

LEARNING

Curve

Volume 7, No. 4
Winter 2006

NETWORKING THE FINEST EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES IN THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY

Featured School Southern State Community College

The Truck Driving Academy at Southern State Community College began in 1999 with one borrowed semi-tractor/trailer and just one person, **Doug Edwards**, program director.

The truck driver-training program has grown dramatically since that meager beginning six years ago. The academy now boasts five facilities, nine power units, three passenger buses, one school bus, eleven trailers, one set of double trailers, two automobiles, 25 instructors, two operations office staff members, training manager **Eddie Mullins** and program director, Mr. Edwards. The academy's enrollment was nearly 500 students last year and is on pace to service 900 this year.

The academy serves four major metropolitan areas, including all of southern Ohio. Wilmington is home to the academy's operations office and original training facility. The other training facilities are located in Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus and Piketon.

The academy offers a comprehensive CDL Class A accelerated program that lasts just over three weeks. It runs eight weekends if taken on Saturdays and Sundays. Fifty hours are assigned for classroom and simulator training. The program also includes 50 hours on the backing skills range, and 50 hours on the road. Upon completion of the 160-hour program, the student receives 50 hours of behind the wheel driving.

Other programs available include: CDL Class B, passenger bus operations, school bus operations and longer combination vehicle training. The Ohio State Patrol tests all students.

Trucking firms have asked the academy to provide transportation consulting, semi-



annual, annual and other re-occurring training. "Instructor staff development, in a mentoring environment, is the key for success in technical training," said Mullins. "It is imperative for a prospective instructor to know the essentials of teaching. An individual may have performed in numerous aspects of the trucking industry, have vast years of service and tremendous knowledge of the technology but may not be able to impart the information to students. Teaching is a career in itself."

Southern State TDA instructors must complete a minimum of 86 hours of educational studies, perform as student instructors, and then complete a performance assessment prior to teaching students on their own.

Southern State Community College is a two-year institution with four campuses in southern Ohio.

Dr. Richard Shrubbs, director of the College's North Campus in Wilmington and dean of general education, completed Southern State's Truck Driving Academy. His personal vehicle sports "Dr. Trucker" on his vanity plates, and his office wall features graduate certificates from Southern State, in addition to his Ph.D. and two master's degrees.

The academy has been recognized by numerous major carriers for providing them with safe, highly educated and productive entry-level drivers. The same is true from members of the local transportation community. With the past successes of the Truck Driving Academy, we are certain that more good things shall befall this organization.

For more information, contact Southern State Community College's Truck Driving Academy, North Campus, 1850 David's Drive, Wilmington, Ohio 45177, (937) 382-6645 x 4560. In Ohio call 1-800-344-6058 ext. 4560 or visit www.truckdrivingacademy.net.

National Convention Set for March 28-31

Building a Strong Foundation for Professional Drivers

Located on 20 acres of tropically landscaped grounds, the Radisson Resort/Orlando in Kissimmee will be a hub of activity as NAPFTDS gathers there for its 17th Annual National Convention. Florida forecast: warm and sunny. Convention forecast: dynamic and professional.

According to **Roy Williams**,



Roy Williams

Convention Co-Chair, "Our progressive NAPFTDS schools are dedicated to developing a solid, skilled truck-driving workforce. For this reason, our gathering will highlight issues that focus on the theme — 'Building a Strong Foundation for Professional Drivers'."



Martin Garsee

Williams is part of a hard-working team of four planners who have been preparing for Convention 2007 to be held Wednesday through Saturday. The team especially appreciates the support of **President Arlene Kirby** and the NAPFTDS Board, plus the technical assistance provided by **Crissie Moffet**.

Co-Chair **Martin Garsee** has invited



Phil Steinkamp

National Convention
March 28-31 2007
— Radisson Resort/Orlando —
Orlando, FL

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- ◆ **Region Conferences**
- ◆ **Entry-Level Training Issues**

excellent speakers, while Co-Chair **Phil Steinkamp** has formulated an agenda that is certain to attract attendees' interest. The topics are timely, pertinent, and intended to help school members build a firm foundation for their students.

An official from AAMVA (American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators) will outline CDL testing procedures that will be used by the states in the near future. A representative from Foley Labs will discuss drug and alcohol testing as it relates to FMCSA regulations. In addition to the popular FMCSA regulations update, members can look forward to a presentation on FMCSA grants that are currently available.

Throughout the Convention, attendees will also have the opportunity to learn about the wide variety of products and services that are displayed by our generous NAPFTDS sponsors/vendors.

