



This publication is a member service of

**National School
Transportation Association**
113 South West Street, 4th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: (703) 684-3200
Fax: (703) 684-3212
E-mail: info@yellowbuses.org
Website: www.yellowbuses.org

2005-06 Board of Directors

Executive Board/Officers:

John Corr, President

The Trans Group - NY
(845) 356-2200

Barry Stock, President-elect

Durham School Services - US/Canada
(905) 952-2005

Donald Fowler, Secretary/Treasurer

Fowler Bus Company, Inc. - MO
(816) 776-2548

**Dale Krapf, Immediate Past
President**

Krapf Buses - PA (610) 594-2664

Regional Directors:

Region One - Carey Paster

First Student, Inc. (US/Canada)

Region Two - Charles Peterson

Kottkes' Bus Service, Inc. (MN)

Region Three - Dan Kobussen

Kobussen Buses, Ltd. (WI)

Region 4 - Todd Monteferrario

First Student, Inc. (US/Canada)

At Large Delegates:

John Benish

Cook-Illinois Corporation (IL)

George (Bill) Beck

Beck Bus (IL)

Kevin Clifford

Huntington Coach, Inc. (NY)

Magda Dimmendaal

Dousman Transport (WI)

John Elliott

Durham School Services (US/Canada)

Timothy Flood

The Trans Group (NY)

Steven Hey

School Bus, Inc. (SD)

Paul Losos

Sunrise Transportation (IL)

Philip Paige

Paige Bus Enterprises (IL)

Bob Pudlewski

Laidlaw Education Services
(US/Canada)

Peter Settle

Petermann, LLC (OH)

Patrick Vaughan

Laidlaw Education Services
(US/Canada)

The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) was founded in 1964 by school bus contractors to "promote and foster the highest degree of safety in the transportation of school children"



House Passes Price Gouging Legislation

This week by a vote of 389-35, the House passed legislation expanding Federal authority on price gouging with up to \$150 million in penalties for violations. Also under consideration was refinery streamlining legislation, which the House was unable to pass because of the procedure used to bring the bill up for a vote. The bill failed despite overwhelming support. House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Joe Barton (R-TX) has indicated that he intends to bring the refinery legislation back to the Floor next week.

NSTA, in partnership with NAPT and NASPTS, was able to quickly send a letter to House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) encouraging the support of both the refinery streamlining bill and the price gouging bill. Members and staff from the House Energy and Commerce Committee were very appreciative of this letter and understanding of the impact fuel prices are having on our industry. In addition, House Majority Leader John Boehner (R-IN) issued a press release quoting extensively from our school bus industry letter.

In our joint letter we urged a bipartisan approach to the problem and specifically

mentioned support for the School Energy Crisis Relief Act, sponsored by Congressman Joe Baca (D-CA). The bill would provide grant funding to help defray energy costs of the most disadvantaged school systems. NSTA will continue to work with Congressman Baca's office in hopes of moving this or other energy legislation in the weeks ahead.

Diesel Emission Reduction Act Update

The House Interior, Environment and Related Agencies

Appropriations Subcommittee met this week

to mark up the Fiscal Year 2007 Appropriations bill.

This bill includes funding for clean diesel programs under the umbrella of the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA). Clean School Bus programs would be funded under DERA.

Earlier in the week a letter signed by 89 House Members urged the Committee to provide the full \$49.5 million requested by the Administration. While the bill is not yet available, the Committee has indicated that the bill includes \$23 million for DERA or almost double the funding for all clean diesel programs last year.

NSTA is working to increase the number in the House and has also been working in the Senate, where 50 Senators have written asking for the full Administration request. We will continue to update you on this as details become available.





Negotiated Rulemaking Committee to Meet Next Week

The first meeting of the Charter Bus Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee will be held on May 8-9 in Washington, D.C.

As you'll recall, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), passed by Congress last summer, directed the Secretary of Transportation to undertake a negotiated rulemaking to look at potential changes and improvements to charter rules.

A negotiated rulemaking is a formal process, which emerged in the 1980s as an alternative to traditional procedures for drafting proposed regulations.

The key issues for negotiation are:

- Are there potential limited conditions under which public transit agencies can provide community-based charter services directly to local governments and private non-profit agencies that would not otherwise be served in a cost-effective manner by private operators?
- How can the administration and enforcement of charter bus provisions be better communicated to the public, including the use of internet technology?
- How can the enforcement of violations of the charter bus regulations be improved?
- How can the charter complaint and administrative appeals process be improved?

