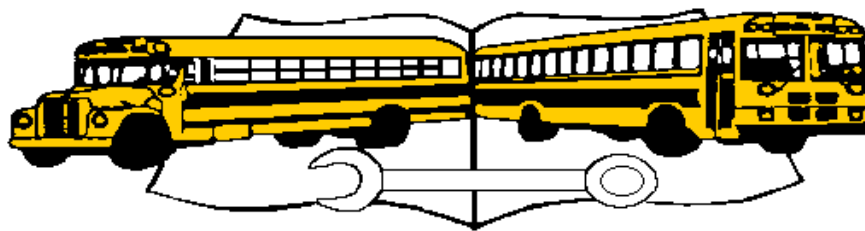


The Mechanic's Messenger



Message from the President

Unprecedented **QUARANTINE** **Stay at HOME order** **Coronavirus** *Pandemic*

How did these rarely used words become expressions that would permeate our lives and affect us in so many ways? We hope that you are staying healthy and can't wait to see all you again!



*Chris Dingus, OSBMA President
Ridgedale Local Schools*

- ☞ We are postponing the 2020 OSBMA Annual Fall Conference and Vendor Show until 2021 due to the covid-19 pandemic.
- ☞ Stay tuned for information on future webinars/online classes. We have been talking with vendors, trying to schedule some online courses that will count towards your annual minimum of four hours of training requirements (Ohio Administrative Code 3301-83-10 Personnel Training Program, section D—School Bus Mechanic Training).
- ☞ Please consider renewing your annual membership to keep our association strong.
- ☞ The annual meeting of the Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association has been postponed until the 2021 Spring Workshop. If you have a nomination for vice-president, please email current VP Bob Roth at rroth@wadsworthschools.org.
- ☞ We want to hear from you! How has the covid-19 pandemic affected your life? Please send a short email answering the three questions below to let us know how you are doing (*example below*). Send the email with the subject "**My Corona**" to osbma@osbma.org.

- 1) How has the pandemic affected your work life?
- 2) Your home life?
- 3) How have you been spending your stay at home hours?

Chris Dingus:

- 1) *Work is the same; I had about 1 month off. Back to work.*
- 2) *I did have enough time off to get a lot of things done on the farm.*
- 3) *Work, work, work. It never stops.*

Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association

Volume 28, Issue 1

July, 2020

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.

Inside this issue:

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Spotlight!

GREG PENNINGTON, OSBMA SOUTH REGIONAL DIRECTOR

School District: Paint Valley Local School District, Ross County

Position: Fleet Manager/Mechanic

How long have you been a part of the OSBMA?

10 Years. I think.

What do you enjoy most about being part of the OSBMA Executive Committee?

I enjoy being part of a group that is involved with maintaining and effecting practical change to School Bus safety, construction, maintenance, and repair standards for Ohio School Buses.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time/ hobbies?

I have several classic vehicles that keep me busy. I am also currently in the processes of converting a 2000 Thomas EF 84 Passenger bus into an RV. Talk about irony, I take a School Bus home to work on it. Then with any time left over I sleep.

Do you have any hidden talents?

I am finding out that I am a better carpenter than I thought I was. I still would not call myself a carpenter, and I still do not like it.

Why are Blue Bird buses yellow? Shouldn't they be Blue or at least be called Yellow Birds?

Not sure, the inspectors would allow the color change. The name change sounds appropriate. Will probably catch some heat for that one.

What is your favorite Television Show or Movie?

Not sure I can come up with a favorite. Too many to list, but most of them have fast cars, fast planes, and usually something blows up.

What are your future plans/ goals in life?

I hope to retire someday and put some miles on the converted school bus I am working on. I currently have two sons & a daughter in-law in Alaska. Would love to take my time driving the Alcan Highway. Have done it twice so far, both times in a rush. Not to have any regrets.



*Greg Pennington
Paint Valley Local Schools*

A man applies for a job as mechanic. The boss says, "Can you roll your hard hat down your arm and pop it back on your head?"

The mechanic nods, confused.

"Can you play lightsaber with your wrench and another man's screwdriver?"

"Oh yes," says the mechanic.

"Can you bounce your screwdriver off the cement, grab it, whirl it around and put it in your belt like a gun?"

"Sir, I've been doing that for years!" says the wanna-be mechanic.

