



# GAPT Newsletter

## September 2007

### GAPT Members and Associates

We're all back in it! Everyone at GAPT, and truthfully, everyone in the State of Georgia, hopes you have each had a safe and successful school opening. It is too much to hope you had a "cool" school opening unless you are in Carrollton City, where Skip Veljkov only operates air conditioned buses.

We'd like to take the opportunity to review the summer conference for the following 2 reasons.

- 1.) To share information with those of you who could not attend.
- 2.) To refresh the memory of those who did attend as we ask you to respond to a survey expressing your experience and thoughts about the conference. Feedback is a key to making improvements, and we got very little formal feedback from the conference evaluation forms.

This year we made a broader program, adding pre-conference workshops beyond our traditional special education session. We also established several dual track opportunities so individuals could choose between two different subjects for a workshop.

### Pre-conference

<i>Passenger Seating Certification</i>	<i>(8 hours)</i>
<i>New Administrators Workshop</i>	<i>(16 hours)</i>
<i>Special Education Session (Peggy Burns did 3 1/2 hours keynote)</i>	<i>(8 hours)</i>

### Conference Wednesday

<i>Bill Cordes</i>	<i>(1 hour)</i>
<i>Peggy Burns - The Road to Learning</i>	<i>(1 hour) or</i>
<i>Bus Manufacturers</i>	<i>(1 hour)</i>
<i>Is your drug testing program up to date</i>	<i>(45 min) or</i>
<i>Data Collection &amp; Definition</i>	<i>(45 min)</i>
<i>Meet Generation RX</i>	<i>(45 min) or</i>
<i>BioFuel and You</i>	<i>(45 min)</i>
<i>Terry Summerlin - Sharpening Your Leadership Skills</i>	<i>(45 min) or</i>
<i>Can you Improve your Routing?</i>	<i>(45 min)</i>

*(continued)*

### **Conference Thursday**

*Accident Data in Georgia* (15 min)

*Accident Scene Investigation* (30 min)

*Terry Summerlin - Sharpening Your Competitive Edge: Tools for Succeeding in the Workplace* (1 hour) **or**

*Maintenance Issues* (30 min)

*Heavy Duty Diesel Engine Requirements, ULSD & Potential Idling Requirements* (30 min) **and**

*GPS and AVL for School Bus Fleet* (1 hour) **or**

*Driver Retention and Recruitment* (30 min)

*Student Management* (30 min) **and**

*Terrorism & the School Bus Industry* (45 min)

### **Conference Friday**

*MGEN Perry Smith - Dealing with the Media* (1 hour)

*Internet Security and You* (45 min)

*Post Accident Questions: Will you be ready?* (15 min)

If you were unable to attend, these are the sessions you missed. If you attended, please be sure to complete the survey that came with this newsletter. Return your survey by email to: [grant\\_reppert@gwinnett.k12.ga.us](mailto:grant_reppert@gwinnett.k12.ga.us). Additional instructions are included on the survey.

FYI - Sometime during the month of September you will be receiving an e-mail requesting some operational data. This is so we can start establishing a comparative database on different performance characteristics. You will not be compared to each other. We will use the data to establish averages by size of school system, and provide you with your numbers against those averages.

**The following pages will introduce to you the newly elected board and officers for the school year 2007/2008.**

**CSRA RESA**

Vernon Hardy  
Emanuel County Schools  
201 North Main Street  
Swainsboro, GA 30401  
478 237 6674  
478 494 4221

[vhardy@emanuel.k12.ga.us](mailto:vhardy@emanuel.k12.ga.us)

**CHAT-FLINT RESA**

Jerome Smith  
Sumter County Schools  
100 Learning Lane  
Americus, Ga. 31709  
229 931 8529  
229 591 8678

[jsmith@sumterschools.org](mailto:jsmith@sumterschools.org)

**COASTAL PLAINS RESA**

Roger Christie  
Lowndes County Schools  
1064 Howell Rd.  
Valdosta, Ga. 31601  
229 245 2257  
229 300 3719

[rchristie@lowndes.k12.ga.us](mailto:rchristie@lowndes.k12.ga.us)

