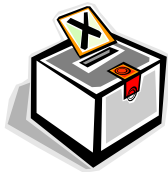


# GAPT Newsletter

January/February 2007

## Proposal to Improve Communications

At the June GAPT Conference, the Board of Directors will ask the membership to vote on re-aligning the current GAPT districts to reflect the Georgia RESA districts. As there are two members per the current six GAPT districts (to comply with our current GAPT by-laws), there proposed option would be one representative per each of the sixteen RESA districts. This would increase the current Board's membership by four representatives. The At-large, DPS, and DOE representation would remain the same.



*Reason:* The Board felt that the district re-alignment would foster improved communications between the GAPT membership and allow its representatives to meet, present, and obtain feedback from GAPT at the RESA district transportation meetings which are held throughout the year.

*Voting procedure:* The authentic voting procedures will be developed by the Voting Committee and presented at the next Board Meeting in February. The actual vote will take place prior to Friday's GAPT business meeting so that if the change is passed, it would be implemented on Friday at the meeting. If not passed, voting will continue as in previous years. A business meeting will be conducted on Wednesday during the conference to provide the membership with additional information.



On February 24, 2007, the GAPT Special Education Committee and the PTSCF (Pupil Transportation Safety Competition Foundation) will sponsor the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Georgia Special Education Road-e-o** at Lockheed Martin facilities in Cobb County. This is a tremendous learning opportunity for any of your driver and monitor teams. WMD is then sponsoring the top 2 teams to compete at the National Road-e-o in March to be held in Louisville, Kentucky. Packets should be en-route to all directors.

## **The National Conference on Transporting Students with Disabilities Conference**

is March 9 – 14<sup>th</sup> in Louisville KY.

This is simply the best professional learning opportunity for those involved in the transportation of students with disabilities. You can register on line at [www.eduprogroup.com](http://www.eduprogroup.com).

The **annual technician's workshop** will be held this year on **June 11–15<sup>th</sup>** in North Georgia. With improved facilities, we are able to offer a broader curriculum for our mechanics and technicians. Talk to your DOE consultant if you have any questions, but be sure to take advantage of this excellent training opportunity.



The **Technician of the Year** competition will occur at the beginning of the technician's workshop. Each Regional Educational Support Activity (RESA) can send two competitors from the aligned school districts to compete in the competition. The selection at each MRESA will be done competitively, and will be coordinated by your DOE consultant.

If you are interested, or you know a GAPT member who might be interested in holding a statewide office for GAPT, please contact Ed Crook with the names. It is an opportunity to serve the greater community.



The annual Special Education Seminar will be held March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn in Perry Georgia. The seminars will be sponsored by National Bus Sales. This is a great opportunity for training for more than just directors or supervisors. It is an opportunity for drivers to get first hand information and training. More information will be forthcoming.



The annual **Administrators Workshop** will be held April 24-25 in Forsyth (the town not the county) GA. As many of you know this is an intense session chock full of important and interesting information. Every director or senior administrator should plan on attending. Details to follow.

There is a change to how the Regular Education Road-e-o will be conducted this year. Due to cost considerations, we will not be having regional road-e-o's. Your local winner will go straight to the state finals. The finals will be held June 6 – 7 in Forsyth GA. So remember, no qualifying, it is straight to state.



A strange thing happened late in the evening on Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. It seems a cowboy climbed back into his saddle and road out of town, leaving a whole down at the Twin Towers in Atlanta. We are all sad to see Bill Simpson retire.....again. I know he and his horses are happy, but in a short period of time he left some very big footprints to follow. The initiatives Bill started and the achievements he made were greatly appreciated. Bill, on behalf of GAPT and all of the transportation folks around the state, thanks for what you have done. We just wished you had stayed on.

