



# A DIAMOND IN THE BUS

---

60<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE



JULY 15-18, 2018

ALBANY MARRIOTT  
ALBANY, NEW YORK

This Program generously sponsored by the Capital Area Chapter of NYAPT! Thank you!



## SUNDAY JULY 15

**8:00 AM**      **Schenectady/Troy Room**      **Master Instructor Graduation**  
*Join us in celebrating the graduation of the 2018 Master Instructor Class. They have revised and updated the BASIC COURSE and will present the fruits of their labors! They will receive their MI Certificates at the Awards Event!*

**12:30 PM**      **Salon A**      **New Attendees Workshop**  
*If you have never attended an Annual Conference, this is the place for you to be! Learn a little about the flow of the show and about special opportunities and events. Also meet people who will be there for you during the conference!*

**1:00 PM**      **EMPIRE ROOM**      **WELCOME AND ANNUAL MEETING**  
*Our Association leadership will share with our members an update on the "business of NYAPT." Learn about our accomplishments and about exciting new directions for the future. Also hear from the individuals who are running for election.*

### 2:00 PM      Educational Workshops

**Salon A**      **Riding the School Bus Thru the Eyes of Autism**      **David Krause**  
Guest Presenter  
*David Krause is a familiar attendee at our Annual Conferences and his perspectives on school transportation are always interesting and insightful. We look forward to David's observations and recommendations!*

**Salon B**      **Loading & Unloading Considerations**      **Betty Hughes**  
Pupil Transportation Safety Institute  
*The process of getting our children on board safely and then getting them off the bus just as safely is a vital part of the school bus ride. It is also where things can go very wrong, very quickly. We need to take this session seriously, for the children.*

**Salon D**      **De-Escalation Strategies on the Bus**      **David Christopher**  
Pupil Transportation Safety Institute  
*In today's world, it is more likely that someone will take an argument to a higher level and even get violent. Also in today's world, how we handle those moments is likely to be videotaped by the school bus or by a Smart Phone. This session will explore best practices in the crucial area of de-escalating serious situations.*

### 3:15 PM      Educational Workshops

**Salon A**      **Delivering Hard News**      **William Hoosty**  
WRH Consulting, Inc.  
*Parents. Drivers. Administrators. On any given day, one of these groups of people can be the subject of hard news or bad news from us. How we share that news, the words we use, the tone and inflection of our voice makes all the difference. Bill Hoosty always has a unique method to sharing such lessons. Listen.*

This Program generously sponsored by the Capital Area Chapter of NYAPT! Thank you!

**Salon B**      **Loading & Unloading Considerations**      **Betty Hughes**  
Pupil Transportation Safety Institute  
*Getting our children on board safely and then getting them off the bus just as safely is a vital part of the school bus ride. It is also a place where things can go very wrong, very quickly. We need to take this session seriously, for the children.*

**Salon D**      **De-Escalation Strategies on the Bus**      **David Christopher**  
Pupil Transportation Safety Institute  
*In today's world, it is more likely that someone will take an argument to a higher level and even get violent. Also in today's world, how we handle those moments is likely to be videotaped by the school bus or by a Smart Phone. This session will explore best practices in the crucial area of de-escalating serious situations.*

**4:15 PM      Educational Workshops**

**Salon A**      **Delivering Hard News**      **William Hoosty**  
WRH Consulting, Inc.  
*Parents. Drivers. Administrators. On any given day, one of these groups of people can be the subject of hard news or bad news from us. How we share that news, the words we use, the tone and inflection of our voice makes all the difference. Bill Hoosty always has a unique method to sharing such lessons. Listen.*

**Salon B**      **Avoiding the Rock and the Hard Place**      **Jeff Olefson**  
Staff Development Associates  
**Panelists:**      **Joe Goodway, Rochelle O'Mara, Brian Trask**  
*Leaders often find themselves saying "how did I get in this predicament?" This session will explore (with some humor and candor) those moments when you can't tell which is worse: the rock or the hard place. And our panel of NYAPT members will share their moments and strategies. You just gotta see this!*