**FIRST DISTRICT RESA**

Charles Chandler  
Tattnall County Schools  
PO Box 157, 18110 HWY 23 S  
Reidsville, GA 30453  
912 557 8916  
912 237 1240

[ccchandler@tattnall.k12.ga.us](mailto:ccchandler@tattnall.k12.ga.us)

**GRIFFIN RESA**

Joe Blankenship  
Butts County Schools  
181 North Mulberry St  
Jackson, GA 30233  
770 504 2320 Ext 151  
678 618 9825

[blankenshipj@butts.k12.ga.us](mailto:blankenshipj@butts.k12.ga.us)

**HEART OF GEORGIA RESA**

Morris Knight  
Laurens County Schools  
467 Firetower Rd  
Dublin, GA 31021  
478 272 4767 Ext 231  
478 279 5465

[morrisknight@lcbocoe.net](mailto:morrisknight@lcbocoe.net)

**METRO RESA**

Toney Blackmon  
DeKalb County Schools  
1780 Montreal Rd.  
Tucker, GA 30084  
678 676 1476  
678 410 4923

[Toney\\_Blackmon@fc.Dekalb.k12.ga.us](mailto:Toney_Blackmon@fc.Dekalb.k12.ga.us)

**MIDDLE GEORGIA RESA**

Harry Goff  
Jones County Schools  
PO Box 519, 125 Stewart Ave.  
Gray, GA 31032  
478 986 6373  
478 256 2815

[hgooff@jones.k12.ga.us](mailto:hgooff@jones.k12.ga.us)

**NORTH GEORGIA RESA**

Debbie Hendrix  
Cherokee County Schools  
1665 Hickory Road  
Canton, GA 30115  
770 720 2112 ET 222  
678 614 7465

[Debbie.hendrix@cherokee.k12.ga.us](mailto:Debbie.hendrix@cherokee.k12.ga.us)

**NORTHEAST GEORGIA RESA**

Peggy Spence  
Oglethorpe County Schools  
PO Box 168  
Lexington, GA 30648  
706 74305751  
706 743-8861

[pspencer@oglethorpe.k12.ga.us](mailto:pspencer@oglethorpe.k12.ga.us)

**NORTHWEST GEORGIA RESA**

Terry Simpson  
Floyd County Schools  
600 Riverside Parkway  
Rome, GA 30160  
706 236 1808  
706 766 4405

[tsimpson@floydboe.net](mailto:tsimpson@floydboe.net)

**OCONEE RESA**

Jerry Williams  
Jasper County Schools  
1125 A Fred Smith  
Monticello, GA 31064  
706 468 6350 Ext 210  
706 318 4605

[jwilliams@jasper.k12.ga.us](mailto:jwilliams@jasper.k12.ga.us)

**OKEFENOKEE RESA**

Wiley Crews  
Brantley County Schools  
Box 22T  
Nahunta, GA 31553  
912 462 5159  
912 614 0782

[Wiley.crews@brantley.k12.ga.us](mailto:Wiley.crews@brantley.k12.ga.us)

**PIONEER RESA**

Beth McDonald  
Stephens County Schools  
6438 White Pine Rd  
Toccoa, GA 30577  
706 886 1633  
706 244 1970

[bmcDonald@stephenscountyschools.com](mailto:bmcDonald@stephenscountyschools.com)

**SOUTHWEST RESA**

Rick Wheeler  
Dougherty County Schools  
1730 Rodgers St  
Albany, GA 31705  
229 431 1265  
229 869 1176

[rwheeler@docoschools.org](mailto:rwheeler@docoschools.org)

**WEST GEORGIA RESA**

Skip Veljkov  
Carrollton City Schools  
930 Hays Mill Rd  
Carrollton, GA 30117  
770 834 2581  
770 301 0256  
[Skip.Veljkov@carrolltoncityschools.net](mailto:Skip.Veljkov@carrolltoncityschools.net)

**GA DEPT OF EDUCATION**

Grady Elmore  
Pupil Transportation Consultant  
GA Dept of Education  
6139 Candlestick Loop  
Columbus, GA  
404 382 1391 (Beeper)  
404 656 2467  
[gelmore@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:gelmore@doe.k12.ga.us)

**DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Capt. Doug Ayers  
Dept of Public Safety  
2151 # J. Eatonton Rd.  
Madison, GA 30650  
1-888-861-7917  
[cdayers@GADPS.net](mailto:cdayers@GADPS.net)

**SECRETARY**

Brett Martin  
Screven County Schools  
1006 Millen Highway  
Sylvania, GA 30467  
912 564 7907  
912 978 1549  
[bmartin@screven.k12.ga.us](mailto:bmartin@screven.k12.ga.us)

**AT LARGE**

William Bland  
Screven County Schools  
1006 Millen HWY  
Sylvania, GA 30467  
912 564 7907  
912 978 1552  
[wbland@screven.k12.ga.us](mailto:wbland@screven.k12.ga.us)

**GA DEPT OF EDUCATION**

Steve Monroe  
Pupil Transportation Consultant  
GA Dept of Education  
1654 Twin Towers  
Atlanta, GA  
404 382 5004 (Beeper)  
404 656 2467  
[SMonroe@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:SMonroe@doe.k12.ga.us)

**PRESIDENT**

Beverly Skipper  
Henry County School  
255 Lemon St  
McDonough, GA 30253  
770 954-0352  
404 569 5560  
[bskipper@henry.k12.ga.us](mailto:bskipper@henry.k12.ga.us)

**TREASURER**

Grant Reppert  
Gwinnett County Schools  
610 W. Crogan Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045  
678 226 7010  
770 560 4805  
[grant\\_reppert@gwinnett.k12.ga.us](mailto:grant_reppert@gwinnett.k12.ga.us)

**AT LARGE**

Brenda Brown  
Buford City Schools  
70 Wiley Dr  
Buford, GA 30518  
770 932 7565  
404 216 6162  
[bbrown@Bufordcity.org](mailto:bbrown@Bufordcity.org)

**GA DEPT OF EDUCATION**

Williams Bast (Bill)  
Pupil Transportation Consultant  
GA Dept of Education  
110 Raccoon Row  
Athens, GA  
404 579 2318 (Beeper)  
404 656 2467  
[wbast@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:wbast@doe.k12.ga.us)

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Dewayne Porter  
Columbia County Schools  
4781 Hereford Farm Rd  
Evans, GA 30809  
706 541 0657  
706 726 1231  
[dewayne.porter@ccboe.net](mailto:dewayne.porter@ccboe.net)

**PAST PRESIDENT**

Mark Lindstrom  
Troup County Schools  
100 North Davis Road  
LaGrange, GA 30241  
706 812 7935  
706 523 2816  
[lindstromm@troup.org](mailto:lindstromm@troup.org)

Make sure you know which RESA you are assigned to. If you are not sure you can check with DOE consultant or any of your officers to be sure. Then take advantage of the opportunities inherent in the RESA meeting structure to both voice your concerns and to get some cooperative views on solving your challenges. There is nothing we can't accomplish together, and the best place to start is with your RESA neighbors. Then your RESA representative can also bring them to GAPT for our organizational support.

Over the next few months we will put together another newsletter. We would like to include information that is of current interest. So we are asking you to share any of those type of issues. In particular, we would like to hear any ULSD stories or challenges you have faced or are facing. The idea being, we all face the same functional challenges. Any time you face a challenge; there is probably someone who has solved it. We need to share those solutions, not each of us independently solving the problem.

We will be fleshing out the annual calendar as the year unfolds, but for now, this is what is scheduled for this year.

Georgia School Bus Safety Week	Sep 17 – 22, 2007
National School Bus Safety Week	Oct 22 – 26, 2007
Georgia School Bus Driver Appreciation Day	Oct 22, 2007
NAPT Conference	Oct 28 – Nov 1, 2007
GAPT Executive Board meeting	Nov 15 – 16, 2007
GAPT Board meeting	Dec 13, 2007
GAPT Board meeting	Feb 21 – 22, 2008
National Special Needs Conference	Mar 7 – 12, 2008
GAPT Board meeting	May 1 – 2, 2008
State Regular Ed Road-e-o	Jun 4 – 5, 2008
GAPT Conference	Jun 16 – 18, 2008