

GET READY FOR SPRING FLING 2018!

Preparations have begun for Spring Fling 2018. The weekend will start on Friday, June 1 with Vendor set up, and a dinner reception in the evening, leading to the Spring Fling event on Saturday, June 2, 2018. The Spring Fling takes place at the Museum of Bus Transportation, 161 Museum Drive, in Hershey, PA. This is one of the few opportunities during the year when the entire fleet is on display. This is possible as the Museum also opens the Annex Property to visitors, as well. A complimentary shuttle is offered from the Museum to the Annex, which houses the remainder of the fleet. Visitors will be able to see all of the equipment the Museum has in its collection, but also be able to view those visiting pieces of equipment that come for this event only.

New for 2018, Vendors, as well as those bringing buses to put on display and dinner attendees will be able to register on the Museum's website, www.BusMuseum.org. In addition, anyone wishing to sponsor the event, sponsorship packages are available for purchase on the Museum's website, along with a place for those wishing to make a donation.

The Museum will once again have Trophy Presentations for bus on display that traveled the furthest, as well as the "People's Choice" award. Also back for 2018 will be the Second Annual Bus Parade. This will give attendees the opportunity to see these various pieces of equipment on display and will feature classic/antique buses, school buses, and bus conversions. It will remind the viewer of the sounds of those engines of the past.



As in 2017, the Museum of Bus Transportation will have a food truck on site. Attendees will be able to grab some lunch and catch the shuttle bus to the annex from the lower level of the Museum. As always, there will be a great assortment of Bus Memorabilia, and all types of gift shop merchandise, including 2018 Spring Fling T-shirts for sale.

Museum of Bus Transportation Members are encouraged to help spread the word through Emails or Social Media to make this one of the best-attended events ever. Also, those who might wish to help volunteer to help with the event for either a few hours, or the whole day, would be appreciated. You can volunteer by writing to our events chair, Becky Tollens, at Events@BusMuseum.org.

Mark your calendars now, to take advantage of this rare opportunity to spend a day visiting with other Bus History Enthusiasts, look and purchase a great array of Bus Memorabilia, and see and hear the sounds of our industry's history, while still being able to view current technology, as well. Updates will be provided at the Museum website at www.BusMuseum.org for more information. In addition, more information will be in future "Bus Musings" editions and the Museum's Facebook page.

2017 Annual Meeting Wrap Up

The Annual Meeting of members of the Museum of Bus Transportation took place on Saturday, October 28th, 2017. The meeting and luncheon were held at the Museum. Transportation to the Annex was provided by Prevost and MCI following lunch. Over 50 members of the Museum of Bus Transportation were in attendance.

David Schmidt, Board Chair, opened the meeting. The guest speaker was Mr. Victor Parra, retired President/CEO of the United Motorcoach Association. Mr. Parra spoke on the changes that occurred during the 19 years while he was at the helm of the United Motorcoach Association. Some of those events were the start of the American with Disabilities Act, the attacks on 9/11, the hurricanes that occurred and all of the regulations that have come about in the industry. Mr. Parra also spoke about the changes in technology. He named those changes, and how they have affected the motorcoach industry, including GPS, cell phones, texting, and ticketing. He went on to discuss that where when he started, buses were still using VHS systems, they changed to DVD to know where most people just want good internet signal so they can download their own movies and entertainment on their own individual smart phones or tablets.

During that membership meeting, the financials were provided to those in attendance. That financial report can be found on this website, as well. The Museum of Bus Transportation had a very good year

of income, almost doubling the income from the year before. However, expenses were much higher as well, as the Museum updated this website, purchased other Marketing Materials and also designed and implemented a comprehensive security program for the Annex. These were all one-time expenses, and still the Museum came out as of October, about \$7,000.00 short of balancing the budget. During this time, Mr. John Oakman volunteered a one-time \$1,000.00 donation, and there were others who took up the challenge. There will be an end of the year fund-raising campaign to have a positive year-end budget.

Also during the meeting, awards were given for service provided to the Museum. The following were recognized:

Merit of Honor: Oliver and Sharon Ogden

Service Awards: Tom Collins, Robert Smith, and John Dockendorf

Volunteer Award for 1000 Hours: Ken McNelis

The 2017 Board of Directors results were announced, with John Dockendorf, Howard Nice, and Angel Tollens earning the most votes. They will assume their Board positions in January 2018 for a 3-year term.

