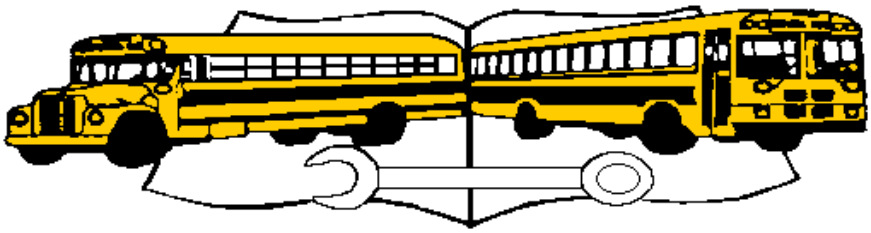
The Mechanic's Messenger



Annual Workshop Overview

What a great time it was to gather with fellow school bus mechanics and gain valuable knowledge. The location was fantastic, the training was outstanding, and attendance was up 30%!

Take a look at all of the companies in the school transportation industry who supported us this year! We couldn't do it with out them.

SHOWCASE VENDORS

- Alta Vista Benefits / ING Financial Partners
- Cleveland Tank and Supply
- Columbus Diesel Supply / Diesel Injection Service
- Easy Way Safety Services
- Espar Heater Systems
- Q'Straint / Sure-Lok
- Schaeffer Manufacturing
- Seon Systems Sales

- American Bus and Accessories, Inc.
- AngelTrax
- Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems
- C&C School Bus Parts
- Cardinal Bus Sales & Service
- Center City International Trucks
- CCI North Coast
- Cummins Bridgeway
- D & W Diesel
- D&D Instruments
- Delco Remy
- Edwin H. Davis & Son
- International Fuel Systems
- Kimball Midwest
- Koroseal Floor Systems (RKF)
- M and E Sales
- MVI Group
- Martin Senour Paints
- Mike & B Sales
- Northwest Fuel Injection Service
- Ohio Department of Education
- Ohio Highway Patrol
- Ott Equipment Service
- REI—Radio Engineering Industries
- Rosco Vision Systems
- School Bus Safety Company
- Sensmeier Oil Co.
- The Lincoln Electric Company
- The Penray Companies
- Thomas Built Buses
- Timken
- Transportation Accessories Co.
- Truck Sales & Service
- Unity School Bus Parts
- W. W. Williams
- Weldon, a division of Akron Brass

Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association

Volume 20, Issue 2

November, 2012

Membership

- **Active Membership** is open to qualified mechanic who has responsibility in maintaining the operation of a safe and efficient pupil transportation system. ($30)
- **Associate Membership** is open to other Ohio school officials who are interested in promoting safe pupil transportation in Ohio, retired OSBMA members, and vendors. ($20)
- Membership is good for one year: July 1 - June 30.
- General aim is to advance pupil transportation as a part of a school district's public education program.
- Please join us in promoting safe and efficient pupil transportation in Ohio.

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From the President

HOUSE BILL # 557

Recently I was notified about House Bill #557 that is being discussed and worked through committee in Columbus. As with most bills, there are several components that comprise this bill. One section of this bill has a direct impact on us as school bus mechanics. Sec. 4511.76 deals with proposed legislation concerning wheelchair lift inspection. As the rule is currently being written, it will require that each wheelchair lift on a vehicle used for pupil transportation be inspected by a person certified by the original manufacturer of the wheelchair lift. The rules may establish standards to verify and maintain certification of an inspector. The bill in section D also deals with the qualifications of a person relating to the issuance of an inspection license, including the liability and property damage insurance carried by the applicant.

In Sec. 4511.765, it states that this inspection will be in addition, and performed prior to the annual inspection of the State Highway Patrol. The mechanic will present to the patrol a signed form from the licensed inspector at the time of the annual inspection. Also under paragraph B it reads: "Any repair of a wheelchair lift on a vehicle used for pupil transportation shall be made by a person certified as provided in rules adopted under section 4511.76 of the Revised Code. A person who is not certified may perform routine maintenance on a wheelchair lift."

There are other changes and revisions included in this bill concerning the wheelchair lift inspection. After reading the bill and having a conversation with Lt. Tracy Williams, I think that there are several issues with this bill that we should be concerned with.

