RTAP
BULLETIN
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2016 Florida Triple Crown Roadeo

On April 1st and 2nd, Florida's best bus drivers and technicians participated in the 2016 Florida Triple Crown Bus Roadeo in Fort Myers, Florida. The 2016 Florida Triple Crown Roadeo once again combined the FPTA and RTAP roadeos into a single, colossal weekend honoring all of Florida's maintenance technicians, paratransit and fixed route operators.

The year's event was a joint effort of the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA), the Florida Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the Florida Association of Coordinated Transit Systems (FACTS), and hosted by the Lee Tran.

There were training opportunities for the participants. Then the bus operator participant's skills were tested with a written test and the on-course competition. The maintenance technicians faced similar challenges with a written test and a series of diagnostic tests.

As always, the event concluded with an Awards Banquet that crowned and recognized the 2016 champions in the paratransit van and cutaway divisions, the fixed route bus division, and the maintenance technician's team competition.

Gulf County Transportation's Raymond Aylmer was drove away with the Van Category Championship, with Lee Tran's Chris Cowles being designated as the Cutaway Category Champion. Both will travel to Portland, Oregon in late May to represent Florida at the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) national roadeo.

Small Bus Category: 1st Chris Cowles, LeeTran; 2nd Deandre Moore, LYNX; and 3rd Timothy Smith, Calhoun County Transit

Van Category: 1st Raymond Aylmer, Gulf County Transportation; 2nd Tommy Griffis, JTrans; and 3rd Len Murray, Sarasota County Area Transit

Overall Champion: The Overall Paratransit Champion (combined van and cutaway scores) was JTrans with their team members Tommy Griffis , Van Operator, and Charles Ford, Cutaway Operator.

Congratulations!

Roadeo Operator Participants

FDOT

CUTR

USF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Paratransit Roadeo Winners

Grand Champions — JTrans

L-R: Sharon Peeler, Charles Ford, and Tommy Griffis, JTrans; Lisa Bacot, FPTA; and Brad Miller, PSTA

Cutaway Division Winner

L-R: Bob Westbrook, FDOT; 1st Place: Chris Cowles, LeeTran; and Liz Stutts, FDOT

Van Division Winner

L-R: Lisa Bacot, FPTA; 1st Place: Raymond Aylmer, Gulf County Transportation; and Bob Westbrook, FDOT

Register Today: 2016 FPTA/ FDOT/CUTR Professional Development Workshop and Transit Safety Summit

Close to 250 transit professionals are expected to be in attendance at the 2016 FPTA/FDOT/CUTR Professional Development Workshop and Transit Safety Summit, which will be held at the USF Embassy Suites in Tampa on June 6-8, 2016. This annual workshop and summit is jointly sponsored by the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the USF Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR).

The fourth annual Florida Transit Safety Summit, hosted by the FDOT Florida Transit Safety Network (FTSN), will be held on Monday, June 6th. State and national safety experts will provide informative presentations on a wide variety of topics related to transit safety.

The two day Profession Development Workshop, conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday, will offer unique professional development opportunities for Florida's public transportation supervisors, front-line employees, and other key staff in operations, maintenance, marketing, planning and administration. The one-stop workshop provides public transit professionals with an excellent opportunity to learn from industry experts, attend professional development training, learn about research updates, and network with their peers.

The Workshop and Summit are for managers, supervisors and other key staff currently employed by Florida public agencies (e.g.: Florida transit systems, FDOT), Community Transportation Coordinators, planning agencies, transportation providers, and FPTA members.

Registration is Open

www.regonline.com/2016PDWandSafetySummit

Registration Deadline: May 20, 2016

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OUR MISSION

The Florida RTAP provides training, continuing education, and technical assistance to those who provide or assist in the provision of public transportation services in rural and small urban communities in order to promote the coordinated delivery of safe, efficient, and effective transit services.

Editor: Jay Goodwill Designer: Stephanie Lewis

SPOTLIGHT— Edward Griffin, MV Transportation

Each SPOTLIGHT edition highlights one of our many energetic Florida RTAP transit professionals and allows these individuals to introduce themselves in their own words. In this issue, the SPOTLIGHT is on Edward Griffin, General Manager at MV Transportation, Alachua County CTC.