The Events Committee was able to raise over \$2,100.00 in donations to help cover costs of the Annual Meeting. Lunch was served on site from Daphnos Catering.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mark Szyperski

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Consultant

John Lenhart

Retired

Ken McNelis

Klein Transportation/Retired

Robert Smith

Johnson Bus/Retired

Becky Tollens

Four Seasons Travel

Mark Watson

Tewksbury Transit

Board Members Elected

This Fall there were three positions that opened on the Board of Directors. The Museum of Bus Transportation had one of the best vote returns in a long time. The membership voted and Mr. John Dockendorf and Mr. Howard Nice were re-elected to their former Board Positions. Mr. Angel Tollens was elected as the newest member to the Board, although he has held a Board Advisor position, previously.

Here is the background information about each of these Board Members:



John Dockendorf was re-elected to the Board. He has been a Board member since 1995. He currently chairs the Events Committee, is the Gift Shop Manager, and is the

MBT's representative on AACAM's Board of Directors. He previously served the Museum as Secretary from 1995 through 2016, donated over \$20,000.00 for the future acquisition of a larger and better storage facility and also loaned over 75 old, rare toy buses as well as a variety of other bus memora-

bilia from his own collection for public display at the Museum. Mr. Dockendorf's future goals as a Board Member are to re-activate a national fund-raising campaign, and assist as needed in the many functions around the Museum itself.



Howard Nice started in the industry in 1982 with Continental Trailways. His current position is with Greyhound Lines as the Terminal Manager

for Mt. Laurel, New Jersey. Mr. Nice has been in service to the Museum Membership as a Board Member for over 20 years. He is currently on the Industry Relations Committee and is now working with Ed Wolf in learning about the finances of the Museum. When Ed Wolf retires from this position, Howard Nice will be ready to take over the financial reporting. Mr. Nice has already taken over the responsibility of the Museum's PayPal account. Another priority will be to work on a "Policy and Procedure" guide book.



Angel Tollens is the newest Museum Member to be elected to the Board of Directors. A little about his background:

- Life Member June 2017
- Board Advisor 2015
- Assistant Curator August 2017
- Member of the Fleet / Event Planning Committees
- Provided Training to AACA Docent Staff
- Volunteered numerous hours at the Museum
- Assisted in the Planning Spring Fling / Annual Meeting
- Promoted the Museum at numerous events
- 20 yrs of Industry experience. Currently employed RGRTA Rochester, NY
- Honorably Discharged USMC Combat Veteran

Angel's goals are to continue promoting the Museum at bus industry and public events. He also plans to strengthen relationships with AACA staff while motivating non-members to become members and motivating inactive members to become more active.

New Advisors take their Positions

With the Board of Director's election completed, Mr. David Schmidt, Board Chair has invited two individuals with great strengths to become advisors. Mr. Robert Smith was formerly a member of the Board of Directors, and as such, has a great knowledge of the fleet and its histo-



ry. In fact, Mr. Smith was one of the original founders of the museum, and has been on the Board of Directors since its inception. Robert Smith was also the creator of the timeline that is on the walls of the Museum covering the years from 1895 through 2010. He is also currently working with the AACA Library with bus items and information. David Schmidt has requested Mr. Smith to continue his work as lead curator of the Museum. New Board Member Angel Tollens will assist while learning from Mr. Smith's wide-ranging background and experience.

Mr. Schmidt also invited Ms. Lauren Cochran to the position of Board Advisor. Ms. Cochran has an extensive career in the Transit side of the Industry, and is currently the Central US Sales Director for Proterra Bus, one of the leading Electric Transit Bus Manufacturers. Ms. Cochran's



career also includes being the Director of Maintenance and Vehicle Technology of Foothills Transit, as an Assistant Research Scientist at Texas

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A&M Transportation Institute and the Director of Innovation for Houston Metro. Ms. Cochran most recently was the Board Chair for the Young Professionals in Transportation in Houston, TX. Her goals are to assist our Museum Board with information and insight in the Transit side of our Museum, and to assist on the Marketing Committee to encourage a younger demographic to become Museum Members

The Museum appreciates these two professionals bringing their expertise to assist the Board of Directors.