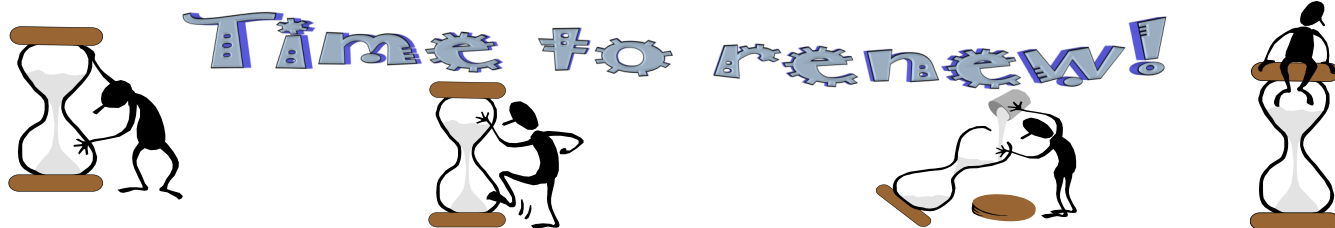
"Well in that case, I can't use you. I have 12 men doing that already!" says the boss. - NMU



Why did the truck driver drive his truck off the cliff?

He wanted to try out the air brakes. - Mechanics Hub

OSBMA Membership Renewal



The Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association is comprised of over 350 school bus mechanics working directly for school districts or for contractors from all over the state of Ohio. The general aim of the association is the advancement of pupil transportation as a part of a school district's public education program.

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP is open to **any qualified mechanic** who has responsibility in maintaining the operation of a safe and efficient pupil transportation system. Active membership is \$30 per year.

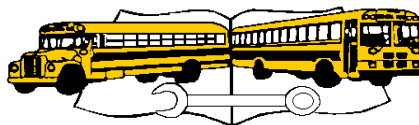
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP is open to other Ohio school officials who are interested in promoting safe pupil transportation in Ohio, retired OSBMA members, and vendors. Associate membership is \$20 per year, on an individual basis.

Membership is good for one year:

JULY 1, 2020 through JUNE 30, 2021

Please join us in promoting safe and efficient pupil transportation in Ohio!

Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association Annual Membership Application Form



School District / Employer _____

County _____

Name _____
[please print]

Work Telephone _____

Home Address _____
Street

Home Telephone _____

City State Zip Code

Cell Telephone _____

Email Address _____
[please print legibly!]

Current Membership Number _____

Complete this form and mail to Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association, P.O. Box 30844, Gahanna, Ohio 43230.
Enclose payment of \$30 (check or money order made payable to: OHIO SCHOOL BUS MECHANICS ASSOCIATION).
This will activate your membership for the 2020/21 school year (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021).

The Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association corresponds primarily by email. If you do not have access to a computer, we will mail your information to your home address.

Would you like to be listed in the Mutual Aid Booklet?

Yes

No

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Check # <i>if applicable</i> | If paying by credit card: <input type="radio"/> VISA <input type="radio"/> MasterCard <input type="radio"/> DISCOVER <input type="radio"/> AMERICAN EXPRESS | | | 3-digit security code: |
| PO # <i>if applicable</i> | Credit Card # <i>if applicable</i> | Expiration date MM/YYYY | Billing Zip Code <i>zip code</i> | |
| Name on card: | | | | |

TIPS & TRICKS

It always feels good when you figure out an issue you are having with a bus, especially when the fix is cheaper and easier than expected.

I was moving some buses around this summer prior to inspection, and I noticed very hard steering on one of my 2009 BlueBird Visions. The first thing I thought was....Dang... Power steering pump, which is gear driven and not cheap! After doing some investigating, I found that the pump was not the culprit—it was working properly. I lifted the front end and noticed the tires were somewhat hard to turn by hand. I removed one end of the center link (tie rod) to confirm which side of the front end was binding up.

After checking each side, I noticed the passenger side tire turned much easier but the driver's side still turned hard. I started to think maybe there was an issue in the gear box, but I thought I would check something a bit easier first. I removed the steering shaft to check both u-joints and there it was. One of the u-joints was froze up. I had changed a few of those in the past, due to having a small amount of play in them, but never saw one froze up. The needle bearings on one side of the u-joint were completely dry and worn, which was surprising because they are greased every 6,000 miles, but like any moving part they do wear out. I installed the new u-joint and \$30 later, Bus #6 was back in business!



FEEL FREE TO EMAIL ME CKLINGE@PHPATRIOTS.ORG
ANY TIPS OR TRICKS YOU MAY HAVE AND WE CAN SHARE THEM WITH OUR FELLOW MECHANICS.

Chad Klinge, OSBMA Newsletter Editor, Patrick Henry Local Schools

32nd Annual OSBMA Workshop—postponed

The OSBMA Executive Committee voted in favor of postponing the 32nd Annual Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association workshop until 2021 due to the covid-19 pandemic.

Please take good care of yourself and stay healthy.
We look forward to seeing you in 2021!





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