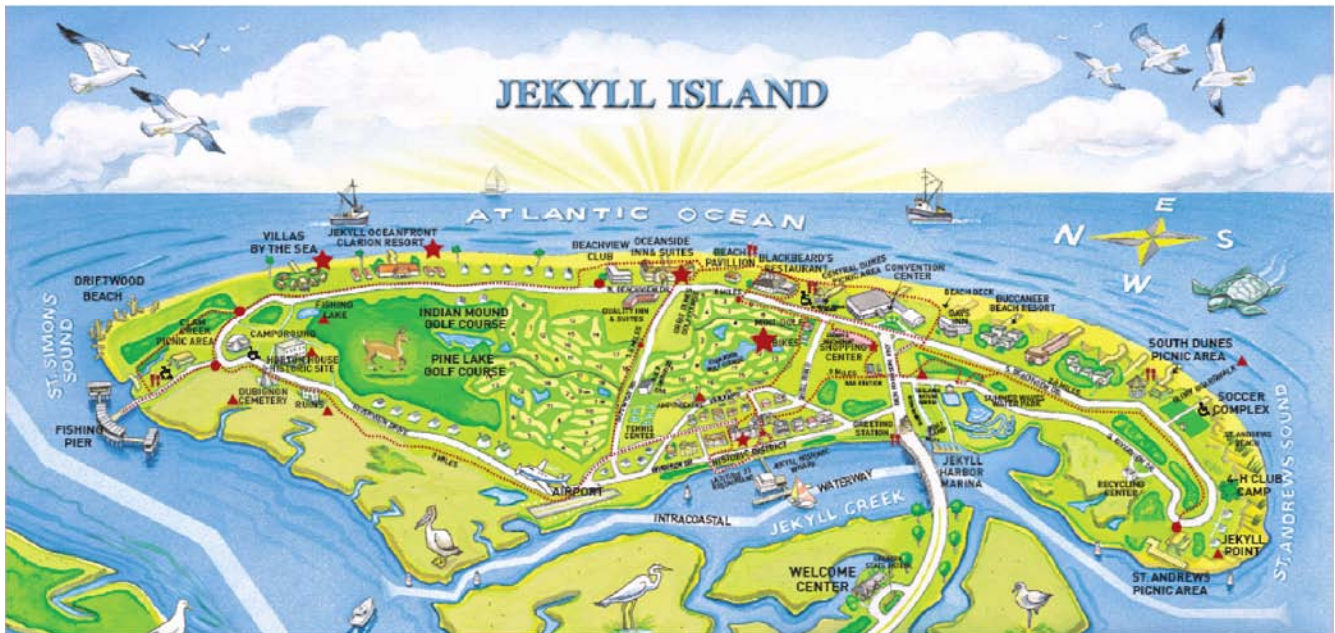
Well, in the end our two teams ended up with the exact same score and in the middle of the pack. **That is the middle of the pack of the best 26 teams in the country.** That is a nice pack to be in. Congratulations to Dennis and Dottie, Robert and Tammy.



GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



**Tammy Paar and Robert Bodemuller**



## 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual GAPT Conference June 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> - Jekyll Island

Our 43<sup>rd</sup> conference will take place this June at Jekyll Island. Our host hotel will again be the Jekyll Oceanfront, a Clarion Hotel at 975 N. Beachview Drive. There are new and additional programs this year, which makes for a greater learning opportunity. While the formal conference does not begin until Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup>, the pre conference workshops will be a highlight of the week.

On Monday we will have the start of a two day New Transportation Administrators Workshop. This is targeted for senior transportation officials that have never attended a new administrator's workshop. There is no additional fee for this workshop. Concurrently, we will be running a blockbuster workshop that is being kept under wraps for now. On Tuesday we will continue the two day workshop, and start the Special Needs Workshop. There is a \$35 additional fee to participate in the workshops other than the new administrators. The fee is a one time charge that provides admittance to all workshops.