FACEBOOK PAGE HITS 3000

On December 2, 2018, our Museum's Facebook Page achieved a new benchmark, when it hit 3000 "likes." The page, administered by Board Advisor, Mark Watson, reaches out to many in the bus and motorcoach industries. He keeps posting almost nearly every day about something related to the museum. It is keeping that content fresh which helps bring in new viewers. However, it also helps when Museum Members, who have their own Facebook accounts read and share what Mark has posted to help get that word out further. Please consider liking and sharing our Museum Facebook Page today!

IN MEMORIUM

We are sorry to report the passing of Mrs. Anne McNelis, wife of our Fleet Manager, Ken McNelis. We learned she passed on Thanksgiving Day, at 3:00 pm. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ken, and his son, Kenny, at this difficult time. Should you wish to remember Anne McNelis, the family has requested, in lieu of flowers, that a donation be made in the name of Anne M. McNelis to:

Sisters of St. Joseph Guild
P.O. Box 36
Flourtown, PA 19031-0036

Curator Corner by Angel Tollens, Asst. Curator

Greetings to all once again. I wanted to catch everyone up with the comings and goings at Our Museum. October proved to be quite busy for us and we took every opportunity to get out meet the public and introduce them to our museum.



AACA Fall Meet: October 7 It proved to be a great day for the museum. We met many great people and made some new friends as well. Our GM PD-4104 received a trophy for best historically preserved vehicle over 1 ton. We were parked next to a GM PD-4501 Scenicruiser that took approximately \$1.2 million dollars to fully restore. While we were judged in different categories, the public could not help but be amazed at how similar our vehicles were maintained. It is a great rep-

resentation of the work that fleet volunteers perform year round.

Capitol Trailways Luncheon: October 21 Our Museum was tasked to provide a vehicle for the Capitol Trailways Retiree Luncheon. What better vehicle to bring than the award winning PD-4104. The retirees were thrilled to learn that it won in its category. Becky Tollens and I attended the luncheon. I wore a Trailways driver uniform complete with the operator cap. Walter Earl, who is also one of our Board Advisors, was the host of the luncheon. All in attendance had a great time and they raised funds for the Museum. The retirees have also adopted the PD-4106.

Annual Meeting Work Session: October 27 John Dockendorf, Ken McNelis, Becky Tollens, Mark Watson, and I assisted with straightening up and changing out several floor displays. The day started with moving two buses off the museum floor. Then LED lights were installed on the Golden Eagle as well as the PD-4501 Scenicruiser. The lights allow our guests to see the entire Interior of each vehicle. It is very important not only for the safety of our guests, but the ambient lighting mimics the real interior lights also. Guests now see the galley service from the Golden Eagle as well as the novel front rest room on the Scenicruiser. One of the mannequins was re-dressed in a Blue Bird driver's uniform. In addition, a new display case was cleaned and assembled. The new display case will allow us to share more Industry memorabilia with our guests. The Blue Bird uniform and display case came courtesy of the estate of Mr. Louis Magnano. Mr. Magnano was the President of Blue Bird Coach Lines in Olean, NY. Until our next issue, enjoy your holiday season!



Capitol Trailways Reunion By Walter Earl

A On October 21, 2017, the former employees of Capitol Trailways of Harrisburg, PA, held a fourth reunion gathering at Hoss's Restaurant. In the past 3 years, they were able to give the Museum of Bus Transportation over \$100, each year, which was provided by the generosity of Hoss's Restaurant. The reunion got started when a former driver, Jon Geirsson, suggested a driver's only reunion. Not knowing how to go about planning for a reunion, the group first contacted Charles Wotring, who gave them advice, such as using Hoss's Restaurant for fund raising. Mr. Wotring then spearheaded the first year, with assistance from his wife, Janet, along with Walter Earl and his wife Karen. For the past three years, Mr. Earl and his wife have been in charge, ably assisted by some former employees.

The group started with 37 people in attendance the first year, followed by 47, 54, and 47 in the following years. One of the most difficult issues is finding telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, and/or home addresses. The group has asked each year for retirees to provide any contacts they might have, usually with very little success.



The past three years, The Museum of Bus Transportation has brought a bus to the reunion. First year was the Beaver, and the past two years the Capitol Trailways GMC 4104, number 98. Since the group is adopting the Capitol Trailways GMC 4106, number 826, it is hoped that the museum will have the ability to bring that bus to the fifth reunion in the fall of 2018, although at this time, a date not yet determined.