Co-Chair **Dave Terry** reminds members that it's not too early to register for — or sponsor — the Convention; simply complete the Registration Form that is inserted in this issue and mail it to **Patrick Spillane**. Anticipating that members may want to combine the working Convention with some vacation days, Terry arranged for the special hotel group rate to be available three days prior to the Convention to three days after. *Note: March 6 is the cut-off date for the hotel group rate.*

The tentative agenda is below:

President's Message
Arlene Kirby



Our Association is all about people helping people. All Associations are like that — groups banding together to help each other. Sometimes that takes the form of traditional Association activities like conventions, newsletters, and email exchanges, most of which are done by members who volunteer their time so that everyone in our Association benefits. Sometimes that takes the form of "special projects".

A current special project is the creation of an Association Directory. This directory will contain information about member program schedules, equipment, and product lines. Unique tips and techniques for managing program activities will be shared in the best practices section. Once complete, the Board plans to use the directory to promote our services as an Association and as individual schools. Within the next few weeks, you will be receiving a survey in your email asking for information for this book. Please take the time to complete and return it quickly. Every effort will be taken to assure all members have a chance to be represented.

One of our established "traditions" is the Regional Conferences. Through these events, attendees have the opportunity to get to know folks and learn about common regional issues and to share ways concerns have been resolved. A lot of hard work goes into putting these events together. By the time you read this, many of you will have taken the opportunity to support coordinators, staff, and sponsors in Regions 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7. Yet to come is the Region 6 conference from November 30-December 1 in Sandersville, GA coordinated by **Roy Williams** (478-553-9239) and the Region 1 conference from December 7-8 in Tacoma, WA coordinated by **Wade Westphal** (253-680-7491).

A registration form is included in this issue for the keystone event for the Association — the National Convention. A portion of the form is reserved for Convention/NAPFTDS Sponsorship. We are continually grateful for the loyal support of past sponsors and welcome new ones! The Convention Committee is working diligently to make the agenda for this year's event one you will not want to miss! **NOTE: March 6 is the cut-off date for group rates at the hotel.**

I have enjoyed the first six months of my presidency. I look forward to continuing to work with you for the advancement of "our" Association. Together we can accomplish amazing things, and we will.

Best wishes for a successful school year!

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Wednesday, March 28

2:00-5:00 p.m. Vendor Set-Up
5:00-6:30 p.m. Board Meeting, Convention Registration, Vendor Displays
7:00-9:00 p.m. Reception: *Welcome to all attendees!*

Thursday, March 29

8:00-8:30 a.m. Registration, Continental Breakfast, Vendor Displays
8:30-9:30 a.m. NAPFTDS President's Welcome & Introduction of Attendees
9:30-10:15 a.m. FMCSA Grants
10:15-10:45 a.m. Break & Vendor Displays
10:45-12:00 p.m. FMCSA Regulations Update - Questions & Answers
12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch & Vendor Displays
1:00-1:15 p.m. Open Nominations of Board Members
1:15-2:00 p.m. The Scheig Hiring & Performance System
2:00-2:45 p.m. Retaining Drivers - Innovative Ways/Best Practices
2:45-3:15 p.m. Break & Vendor Displays
3:15-3:30 p.m. Finish Board Nominations
3:30-3:45 p.m. Board Meeting

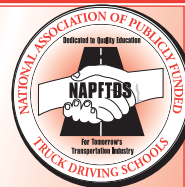
Friday, March 30

8:00-8:30 a.m. Registration, Continental Breakfast, Vendor Displays
8:30-9:15 a.m. Board Nominee Presentations and Vote
9:15-10:30 a.m. Brief Vendor/Carrier Presentations
10:30-11:00 a.m. Break & Vendor Displays
11:00-12:00 p.m. Drug/Alcohol Testing Regulations - Foley Lab Services, Inc.
12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch & Vendor Displays
1:00-2:00 p.m. CDL Testing — AAMVA (American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators)
2:00-3:00 p.m. Break & Vendor Displays
2:30-3:00 p.m. State Membership Captains' Meeting
3:00-4:30 p.m. Break-Out Sessions: *Topics Relevant to Everyday Program Operations*
6:30-9:00 p.m. Reception & Recognition Banquet

Saturday, March 31

8:00-8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
8:30-9:30 a.m. College Reps' Panel: Creating Strong Programs
9:30-9:45 a.m. Break
9:45-10:15 a.m. College Reps' Panel continues
10:15-10:45 a.m. Panel Discussion: Impact of Entry-Level Training Rule
10:45-11:15 a.m. Membership Evaluation of Convention
11:15-11:45 a.m. Closing
11:45-1:00 p.m. Board Lunch
1:00-3:00 p.m. Final Board Meeting

We Welcome Each Sponsor to our 2007 National Convention



Your contribution includes space for a display booth. See Registration Form in this issue or contact **Chuck Collins at 920-739-9786**

Regions Hold Informative Conferences

What: Region #3 Conference

Where: Lake Superior College, Duluth, MN

When: October 5-6, 2006

Speakers/Presenters: Included **Jeff Haibig**, Wellness Quest; **John Forsyth**, Great West Casualty; **Randy Zahn**, MCV Enforcement; and **Angie Simon** and **Linda Blom**, J. J. Keller & Associates.