**7:00 PM      Salon EFGH**

**Cash Reception @ 6:30 PM in the Foyer**

**"Excellence Achieved" Awards Event**

***This is the event we all wait for!***

***Join us to celebrate those among us who have achieved special things for the profession and our association!!***



**MONDAY JULY 16**

**NOTE: THERE IS NO OFFICIAL BREAKFAST SCHEDULED!**

*INDUSTRY LEADER SPONSOR SESSION*



*8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Empire Room*

10:00 AM Presentation from Executive Director Empire Room

11:00 AM-5:00 PM

Grand Ballroom & Outdoors Trade & Exhibit Show

12:00-1:00 PM Trade Show Boxed Lunch Grand Ballroom & Foyer

11:00 AM-1:00 PM Poster Contest Judging Grand Foyer

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Election of Officers: VOTING Troy Room



4:00 PM Ice Cream Social & Raffle Drawings Grand Ballroom & Foyer

*INDUSTRY LEADER SPONSOR SESSION*



*5:00 PM-6:00 PM Empire Room*



*Monday Night Social Event at the WOLF's 1-11!!*

6:00 PM --- 10:00 PM **CROWN JEWELS** After Party at WOLF'S 1-11!  
Music by the "AUDIO STARS"! Great food! Raffles and Prize Baskets. A great time after a great day!

This Program generously sponsored by the Capital Area Chapter of NYAPT! Thank you!



**TUESDAY JULY 17**



**7:45 AM Breakfast and Special Presentations**

**Welcome NY Schools Insurance Reciprocal for Scholarship Presentations**



**8:30 AM General Session**



**Featured Speaker: Craig Davidson, Author, "PRECIOUS CARGO"**

*Craig Davidson is an author (he publishes mysteries under a different name) who found himself driving a school bus when life didn't pan out on other opportunities. He shares a sensitive, honest and totally aware picture of being the person in the drivers' seat of a school bus, transporting 6 students with special needs and finding how much there is to learn from them and from his experience. Here's an observation from the book: **"Everyone (of the drivers) was seeking to do something valuable for a few hours a day. They were good, smart, caring people who took their job seriously and did it well."***

*In a time when we are struggling to find school bus drivers, Craig gives us a ray of hope and words that shore up our perception of this awesome role in our schools and communities. (NOTE: Craig will be on hand to sell and sign his book **PRECIOUS CARGO** following his presentation)*

**10:00 AM Educational Workshops**

**Salon A**

**You and Your** 

**Thomas Mossotti  
American Heart Association**

*What makes us tick? We know it's our heart! In the stressful world of school transportation, it's critical to keep ourselves healthy and ready for action for our children. Learn more about heart health and even more about resources for you and for your safety team! A healthy team is a great team!*

This Program generously sponsored by the Capital Area Chapter of NYAPT! Thank you!

**Salon B**      **NAPT: Driver Risk Index**

**Catherine Hickem**  
**Cindy Barber**  
**The Dash Group**

*You need good drivers. Drivers you can trust. Drivers you can depend on to do the right thing. In a time when drivers are often at a premium, you need to make smart decisions on selection. NAPT has partnered with The Dash Group to develop a driver risk index tool to help make those decisions with confidence so you can rest better knowing you have done the right thing.*

**Salon C**      **Thinking Ahead on Pre-K**

**Betty Hughes**  
**Pupil Transportation Safety Institute**

*As Pre-Kindergarten and other early childhood programs expand in our schools and communities, we need to be prepared to accept younger children with different needs on our buses and be ready to relate and respond. We will explore “some” of the needs and issues that means for us and our drivers...and the children.*

**Salon D**      **Opioids, Drugs and School Buses**

**Walter Davies**  
**Office of Alcohol & Substance Abuse Services**

*There is an Opioid and drug crisis growing across our nation, in rural, suburban and urban areas alike. It is affecting our children but also our drivers. Kids are using and often dying from their use; drivers often find pain drugs addicting following injuries. How do we prepare drivers to identify kids with problems and monitor our drivers for their issues?*

**11:15 AM**      **Educational Workshops**

**Salon A**      **You and Your** 

**Thomas Mossotti**  
**American Heart Association**

*What makes us tick? We know it's our heart! In the stressful world of school transportation, it's critical to keep ourselves healthy and ready for action for our children. Learn more about heart health and even more about resources for you and for your safety team! A healthy team is a great team!*

