

The Mechanic's Messenger



Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association

Volume 31, Issue 2

November, 2023

Annual OSBMA Workshop!

The Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association would like to thank the many school bus industry vendors who participated in presenting topics and displaying their products at the vendor show:

- Allison Transmission
- American Bus and Accessories
- AngelTrax
- Anglin Equipment
- Auto-Jet Muffler Corp.
- Bosch
- Bostech Auto
- Cardinal Bus Sales & Service
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- Ohio Department of Education
- Ohio Highway Safety Patrol
- Onspot of North America
- Oscar W. Larson / OWL Services
- Pre-Q GALGO Corporation
- REI - Radio Engineering Industries
- REM - Safe Fleet
- Robert Bosch
- Rush Bus Centers of Ohio
- Surveillance-247, LLC
- The W.W. Williams Company
- Thomas Built Buses
- Timken
- Transportation Accessories Co.
- Unity School Bus Parts
- Worldwide Equipment of Ohio

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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Vendor Spotlight!

Name: Tony Wallace
Company: Myers Equipment Corporation
Position: Regional Sales Representative
(Northwest Ohio Region)

How long have you been a part of the OSBMA?

Myers Equipment has been a vendor providing Thomas Built Bus sales, parts, service and training for the OSBMA for at least 34 years. I have personally been with Myers for 2 years.

What do you enjoy most about the OSBMA?

I like that the mechanics have a community to look to for any needs or questions and it allows dealers and vendors to hold training sessions and have open lines of communication.

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

I really enjoy golfing every chance I get no matter how many times I have to swing the club per round.

Do you have any hidden talents?

I can throw a football at the ground and have it bounce back to me nearly every time.

You just won a million dollars! What's your first purchase?

First, a case of beer! Then flowers for my wife and pay off the house.

What is your favorite Television Show or Movie?

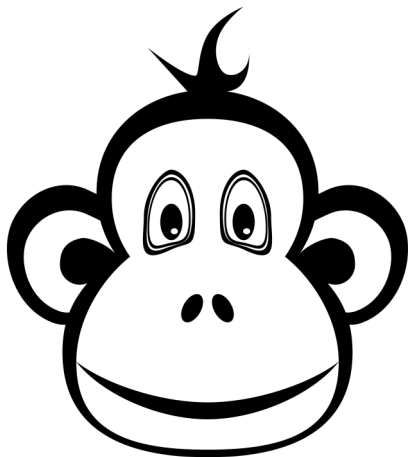
My favorite show is "Game of Thrones". My favorite movie is "Roadhouse".

What are your future plans/ goals in life?

To raise a kind and respectful son, travel often and retire young.



*Tony Wallace
Myers Equipment Corporation*



A woman gets on a bus with her baby.

The driver says: "Ugh, that's the ugliest baby I've ever seen!"

The woman walks to the rear of the bus and sits down, fuming. She says to the man next to her: "The driver just insulted me!"

The man says: "You go up there and tell him off. Go on, I'll hold your monkey for you."

Mechanic Spotlight!

Name: Greg Blessing
Company: Tipp City Schools
Position: Head Mechanic

How long have you been a part of the OSBMA?

I have been an active member for 10 years. I am currently the West Regional Director.

What do you enjoy most about the OSBMA?

I like the camaraderie between school districts.

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

I enjoy kid sports, camping, spending time with loved ones.

Do you have any hidden talents?

If I do I have not found them yet!

You just won a million dollars! What's your first purchase?

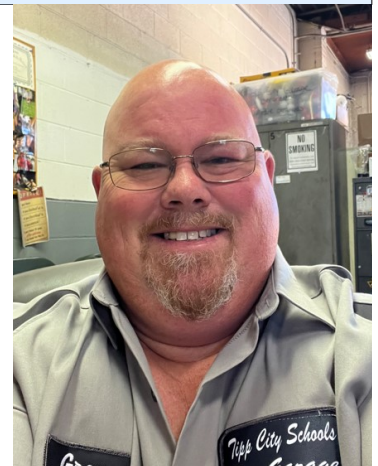
I would buy a bunch of land and build a new house.

What is your favorite Television Show or Movie?

My favorite shows are Joe Pickett and Yellowstone.

What are your future plans/ goals in life?

Get healthy/healthier and move back to the country.