What was discussed: Jeff led a very dynamic, and interactive discussion on brain-based learning styles and driver wellness issues. Jeff even had some of the attendees dancing on the tables and chairs! John discussed driver-qualification issues, and the criteria that insurance agents look at when qualifying or disqualifying prospective drivers from training schools. Randy talked about the new load-securement laws. Angie discussed how Platinum Sponsor J. J. Keller & Associates' products can help training programs. Linda, also from J. J. Keller, demonstrated how to integrate the Safe-Sim program into classroom curriculum.

Notable: There were 42 attendees at this conference. The conference highlight was a dinner cruise aboard the ship Vista Star. The cruise took place on the big lake they call "Gitche Gumme" (Lake Superior). The pleasant evening featured light winds, calm seas, a full moon, great food, and last but not least, great people.

Submitted by: Paul Foster.

What: Region #5 Conference

Where: John Wood Community College, Quincy, IL

When: Sept. 28-29, 2006

Speakers/Presenters: Included **Dr. Bill Simpson**, president, JWCC; **Don Hess**, JWCC director of transportation and public safety; **Dr. Sandy Thomas**, JWCC; **Lyle Britt** and **Larry Dame**, "the clicker guys;" **Lt. Tom Bentley**, Quincy Fire Dept; **Bob Howard**, Lincoln Land Community College; **Robert McClanahan**, Central Tech, Drumright, OK; **Bill Russell**, Sharkey Transportation; and **Trooper Tom Mavity**, Illinois State Police.

What was Discussed: Tom, who serves as JWCC's fire science coordinator, explained

how cooperation between departments is a win-win strategy. Bob Howard led a discussion on issues specific to Illinois and the training industry. Robert McClanahan, past NAPFTDS president, informed attendees about Association benefits, and he provided updates on proposed federal regulations. He also co-led (with Hess) an open-floor discussion on legislative and school training issues. **Larry Fischer**, VP for Instruction, JWCC; and **Dave Ferrill**, chair of the JWCC TDT Advisory Council, talked about the importance of Advisory Councils, and how to build and utilize one. Russell brought members up to date about the successful partnership between Sharkey and the JWCC TDT. Finally, Tom discussed the new Hours of Service and JWCC — State Police teaching tools. **Notable:** **Barb Holthaus**, director of the JWCC Foundation, led a tour of the JWCC main campus.

Submitted by: Don Hess.

What: Region #7 Conference

Where: Hagerstown Community College, Hagerstown, MD

When: Sept 28-29, 2006

Speakers/ Presenters: Included: **Don Wenzinger**, Doron Precision Systems, Inc; and **Susan Mosher**, **Bob Simmers**, HCC. Sponsors: **Eric Olson**, J.J. Keller & Associates; **Homer Paul**, U.S. Xpress, Inc; **Ken Smith**, Schneider National; and Wenzinger.

What was Discussed: Bob presented "Marketing and Recruiting — Ideas that Work," followed by member sharing of new ideas and training-related concerns. Topics included financial aid, credit vs. continuing education programming, credit certificate offerings, and use of technology in the classroom. Susan conducted a Work Behavior Styles assessment for program staff and instructors. A Carrier panel addressed questions, ideas, and concerns. Topics such as joint recruiting efforts, carrier insurance issues with hiring student drivers, and the need for incorporating customer service/communications into training were covered. Don presented a demonstration with the latest simulator technology from Doron Precision Systems. **Notable:** Don's presentation was followed by a tour of the new Commercial Vehicle Transportation training facilities located at Volvo Powertrain North America-Hagerstown. Ken Smith capped the evening by hosting dinner.

Submitted by: Tammy Smith.

NAPFTDS FALL REGION CONFERENCES

Offering high-quality, workshops/seminars on national and regional issues for truck driving instructors and support staff. *Free of charge to attendees.* Allow about 1 1/2 days per conference.

Check your Region - Contact your Region Coordinator

Region #1

Dec. 7-8 Thurs., Fri.

Wade Westphal, Coordinator
Bates Technical College
Tacoma, WA

Ph. 253-680-7491

Region #6

Nov. 30-Dec. 1 Thurs., Fri.

Roy Williams, Coordinator
Sandersville Technical college
Sandersville, GA

Ph. 478-553-9239

Vendors are encouraged to exhibit products or services at Region Conferences. Cost to exhibit is \$150 at each Region.