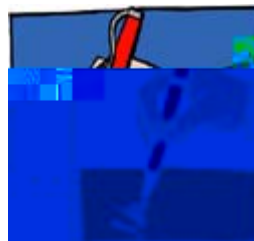
In addition to these issues, FTA has identified the following issues of consideration:

- A potential new exception for emergency services such as evacuation and training for emergencies, including homeland security, natural disasters, and other emergencies.
- A new process for determining if there are private charter bus companies willing and able to provide such service that would utilize electronic notification and response within 72 hours.
- A new exception for transportation of government employees, elected officials, and members of the transit industry to examine local transit operations, facilities, and public works.
- Clarify the definitions of regulatory terms.

John Corr is a member of the Advisory Committee as a representative of NSTA.

The Committee is expected to meet once a month for at least the next five months.

**We
Just
Need
ONE
More...**



Congressman John J. "Jimmy" Duncan (R-TN) introduced House Resolution 498 honoring School Bus Safety Week on October 18, 2005. The Resolution honors the goals and ideals of School Bus Safety Week and the safety of school bus transportation.

The most current list of co-sponsors to the Resolution, **totaling 49**, include: Representatives Timothy Bishop (R-UT), Sherwood Boehlert (R-

NY), John Boozman (R-AR), Jeb Bradley (R-NH), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Ken Calvert (R-CA), **Lois Capps (D-CA)**, Jerry Costello (D-IL), Danny Davis (D-IL) Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Eliot Engel (D-NY), Jim Gerlach (R-PA), **Bart Gordon (R-TN)**, Stephanie Herseth (D-SD), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), **Mike Honda (D-CA)**, Darrell Issa (R-CA), Tim Johnson (R-IL), **Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH)**, Sue Kelly (R-NY), Randy Kuhl (R-NY), Ray LaHood (R-IL), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), Betty McCollum (D-MN), Jim McGovern (D-MA), Mike McIntyre (D-NC), Michael McNulty (R-NY), **Jerry Moran (R-KS)**, Richard Neal (D-MA), Tom Osborne (R-NE), Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Donald Payne (D-NJ), Tom Petri (R-WI), Joseph Pitts (R-PA), Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD), Tim Ryan (D-OH), Martin Sabo (D-MN), John Shimkus (R-IL), **Bill Shuster (R-PA)**, Rob Simmons (R-CT), Ike Skelton (D-MO), Mark Souder (R-IN), Ted Strickland (D-OH), Mark Udall (D-CO), Fred Upton (R-MI), **James Walsh (R-NY)**, Anthony Weiner (D-NY) and Curt Weldon (R-PA). (Bold italics denote new additions to the list of co-sponsors.)

We have made much progress in securing co-sponsors and we thank you for your efforts to date, but we're still not quite there yet. A new letter from Congressman Duncan to all Members of the House of Representatives was recently sent, so this is a great time to follow up with your Member of Congress. **Please contact them and ask that they join onto the bill as a co-sponsor.** In order for the Committee to act upon the Resolution we must have at least 50 co-sponsors, so your assistance in this effort is very important. As this is only a House effort, there is no need to contact your Senators about this Resolution.

It's Time to Register for NSTA's Summer Convention!

NSTA's Summer Convention will be held at **Harrah's Resort in Lake Tahoe, Nevada**, July 22-26, 2006.



A special group block has been set up for NSTA attendees and is available at the discounted group rate of \$165 single or double occupancy. Rooms are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

To make reservations for your room(s), call **(800) 455-4770** and ask for the Group Code: **S07-NSTA**.

[Convention Registration](#) Forms are available online at NSTA's website, www.yellowbuses.org.



NSTA Starts a New Year

NSTA has just completed its fiscal year. With a new year, come membership dues renewals.

NSTA sent out dues notices over the last month. For those who have renewed already, **THANK YOU!** If you have not sent in your payment yet, please give us a call and let us know they are on their way.

**www.
yellowbuses.
org**

Welcome New Member!

**Arthur J. Gallagher
& Co.**

Lynn M. Cagnetta
White Plains,
New York

Important Events to Mark in your Calendar...

July 23-26, 2006
[42nd Annual Meeting
and Convention](#)
*Harrah's
Lake Tahoe, Nevada*

January 28-31, 2007
Midwinter Meeting
*Loews Ventana Canyon
Resort
Tucson, Arizona*

July 14-18, 2007
43rd Annual Meeting
and Convention
*Westin Waterfront Hotel
Boston, Massachusetts*