Tuesday evening also marks the beginning of our social events. Once again this year our sponsors will be treating us to a cook out and ice cream social at the Summer Waves Park. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will each end with Karaoke around the pool at the Clarion Hotel.

Wednesday the formal conference commences. We have some wonderful speakers lined up as well as several dual track workshops, so you can attend workshops that meet your specific interests. A detailed program will be published with the next newsletter in May.





## New Transportation Administrators Workshop

As part of our annual GAPT conference this year we will be running a workshop for new transportation administrators. This will be two extremely full days that will provide a framework for the responsibilities transportation administrators face. It will be an overview of each topic. Time will not allow an in depth presentation. However, it will provide you with the concepts, rules/regulations/laws that are applicable, and the resources to find out more.

This workshop has no additional fee to attend. It is open to those senior transportation administrators that have never attended a new administrator's workshop. It begins at 8:00 am on Monday June 18<sup>th</sup>, so you will have to arrive Sunday evening unless you are a local. Topics on Monday include:

Shop Operations	Special Education Training
Special Education Equipment	Publications/Organizations
Drug and Alcohol Testing	QBE Standards for Transportation
School Bus Inspections	National School Bus Standards
ADA-IDEA Regulations; IEP's	

This long day will run until 9:00 pm. There will be ample breaks, and time for informal discussion.

Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> begins again at 8:00 am. Topics this day include:

Field Trips/Partners in Transportation	Personnel Evaluation
Discipline/Cameras on Buses	Public Relations
Driver Training	Accident Investigation – Analysis
GAPT/PTSCF, Inc.	Budget/Finance

You will have an hour break for lunch and then return for a joint afternoon session with our Special Education Workshop presented by Peggy Burns, the industries legal expert. This day will end at 4:30 pm.

## GAPT Conference Door Prizes

We are changing the format for door prizes this year. GAPT will only be giving away a few higher value prizes (TV's, DVD player etc). For the smaller prizes we are asking each school district to bring an item to give away that is representative of their community. An example would be a nice carpet from Dalton (except that is a bit expensive for what we are asking, but you get the picture) from that district. We aren't setting a \$\$ minimum or limit. No air fresheners (too low), and no season passes to the Braves (too high). Please bring your door prizes to the registration table when you sign in.

**The Georgia School Bus Safety Week will be held September 16 – 22**

**National School Bus Safety Week will be Held October 21 - 27**

**Georgia School Bus Driver Appreciation Day will be October 22**

## Save Your System Some Money



Remember there are actually two different tax exemptions we may be eligible for at the hotels. The first is the traditional exemption. It is the state of Georgia Certificate of Exemption of Local Hotel/Motel Excise Tax Certification. As long as you are on official business in the state, you can use the exemption form at any hotel/motel, regardless of your method of payment. The second is the State of Georgia Department of Revenue Sales and Use Tax Certificate of Exemption; Georgia Purchaser of Dealer effective July 1, 2000. This will exempt you from the sales tax on your hotel/motel room, but it has a couple of qualifiers. This can only be used if the room is paid for either with a purchase order or on a government credit card. It cannot be used if you pay on your personal credit card or with cash. For questions about this second exemption see your local finance folks.

### Administrators Workshop

Our annual administrator's workshop, put on by the Department of Education, will be held at Forsyth this year. It will be held April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Make your reservations at either the Holiday Inn or the Holiday Inn Express. There is about a 100 yard difference between the distances each hotel is to the training center where the conference will be held.

Please be punctual and courteous. There is a great deal of information being shared in a short period of time so let's work together to get the most out of it. Also, refrain from indulging in happy hour or any other adult beverages during the workshop.

Lastly, if you have personal issues, or issues that are pertinent to only your district, please handle those in sidebar conversations. Let the open forum be for those issues that are common to all.

For registration or further information, please talk to your DOE consultant.