Angel and Becky Tollens came down from Rochester, NY to bring the GMC 4104 to the restaurant this year. Angel was looking sharp in a Trailways uniform originally from Harran Trailways. Becky was a great help in assisting the group in setting up and greeting people, as well as giving out raffle

prizes. The reunion had a sheet cake donated to us by a grocery chain, with the Capitol Trailways bus picture showing the bus that was used in the thank you letters.

The Reunion Group is looking forward to starting plans for 2018. If anyone should have possible names and contact information for other drivers who may have been employed by Capital Trailways that was located in Harrisburg, PA, they should reach out to Walter Earl with that information.



The View from My Window by Mark L. Szyperski, Editor



When this time of the year comes around, it is always a good time for reflection on the year ending. It is hard to believe we have completed our first year as your Executive Committee for the Board of Directors. I hope you will make

sure to see the letter from our Board Chair, David Schmidt. In it, he does a great job of doing a "State of the Museum" end of year wrap up. Yes, we have accomplished many things this year, but there are still many more to accomplish. We, as your Executive Committee, welcome the challenges but remind you that we are all volunteers and members as you are. We welcome your help and assistance from article submissions to the "Musings," to Fleet Committee work sessions, to just emails from you, the member, on how we can continue to improve.

Thank you to so many of you who voted for your Board of Director's positions this year. It was nice to have so many of you participate. We had one of the largest returns of ballots in many years. That is a very important function you have as members of your Museum. It is important to know that you have the ability to help run this museum. We

will have a number of Board Positions coming up next year for a vote. In March, the Board is going to spend an entire Saturday working through a Strategic Planning Session. Please feel free to email us at Secretary@BusMuseum.org or to me at Marketing@BusMuseum.org and let us know your thoughts as we go into preparation for the coming years. Sometimes we hear that people may be commenting to each other, but the only way for your Museum to attend to your thoughts is if you communicate directly with us.

Mark your calendars now for our 2018 Spring Fling event. Please let your friends know about it as well. We really want to increase attendance over last year. In addition, we could use your help during that Saturday. Please consider helping Becky with all of those needs that she has for volunteers. Any financial donations would be welcomed as this is our annual big fund-raising event, and your tax-deductible donation will assist us greatly. Sign up to volunteer or donate through our website directly, at www.BusMuseum.org.

In my final review of the year, I want to personally thank Ms. Mary Meszaros for her incredible work on this newsletter. Ms. Meszaros is the magic who makes this newsletter look as good as it does, and I know I could not accomplish this newsletter without her assistance. You do great work, Mary, and I appreciate it!

Fleet Report by Ken McNelis

The fleet committee had eleven volunteers report on Saturday, November 18, 2017, to help winterize the outside stored buses and the Annex property. The volunteers were able to store 11 buses inside the Annex Building. Buses that are to be stored outside were moved to more solid ground on the Annex property.

Matthew Herr of Executive Coach, Lancaster, PA., has repaired the PD-4106 power steering problem and the Air Tank on the Flex - VL-100.

All water has been shut off, water lines and filters were drained. RV Antifreeze has also been placed in all plumbing fixtures and drains.

The Museum of Bus Transportation would like to recognize and thank Lynn Burshtin, Michael Burshtin, Nichell Daub, Michael Hepler, Matthew Herr, Ken McNelis, Tom Mozer, Jerry Sylvester, Sr., Jerry Sylvester, Jr., Angel, and Becky Tollens for working outdoors in the elements of a full-blown rainstorm and bone chilling temperatures.

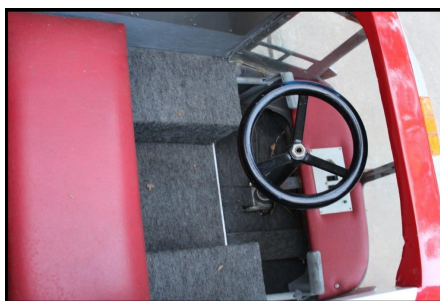
The Bus Museum truly appreciates the dedication and service of these volunteers. Please consider joining them in future work sessions.



THE EAGLET HAS LANDED!