1. One of my first impressions was to wonder if the sponsors of the bill have any idea how and to what extent the state patrol currently inspect the wheelchair lifts. I believe in the training manual for inspectors there are 4 pages relating to wheelchair lift inspection.
2. How and who will be the licensed inspectors? In the past for our workshops we have tried to have classes that would enable our mechanics to become certified to repair wheelchair lifts. One company did this for us a few years ago and the other company said they would hold a class for us but would not issue certificates. So the question becomes how we will get mechanics certified as inspectors when one company won't even offer certification for repairs? Will this have to be done by and outside vendor/source? If so, how will there be enough certified inspectors in the field to inspect all wheelchair lifts prior to our annual patrol inspection.
3. Sec. D concerning the liability insurance carried by the applicant/inspector. If we as mechanics can somehow become certified/licensed inspectors do we need then to carry separate liability insurance or will we be covered by our employer's policy? What amount does the liability insurance need to cover?
4. There is some language about a new decal being designed. The language at this point seems rather vague, about the location, size, and if it will be a separate decal from the annual inspection decal.

There are some other areas of concern that I have with this legislation, but I am asking that *each of you research it for yourself and form your own opinion*. As stated before this bill is currently in committee and we are attempting to stay current with its development. The state patrol is also monitoring its progress, and we are in conversation with Lt. Williams. I believe that we, as the Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association, may need to make a formal statement or position on this piece of legislation. I would like for there to be some conversation and input from the membership. Let us know how you feel about it and what your concerns are. Send us an email at osbma@columbus.rr.com with "HB 557" in the subject line. With your input we can then take a position that is representative of our whole membership.

Here is a link for the bill: http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=129_HB_557

-- Colin Eichel, Dover City Schools, OSBMA President

Thank you for your service!

North Region: Medina City Schools losing 58 years of Transportation Experience

As of December 31, 2012 the Lichtys, Neal and Diana, will be retiring from the Transportation Department of Medina City Schools. Their total years of service are 58, Diana retiring as the head Bus Driver with 31 years and Neal retiring with 27 years as Head Bus Mechanic. Neal reported that when he was hired in 1987 they worked out of a one bay garage with 28 buses. He feels proud that seven years ago they moved into a 6 bay garage, handle 64 buses, presently. They improved from only doing minor repairs and PM's in the being years to presently their garage to being able to do engine rebuilds, transmissions, and rear-end repair; in addition, they in source work from area schools.

Neal has been a part of the Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association from the beginning of his employment and hopes to remain active. When asked about OSBMA and how it has helped him, he couldn't say enough about how much knowledge is gained by meeting the "people in the industry" and how "they keep us wise in what we do"! He added that at the workshops and being with other mechanics from around the state has been another truly beneficial learning experience. Although, he will miss his "buses" and their drivers as well as his co-workers, the one thing that he will not miss is lying under a bus thawing out an air line in sub 0 weather!

What are their plans in Retirement? They enjoy traveling and are anticipating traveling around the United States in their motor home. Best Wishes and Congratulations, Neal and Diana. ***And thank you for dedicating 58 years in providing safe and efficient school bus transportation!***

Neal added that he would enjoy hearing from and be available to help if anyone has a problem with a bus. He can be reached by email jake96@roadrunner.com or by phone 330-225-2741.

Submitted by Sara Schlechter, Secretary OSBMA

School Bus Safety Poster Contest

The Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association is a proud sponsor of the 2012 Ohio School Bus Safety Poster Contest.

Go to the pupil transportation page at www.ode.gov to view the winning posters for 2012.

"Stand Back from the Yellow and Black!"

Frame Crack Survey

A school district's mechanic contacted us after noticing frame cracks at the upper front shock mount on two of their 2002 and 2003 Blue Bird TC 2000 buses. The Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association, along with the Ohio State Patrol, would like to determine if this is an isolated case, or if the problem is more widespread.

We are asking that mechanics with similar buses in their fleet would take notice of this and report any findings of cracks to the OSBMA so we can determine if this problem is more widespread.

Email your findings to osbma@columbus.rr.com with "Frame Crack Issue" in the subject line.

ASE Master School Bus Technician

Each year the Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association recognizes school bus mechanics who have earned their "ASE-Certified Master School Bus Technician" distinction.

This year, we are proud to award a plaque to:

Dan Pariano
Stark County Board of DD

To earn this distinction, a technician must be certified in tests S1–S6. These tests are designed to test knowledge of systems specific to school buses.