**Salon B**      **NAPT: Driver Risk Index**

**Catherine Hickem**  
**Cindy Barber**  
**The Dash Group**

*You need good drivers. Drivers you can trust. Drivers you can depend on to do the right thing. In a time when drivers are often at a premium, you need to make smart decisions on selection. NAPT has partnered with The Dash Group to develop a driver risk index tool to help make those decisions with confidence so you can rest better knowing you have done the right thing.*

**Salon C**      **Thinking Ahead on Pre-K**

**Betty Hughes**  
**Pupil Transportation Safety Institute**

*As Pre-Kindergarten and other early childhood programs expand in our schools and communities, we need to be prepared to accept younger children with different needs on our buses and be ready to relate and respond. We will explore “some” of the needs and issues that means for us and our drivers...and the children.*

**Salon D      Opioids, Drugs and School Buses**

**Walter Davies  
Office of Alcohol & Substance  
Abuse Services**

*There is an Opioid and drug crisis growing across our nation, in rural, suburban and urban areas alike. It is affecting our children but also our drivers. Kids are using and often dying from their use; drivers often find pain drugs addicting following injuries. How do we prepare drivers to identify kids with problems and monitor our drivers for their issues?*

**12:15 PM      Lunch and Presentations**

**Salon EFGH      Lunch and Key State Agency Updates  
NYS Department of Transportation  
NYS Department of Motor Vehicles  
NYS Education Department**

**Marc Berger  
Tracey Wheaton & Friends  
Paul Overbaugh**

*Continuing a long tradition of bringing our agency partners into the conference to share agency news and initiatives, join us in thanking the representatives from SED, DOT and DMV for taking time to be here with us once again! Great partners!*

**1:45 PM      Educational Workshops**

**Salon A      Is Google Site for You?**

**Jeff Olefson  
Staff Development Associates**

*Your drivers tap in a URL address and they see a page full of the very important information they need to know that day. They can find rules about field trips or maybe a training module on kids with autism. They are looking at YOUR OWN website! Can you make this work for you? We bet you can!!*

**Salon B      Safety Technology: For School Buses?**

**Joseph Peplinski, Vice Pres.  
Haylor, Freyer & Coon**

*When the NTSB speaks, our industry listens. The NTSB has several times recommended the introduction of several safety technologies onto school buses for safety. We need to know more about what those technologies are and how they might affect student safety and operations. Today is the day we learn more!*

**Salon D      Life After the NTSB Report: Accountability**

**David Christopher  
Pupil Transportation Safety Institute**

*This spring, the NTSB issued a report on two fatal bus accidents. While others focused on seat belt findings, we have focused more directly on the issues of accountability of districts and operators for the readiness of their drivers and child safety. This workshop will probe the serious implications of the NTSB findings in this vital area. A must hear...*

**3:15 PM      Educational Workshops**

**Salon A      Is Google Site for You?**

**Jeff Olefson  
Staff Development Associates**

*Your drivers tap in a URL address and they see a page full of the very important information they need to know that day. They can find rules about field trips or maybe a training module on kids with autism. They are looking at YOUR OWN website! Can you make this work for you? We bet you can!!*

This Program generously sponsored by the Capital Area Chapter of NYAPT! Thank you!

**Salon B      Safety Technology: For School Buses?**

**Joseph Peplinski, Vice Pres.  
Haylor, Freyer & Coon**

*When the NTSB speaks, our industry listens. The NTSB has several times recommended the introduction of several safety technologies onto school buses for safety. We need to know more about what those technologies are and how they might affect student safety and operations. Today is the day we learn more!*

**Salon D      Life After the NTSB Report: Accountability**

**David Christopher  
Pupil Transportation Safety Institute**

*This spring, the NTSB issued a report on two fatal bus accidents. While others focused on seat belt findings, we have focused more directly on the issues of accountability of districts and operators for the readiness of their drivers and child safety. This workshop will probe the serious implications of the NTSB findings in this vital area. A must hear...*

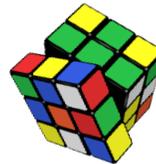
**7:00 PM      Salon EFGH**

**Family Night Dinner**



**Rubik Magic with Our Special Guest, STEVE BRUNDAGE  
Magician and Comedian of America's Got Talent Renown**

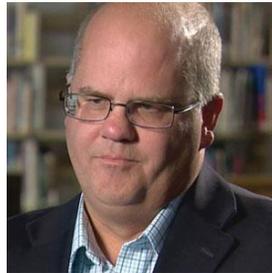
*Whether you can do a Rubik's Cube or not, Steve Brundage is going to amaze you with what HE can do with a Rubik's Cube and with your imagination! Relax, enjoy an Italian night family dinner and then revel in Steve Brundage's sleight-of-hand and sheer magic!!*





