

LEARN WITH STAI!

In a few short days, our annual STAI conference will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana. Learning opportunities will be abundant! Are YOU taking advantage of them? This year's agenda is packed full of lots of workshops; there is something for everyone! Take a look at the conference program on this website. There is also something on the agenda for the first time EVER... FREE training for anyone in the state of Indiana, including bus drivers, to hear the sobering story of the Dale County shooting/killing of the bus driver and kidnapping of a student. It's difficult to type these words, let alone imagine it. No director, driver, parent, school district or student ever wants to go through something like this. "Safety must be our #1 priority."

There is no such thing as someone being "too safe". In the hectic day to day lives of transportation personnel, we get so busy we sometimes overlook things that can or do lead to a tragedy. Did you ever have one of your driver's tell you another driver backed up a bus on school property (without a spotter) with students moving about and you were too busy so you let it go? It happens. Best practices change to improve safety. Attending the annual conference is a helpful tool to learn and grow and be inspired to keep safety at the forefront.

Once again this year there will be a Safety Competition open to any driver throughout the state of Indiana. The event will take place at the Indiana State Fairgrounds on June 13, 2015. It's a day of fun, food and prizes for all who participate. Winners get an expense paid trip to the national competition. It doesn't matter if you drive a conventional, transit or special needs bus---all are invited!

I hope you can join us at the upcoming conference. Nothing is more productive and beneficial then rubbing elbows with your fellow transportation colleagues from across our state. When walking this path, it is most helpful to glean the practices and tips others have to offer to make your school bus transportation world a little easier to travel.

In closing, I would like to share the poetic talent of our own Region 6 director. Keep it safe, Lynn



School Bus Drivers

by Lynn Edwards

I am thankful for Bus Drivers, careful and kind, who always keep safety at the tops of their minds.

The ones who are helpful and work very hard who always use caution and don't let down their guard.

The drivers who help out when things go awry perhaps they can't help, but they're still glad to try.

They drive when it's hot and in sub-zero freeze in cats-and-dogs downpours and low-hanging trees.

They understand parents have given their trust that their kids will be safe when riding the bus.

Some drivers will say they've had decades of fun Now hauling old passengers' daughters and sons.

While some are still rookies, just getting a feel for all you must think of when manning that wheel.

The job's rarely easy, the rewards sometimes few which is why I give thanks for what good drivers do!!