Name: Edward Griffin

Title: General Manager, MV Transportation, Alachua County CTC

Birthplace: Milwaukee, WI

Education: BAE, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL

Professional History: Mr. Griffin began his career as a Medicaid Administrator for the State of Florida, based in Jacksonville. At Medicad, he was instrumental in the transition of Medicaid transportation services into the coordinated model, formalized by legislation in Florida in 1989. From 1993- 1995, Mr. Griffin was General Manager for the coordinated system serving Hardee Highlands and Okeechobee Counties. As a senior staff member of the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged, (CTD) from 1996-2002, Mr. Griffin provided technical assistance and oversight to the statewide community transportation paratransit program. He also served as a Commissioner on the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) for two years, and was later active as a committee member in the Allocation Technical Working Group charged with developing formulas for the distribution of TD and Medicaid funds.

During his tenure as Technical Assistance Administrator for the CTD, Mr. Griffin developed a series of operational studies focused on each county's paratransit service delivery and software system management. Results of these studies were used to assist the counties in improving productivity and on-time performance, while reducing staffing, call hold times and complaints.

From 2003 to present, Mr. Griffin has served as Vice President of Business Development for MV Transportation, with a concentration in Florida and the Southeast. He has been instrumental in securing several contracts throughout Florida, including Medicaid and CTC contracts with the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged. He has also been instrumental in leading start up activities for these contracts. In addition to this role, Mr. Griffin also serves as the General Manager of the Alachua County CTC division operated by MV since 2003.

Mr. Griffin holds a Bachelor of Arts Cum Laude in Social Science Education from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, with postgraduate work in Health Care Administration. He has also served as a Peer-to-Peer Professional for the Community Transportation Association of America and the Federal Transit Administration – Intelligent Transportation Systems and served on panels for the Transportation Research Board (TRB). Since 2007, Mr. Griffin has served as both president and vice president of the Florida Association of Coordinated Transportation Systems, (FACTS), and currently serves on the Executive Committee.

Years Working with Current Agency: 13 years with MV Transportation

Years Working in Transit Industry: 27 years

Biggest Surprise Working in Paratransit: The advances in technology over the last 20 years and the benefits it has provided in ensuring on time performance and increased productivity.

Biggest Challenge Working in Paratransit: Managing expectations and limitations of the service.

Biggest Benefit of Working in Paratransit: Receiving sincere thanks from individuals that truly appreciate and need our service.

Personal Background: I spent my 20's in rock bands; and continue to play solo in select venues locally. I have two adult children.

Childhood Ambition: To be an attorney. My daughter graduated from the University of Notre Dame Law School and now practices corporate law in Chicago. I live vicariously through her.

Favorite Book: Brave New World – Aldous Huxley

Favorite Candy: Almond Joy

Favorite Color: Green Bay Packers Green

My Motto: "Have a sense of urgency!"

2016 Upcoming Events

The classes and conferences listed below are sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation and the Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida in Tampa. If you would like to attend any of the courses, you will find a course announcement and registration form for each course at *www.floridartap.org* in the Training Calendar section. Click on the course name to download or view training class details. If you have an idea for a training course or would like to host a course, please contact Lisa Staes at *staes@cutr.usf.edu.*

May 16-20, 2016
Instructor's Course (FT00562 –A)[1] — Tampa, FL

May 23-27, 2016
Transit Bus System Safety (FT00533)— Tampa, FL

June 6, 2016
2016 Florida Transit Safety Summit—Tampa, FL

June 7-8, 2016
2016 FPTA/FDOT/CUTR Professional Development Workshop—Tampa, FL

June 14-15, 2016
How to Conduct an Internal Safety Audit— Tampa, FL

December 11-13, 2016
Combined FPTA-CTD Annual Conference— Jacksonville, FL

[1] Required course for the Florida Transit Operator Trainer Training Certification

2016 Public Transportation and Transportation Disadvantaged Legislative Awareness Day

The annual Transportation Disadvantaged Legislative Awareness Day was a joint effort this year with the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) and FACTS (Florida Association of Coordinated Transportation Systems) .The event was hosted on Thursday, January 21, 2016 at the Florida Capitol.

Overall the 2016 Public Transportation and Transportation Disadvantaged Legislative Awareness Day was a success, achieving its primary goal of creating awareness and support for Florida's Public Transportation and Transportation Disadvantaged programs.

Save the Date

Combined FPTA-CTD Annual Conference

Jacksonville, Florida
December 11-13, 2016

Save the dates on your calendar for the 2016 joint Florida Public Transportation Association and the Commission of the Transportation Disadvantaged Annual Conference. For the second time, this 2016 event will combine the FPTA and CTD annual conferences into a single event. This event will be hosted by the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) on December 11-13, 2016.