**WEDNESDAY JULY 18**

**7:45 AM Salon EFGH General Session and Breakfast**



**Guest Speaker: John McDonald, Jeff-Co Schools**

*That moment when you hear that a gun has been fired in a classroom building or, God forbid, on a school bus. There is no taking that sound back. What do you do? Where do you go? How do you get your arms around what is happening? How do you deal with scared kids and uncertain staff? How do you come back the next day and do what needs doing? And how do you prevent this from happening in the first place? Or can you? Our speaker has been there, in the thick of all of those questions as a family member whose kids were at Columbine on April 20, 1999. He has since gone on to develop school strategies for security and safety and has teamed up with Safe and Sound Schools, a non-profit formed by Sandy Hook parents. He has a crucial message for us today.*

**9:15 AM Educational Workshops**

**Salon A Professional Certification Lori-Ann Savino, NYAPT President**  
*NYAPT has reinstated our Professional Certification program for all Active and Associate Members. We are eager for members to sign on to the program to upgrade their credentials and to help ensure the safety of our children and the efficiency of our operations. Take time to hear more about the program and how you can get involved.*

**Salon B Homelessness in NY: Managing & Motivating with No Money Alexandra Robinson**  
*NYC-DOE/Office of Pupil Transportation*  
*Under McKinney-Vento, and now ESSA, those who are temporarily housed, in Foster Care, Pre-K and those in shelters might all need school buses. Join this interactive session to learn how to maneuver the constantly moving pieces in a difficult unfunded puzzle.*

**Salon C Driver Safety Review Richard Gallagher**  
*Bay Shore UFSD*  
**Frank Klein**  
*Suffolk Transportation Services*  
*The news has been full of stories about situations that might not have happened but for more rigorous driver management by districts and contractors. This district/contractor team works hand-in-hand to ensure safety. We all may do it differently but here is one that we have seen work...in large part because of a really strong partnership.*

This Program generously sponsored by the Capital Area Chapter of NYAPT! Thank you!

**Salon EFGH School Responses to Violence: GROUP PANEL Discussion**

*What happens when a school shooting or violent incident occurs? What is the impact on the children? What are parents expecting of us in such moments? How do we prepare school bus drivers for their role in such emotional moments? How do we support drivers for their own needs? How do we ensure that transportation is at the table when planning occurs and training is offered? What kind of planning and training and policies need to be considered for such events? Let's talk!*

**MODERATOR:** Peter Mannella, Executive Director, NYAPT & Cyr Foundation

**PANELISTS:**

- *Kyle Belokopitsky, Executive Director  
NYS PTA*
- *Jessica Goldstein, Deputy Director of Policy Services  
NYS School Boards Association*
- *Kathleen Furneaux, Executive Director  
Pupil Transportation Safety Institute*
- *Paul Overbaugh, NYSED  
Director of Pupil Transportation Services*
- *John Sawchuk, Retired School Principal  
East Greenbush Central School District*
- *Alexandra Robinson, Executive Director  
NY City Education Dept. ---Office of Pupil Transportation*

**12:15 PM Salon E/F/G/H Closing Activities, Officers & Luncheon**

*We will swear in our new officers, honor our Poster Contest winners and our Scholarship awardees, announce the results of any membership votes taken, complete our Annual Meeting Business...and we will announce next year's Conference dates and Theme!*

**1:30 PM Adjournment Till 2019**





**THANK YOU TO:**

**OUR SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS!**

**OUR WORKSHOP PRESENTERS AND FEATURED SPEAKERS**

**OUR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRS!**

**THE MARRIOTT TEAM!**

**OUR ATTENDEES AND GUESTS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**AND TO OUR PROGRAM BOOK SPONSOR:  
THE CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER OF NYAPT!**



**SEE YOU IN JULY 2019!!**

This Program generously sponsored by the Capital Area Chapter of NYAPT! Thank you!