- S1 – Body Systems & Special Equipment
- S2 – Diesel Engines
- S3 – Drive Train
- S4 – Brakes
- S5 – Suspension & Steering
- S6 – Electrical/Electronic Systems

NOTE: S7—Air Conditioning Systems & Controls is NOT a requirement for Master School Bus Technician Status.

America's Best

Scott Snoke, with Forest Truck & Auto, represented Ohio at the NAPT's 9th annual America's Best School Bus Technician Competition for the second year in a row. This competition was hosted by Cummins Engines, in Rocky Mount, North Carolina September 25-29, 2012.

This competition requires technicians to demonstrate exemplary skills in such areas as technical knowledge and diagnostic troubleshooting.

Annual OSBMA Meeting

The annual meeting for the Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association was held September 26, 2012 at the conclusion of the annual workshop. Regional meetings were conducted.

We welcome these newly elected committee members:
Sara Schlechter, Firelands Local Schools—Secretary
Shane Myers, Greenon Local Schools—Newsletter Editor
Bob Adams, Minford Local Schools—South Regional Director

Regional Directors are still needed in the Northeast and Southwest regions. Contact Colin Eichel, President, if you are interested in one of these regions @ 330-343-3566.

Disclaimer: The Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association does not necessarily endorse or support any of the advertised products. Products advertised may or may not meet Ohio specifications.

If you would like information on advertising in this quarterly newsletter, please call Shane Myers, Greenon Local Schools @ (937) 340-6352 extension: 6002.

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2012 Mutual Aid Booklet

THE 2012 MUTUAL AID BOOKLET IS NOW ONLINE!

The Mutual Aid Booklet is filled with school bus technicians across the state of Ohio who are current members of the Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association. This booklet, compiled every two years, has been very helpful to many schools traveling far from their home base as they transport students to various extracurricular activities. Visit www.osbma.org and click on "Mutual Aid Booklet" to print a copy.

The purpose of this booklet is to aid school bus drivers and mechanics from other districts by providing a name and number of someone to contact for help in the event of an emergency when traveling a distance from their school district.

"The Bedford City School District had a mechanical problem on a bus that was on a field trip to Medina yesterday. The bus was about an hour away from our district, so we looked through your Mutual Aid Booklet for help. We were able to call Medina Schools and one of their mechanics was dispatched to get our bus up and running. The whole process went so much quicker because of your booklet. Thanks for your help!!!"

Patrick J. Carney, Supervisor, Bedford Schools Transportation Department

Executive Committee 2012-13

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VICE-PRESIDENT
Matt Hoven, Firelands Local (440) 965-4105

TREASURER
Paul Bierhup, Wellston City (740) 384-5167

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Susie Washburn, Executive Secretary (614) 478-9300
e-mail osbma@columbus.rr.com fax (614) 478-9304

Staff Lt. Tracy Williams, Ohio Highway Patrol (614) 752-4859
Manuel Brooks, Ohio Department of Education (614) 466-2204

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

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Northwest	Jason Divoll, Swanton Local	(419) 826-8891
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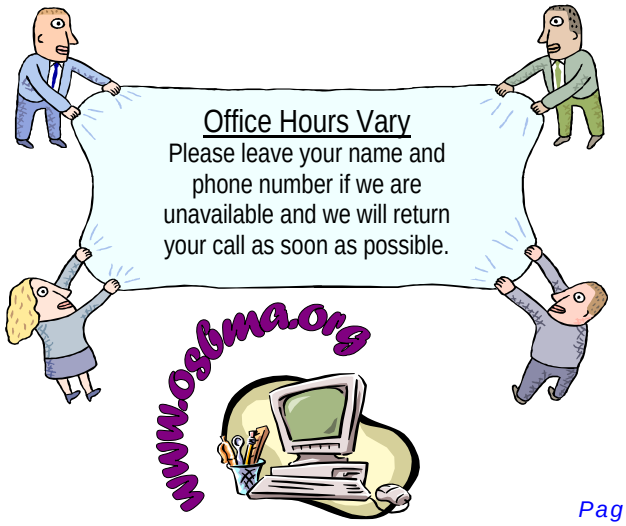
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association
P. O. Box 30844, Gahanna, Ohio 43230
Phone: (614) 478-9300
Fax: (614) 478-9304
Email: osbma@columbus.rr.com
Website: osbma.org