*Greg Blessing
Tipp City Schools*

OSBMA Facebook Page

All current Active and Associate members of the Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association are invited to join the OSBMA Facebook page! Search for the "Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association" and click on "Join Group". An administrator will verify your membership status and admit you to the group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/285004800279493>

FACEBOOK POLL

The Ohio School Bus Mechanics Association is considering changing the annual "fall" workshop to being held in the summer. Attendance in October was down, partly due to some school bus mechanics needing to drive for their school district. If we held the annual workshop the last week of July or the first week of August this would alleviate that issue. It might be easier for mechanics to attend because it would be after the annual school bus inspections but before school started.

Let us know what you think!

- Option 1—Keep the Annual OSBMA Workshop in October**
- Option 2—Move the Annual OSBMA Workshop to July/August**

TIPS & TRICKS

Do you remember the first time you changed oil on a Roush V8 Godzilla? Of course you do, because when it was time to fill it back up with oil, you had some choice words for the engineer that picked the location, angle and cap size!

So here is a simple, easy, inexpensive solution! Grab a transmission funnel and cut 2 inches off the bottom of the spout. Next take the funnel to your vice and gently compress it in place. Take your heat gun and slowly begin to warm up the funnel about 3 inches from the bottom. This will allow you to put the perfect bend in it. Take it to the bus and make sure it fits properly. If not, give it a little more bend. Just like that—easy, no spill refill!



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

Fall Workshop 2023

Another year in the books! The 34th Annual Fall Workshop and Vendor show was held in early October this year. The new location was the Embassy Suites in Dublin, Ohio. The weather was perfect, near 90 degrees and no hotel issues! The event kicked off at a new Monday Night location. Pins Mechanical was the venue with a shuttle provided by Bluebird. This event was sponsored by Cummins Sales and Service, Unity Bus Parts and Rush Bus Centers of Ohio. What a great way to kick off the Workshop and catch up with fellow Mechanics!



Tuesday started off with a welcome session from President Rob Widener. Jason Heilman (picture below) with ODE was also in attendance and updated everyone on new topics and issues. The rest of morning was full of classes presented by a wide range of companies.



Vendor Show

The Vendor show was held Tuesday from 2pm– 5pm. We had over 30 Vendors from all over the country! We saw a lot of familiar faces along with some new companies. These Vendors are always providing us with valuable resources and options to take back to our shops. We are very thankful for the continued support by these Companies. For a full list of 2023 Vendors visit our website at osbma.osbma.org.



Annual Workshop Overview

Toss'em Tuesday

After a day full of classes, time to relax and throw some bags! A must attend event that starts at 7pm and ends with the last man standing. We had 2 blind draw tournaments and some karaoke that lasted into the early morning hours. Refreshments and snacks were provided along with gift card and cornhole board giveaways. Cash money winners for the tournaments were.....1st place Shawn Rabatin and Justin Showman 2nd place went to Chad Klinge and Chris Trickett. The second tourney winners were....2nd place Justin Showman and Chris Trickett 1st place winners were Craig Wise and Jeff G.

And as always thank you to our awesome Tuesday Night Sponsors: **Enzo's** , **Cleveland Tank**, **W.W.Williams**, **Cummins Filtration**, **Pre-Q GALCO**, and **REM-Safe Fleet**. This event would NOT be possible without your support!



Cornhole Board raffle winners were

Ron Lenhart

Fred B.

David Davis

Austin Hamlin

Kieth Merce



Annual Meeting

Wednesday Morning we were back in classes until lunch. We then gathered for our wrap up meeting. Directors grouped up with their local Mechanics and talked about future workshops and other bus related issues they deal with. We even had a few members step up and become part of the Executive Committee. The OSBMA welcomes **Kevin Goff, Miami Valley Career Technology Center as the West Associate Director and James Lee, Sandusky City Schools as the North Associate Director**. We ended the event with a table full of tools to giveaway and a couple more cornhole boards.

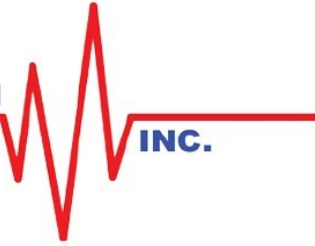
Thanks again for everyone who attended this two day Workshop. We understand the shortage of drivers and realize that many Mechanics drive bus daily. We hope to find ways to get more Mechanics in attendance and provide them with valuable training! See you all next year!



Congratulations to Edward Holbrook, Southwest Licking Local Schools (right) in receiving an award to recognize his accomplishment of Master School Bus Technician in the state of Ohio. Presented by OSBMA President Rob Widener.

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in Ohio!*

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W.W. Williams

CONSIDER IT DONE.

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 contact: Chad Klinge (419)769-0472

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