Member survey

Containing clear and concise questions, a survey of members elicited valuable responses that got the attention of the NAPFTDS Board. At their September meeting, Board members extended appreciation to the Member Retention/Benefits Committee that conducted the survey: Chairman, **John Rojas**, and committee members — **Joey Wooten**, **Stephanie Strasolla**, **Lorie Qualls**, and **Eric McCollum**.

Rojas said that the survey goals were: (1) to reduce the number of members that leave our Association, and (2) to provide more productive information to our members, thereby helping to improve quality training nationwide.

With these goals in mind, the committee developed questions that concentrated on how NAPFTDS can improve communication among members, enhance member benefits, and offer pertinent agenda items at our region conferences and national conventions.

Although recognizing that the survey validates that NAPFTDS is doing many things right, **President Arlene Kirby** was quick to note areas that members could build upon. "We should try to make sure that we do more outreach for new members," she said. Kirby saw value in the suggestion for creating a "buddy system" — assigning a long-time member school to a new member, to welcome and assist the new school in learning more about the Association. The suggested Association Directory, a publication containing useful information about member schools, also sparked Board interest. (See the President's Message of this issue.)

In efforts to retain members, the Board is unanimous in its belief. "We cannot forget that our primary charge is to provide instruction," said **Past President Van O'Neal**. "New members join NAPFTDS seeking help. Of vital importance to us all: How do we teach, what do we teach."

Special thanks to our ad Sponsors in this issue of

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Please consider their quality products and services. For information on advertising, contact **Chuck Collins**, call 920-739-9786

Entry-Level Training: A Top Issue

RULES & RIGs

by Chuck Collins

Federal court ruling...

Our NAPFTDS membership continues to pursue, with strong interest, the development of the entry-level driver training rule. Late last year, a federal court sent back the previous rulings to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) for further action. (The previous requirements mandate approximately 10 hours of NON-driving training in four areas — medical qualifications, hours-of-service, wellness, and whistleblower protection.) In their 26-page ruling, the federal judges said that FMCSA failed to address substantive issues in the requirements it had set forth in 2004. Moreover, the judges found that the requirements adopted by FMCSA did not comply with the Congressional mandate.

Importance of on-the-road training...

In writing the ruling for the court, **Senior Circuit Judge Harry T. Edwards** stressed that practical training should be a part of this rule: "...the final rule completely ignores the (agency's) study's emphasis on practical, on-the-road training. The agency has adopted a rule with little apparent connection to the inadequacies it purports to address."

Joint meetings...

Since the time that the court spoke out, our Association has been active. Last spring in

Chicago, meetings were held with representatives from the Commercial Vehicle Training Association (CVTA), NAPFTDS, and four significant motor carriers (Roehl Transport, Schneider National, Swift, and Werner Enterprises.) The representatives reached general consensus on the competencies that ought to be included in an entry-level driver training curriculum. A joint position on entry-level driver training is being developed: This will be presented when the rulemaking process is reopened for written and verbal opinions from the public.

Hill seeks trainers' input...

There is a new leader at FMCSA — **John Hill**. In late summer, **Sean McNally** reported in *Transport Topics* that Hill, speaking about the driver-training rule, said he has "given the staff clear direction [to] get out and talk to the people that are doing the training...get best practices and let's make sure that we really understand what it takes to properly train drivers." (August 21, 2006, p. 19) At the time of this writing, Hill says no timetable has been set for re-doing the rule.

NAPFTDS members analyze issue...

Since many NAPFTDS members had voiced disappointment with the previous FMCSA ruling, they had an opportunity, once again, to discuss their concerns. This fall, our Region Conferences provided a forum for this, along with a thorough discussion on the spring Chicago meetings.

emphasis, FMCSA is looking for some important elements in the grant applications, and student access to job placement services is a high priority. Williams also defined what the grant will NOT fund. This is not a grant for additional equipment or simulators: Please do not request these kinds of items.

Williams explained that, in this past year, about 68 grant requests were received. October 2006 was the targeted deadline for grant applications for the second year of funding, but member schools may want to contact Williams to confirm this — and to request dates for future grant application deadlines. Williams can also provide other details that may be helpful to interested member schools.

Good News About Grants

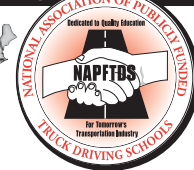
An opportunity may await your school. NAPFTDS has been notified that federal grant monies are available for truck driver training schools during the next four years. **Art Williams** (phone: 202-366-3695), who is with the DOT's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), gave an overview.

The focus of the grants, according to Williams, is to provide truck driver training to economically disadvantaged students. He said that, besides this central

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NEWSLETTER FOR PROFESSIONALS



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National Association of Publicly Funded Truck Driving Schools

An association of nonprofit, post-secondary, public schools whose purpose is to encourage member schools to promote high standards and ethical principles in the creation and/or administration of training programs.