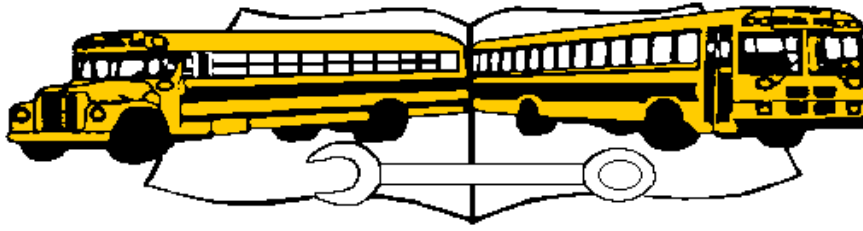


# The Mechanic's Messenger



## Annual Meeting

We are excited to announce that new officers were elected at the 32nd Annual Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association Annual Meeting held in Columbus, Ohio in October! Please welcome:

VICE PRESIDENT	ROBERT (ROB) WIDENER, GREENVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
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## Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association

Volume 29, Issue 1

December, 2021

## 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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*Left : Congratulations are in order for Thomas Mather achieving his Master School Bus Technician Certification. Bob Roth awarded a plaque commending him for this achievement.*

*Right: Bob Roth thanks Chris Dingus for his service as the president of the Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association.*

## Vendor Spotlight!

### JACK SZALKA, CUMMINS SALES & SERVICE

Position: Technical Support Manager—Bus—Northern Region

#### How long have you been a part of the OSBMA?

My involvement with OSBMA has been presenting Cummins technical sessions since 2017 at many of the region meeting and also the yearly meeting.

#### What do you enjoy most about the OSBMA?

Meeting with tech's from across Ohio and helping improve the understanding of Cummins engines to hopefully improve their ability to properly diagnose and repair the engine. My theory has always been "if you understand how it works or what it does, you can fix it"

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

Spending time with my wife and dogs and traveling around in our motor home to herding and conformation events with the dogs. The time left over working on anything mechanical and fix things that most people would throw away or buy another.

#### Do you have any hidden talents?

I think all my hidden talents have been exposed over all the years I have been around.

**Johnny is driving a 2015 Bluebird Vision with a 6.7 L ISB hauling 42 students. Sally is hauling 51 students and driving a 2001 Bluebird All American (stub nose) with a 5.9 Cummins. There is 2" of snow on the ground and a Northwest wind at 25 mph. Which bus could do the most donuts in the School parking lot?**

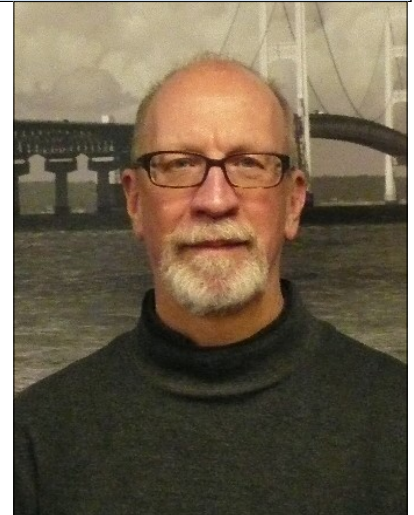
Hopefully neither is doing donuts in the parking lot and the drivers are acting a bit more responsible and keeping the safety of the passengers in mind. That being said, if I ran the fleet I would have retired that BB All American 2001 long ago and it would not be in use to have this possibility. (However the 2001 Cummins was a fantastic Engine)

**What is your favorite Television Show or Movie?** I gravitate to anything automotive related.

#### What are your future plans/ goals in life?

Since I will be retiring from Cummins 12/31/21, my *not so far in the future plan* will be enjoy retirement as my next chapter. I'm hoping I have imparted some of my knowledge along to make all of your jobs a little easier!

I have truly enjoyed working with OSBMA over the past several years. Please keep the organization strong and active as I have found it to be one of the **best** in all 7 states I supported for Cummins.



Jack Szalka,  
Cummins Sales & Service



A father came home from a ten day deer hunting trip to find his son riding a very expensive new mountain bike.

He asked his son, "Where did you get the money for that new bike? It must have cost a fortune."

His son answered, "I earned it by hiking."

The father said, "Come on now son, tell me the truth."

His son said, "That is the truth! Every night that you were gone, Mr. Jones from the grocery store would come over to see mom and each time he'd give me a \$20 bill and tell me to go take a hike!"



# Toss'em Tuesday!



The 2021 Toss'em Tuesday Cornhole Tourney took place at this year's 32nd Annual Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association Annual Workshop/ Vendor Show in Columbus. What a great evening to network with other Mechanics/ School Bus Vendors in a relaxed cornhole throwin' atmosphere!

Once again we had some stiff competition in this double elimination blind draw tournament. We also raffled off 6 sets of cornhole boards which were donated by these great Vendors! Needless to say nobody was "board" ...ok that was kind of "corn-y" anyways..... I'm pretty sure a fun time was had by all competitors!

Thanks again to our sponsors who have generously donated to this event! Enzo's Cleaning Solutions, Cleveland Tank and Cummins Filtration! Practice up and will see ya again next year!

## dieseltip#055

average cost of:

diesel fuel = \$4.00/gallon

beer = \$3.00/bottle

it is officially cheaper to  
drink than drive.

WARNING: simultaneous use can be very hazardous



# 2021 OSBMA Vendor Show



It was another packed venue at the 2021 Fall Vendor Show in Columbus, Ohio. School bus Vendors from all over the country came to show off their products for Ohio's Bus Mechanics! These Companies have an extensive amount of knowledge and literature about these products. This is a great place to find almost anything Bus related you may need!

You can learn a lot at these events, talking with Vendors and fellow Mechanics! If you would like more information from a particular Vendor, check our website [osbma.org](http://osbma.org).

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# TIPS & TRICKS



FALL HAS QUICKLY CAME AND GONE,  
OLD MAN WINTER IS KNOCKING ON THE DOOR!  
TIME FOR SOME COLD WEATHER PREVENTATIVE  
MAINTENANCE.

HERE ARE A FEW ITEMS THAT SHOULD BE  
DOUBLE-CHECKED THIS TIME OF YEAR!



1. **BATTERIES** – No surprise this is probably the most important part of the vehicle. If you have a battery that is close to extinction, I recommend changing it before winter. It may last in summer months but the cold will kill it fast! You can also check alternator output.
2. **BLOCK HEATER** –We all know what happens when this part is bad. Your engine needs this extra boost of heat during the winter months. You can check these with a multimeter along with the extension cords!
3. **FUEL AND WATER SEPARATORS** – These filters catch all sorts of nasty gel. They need cleaned / changed before winter. No reason to ware up a bowl of gel soup! Find a good fuel additive and use it.
4. **COOLANT** – Make sure it's filled to the correct line and check the freeze point. If you want to stay warm the cooling system has to be to the full mark!

5. Of course we can't forget **TIRES, WIPERS, BELTS AND HOSES!** No matter how prepared you are, break downs will happen. It seems like more than ever things are made to break, and that's job security I guess.

If you can check these items off your list, you will be ahead of the game this winter!

FEEL FREE TO EMAIL ME [CKLINGE@PHPATRIOTS.ORG](mailto: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*

**We hope your holiday season is  
warm and cheerful!  
Please be safe when traveling.**





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