Thanks to the donation of Martin Kramer of Indianapolis, IN, the Museum of Bus Transportation has acquired an "Eaglet." This is a fully operational, quarter scale model, of a full size Eagle Bus. The exterior is painstakingly constructed to resemble every detail of the real bus, even down to the marker lights.

McBride Mini Manufacturing of Amarillo, Texas manufactured the Eaglet. This vehicle can be used to promote the Museum at Trade Shows, parades, and exhibits. This mini bus was picked up and delivered to the Museum by members Paul Johnson and Tom Mozer on 12/12/17.



Mr. Kramer was the former owner of Southeastern Trailways which was located in Indianapolis, IN. Southeastern Trailways was one of the original Continental Trailways Companies. The Museum of Bus Transportation would like to thank Martin Kramer for this generous donation!



PROPOSED WORK SESSIONS

The following dates have been selected as possible Work Sessions for the Spring Season of 2018.

Saturday, March 17, 2018
Saturday, April 14, 2018
Saturday, May 5, 2018
Thursday, May 31, 2018
Friday, June 1, 2018

All Work Sessions start at the Annex at 8:00 A.M. and run until 3:00 P.M., unless the time has to be adjusted. We encourage any members to come help us. These sessions will help us get the fleet and Annex ready for the 2018 Spring Fling.

The Committee requests that you call Ken McNelis (610-203-7998), Angel Tollens (585-369-5976), or sign up by emailing the Committee at Equipment@BusMuseum.Org. It is important to let the committee know if you are planning to attend any or all Work Sessions listed above, so that if there are any changes in the schedule, you can be notified. It is important to note that you do not have to be a mechanic to be of service. There is work for every skill area, including cutting

grass and weeds, and washing interiors and exteriors.

FLEET PARTS NEEDED

Do any individual members or bus company members have any of the following items? If so, the Fleet Committee could really use them. If you wish to donate or sell any of these items, please call Ken McNelis at 610-203-7998, as soon as possible. Your consideration is appreciated.

1. 1947 Flixible Clipper - Air Compressor Pulley for the old Road Master Engine
2. Tires: Size 900 x 20
3. Air Cylinder/Shift Cylinder (F-N-R), Cylinder Valve Body, or any Automatic transmission shift related electronics for a 4523A model bus

RECENT ACQUISITION TO THE FLEET

The Museum of Bus Transportation has added a new vehicle to its Fleet to end 2017. This new acquisition is a 1947 (Baltimore Transit) 4507-675 fleet # 1426.

The Museum came about this fine vehicle thanks to the donation of Fr. Kevin Muller of Baltimore, MD. His bus was delivered to the Annex in early December. Father Muller wanted this bus of his to go to a good home and not to scrap. This 4507 will be a valuable addition to the Museum Fleet. The Museum of Bus Transportation would like to take this opportunity to thank Father Muller for this great donation!



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Model Bus Musings by Doug Campbell

This seems to be a very exciting period once again in model bus collecting, as MANY new releases are coming to market. These are coming from many manufacturers, indicating, at least to me, a continued interest in toy buses in the marketplace.



First, this month, we will go back to 1961 and across the Atlantic to merry old England, when and where one of my favorite buses was modeled in miniature, known as the MIDLAND RED Motorway Express Coach. This has always been, to me, a very handsome and stylish motor coach! This bus was used on Britain's first high speed "motorway," the M1, linking Birmingham to London. These buses were built by Midland Red and were unique buses, painted in such a handsome black and red paint scheme. The smaller toy model in my photo has always been among my favorites in the British CORGI TOYS range, only made from 1961-62. It was in the "Corgi Major Toys" series, as catalog no. 1120. I remember when it was issued, the Corgi Model Club Magazine described the well-detailed interior and that even it was possible to see



the roof racks inside. The model is fully die-cast metal 5" long, made in England, and has full wheel suspension. The larger plastic model is one I have so often wanted and just recently found a rather mint example at a toy show in Virginia! Few of these ever were probably sold or shipped to the U.S.A., as it was made for sale on the British toy market. It is a splendid 10" long PLASTIC replica of the Midland Red Motorway Coach, with friction motor, and made in Hong Kong by NFIC Toys. Again, it has fully detailed interior. The graphics on the Corgi model are applied by both adhesive labels, and with the Midland Red logo applied as a water-slide decal. The plastic model has all adhesive paper label graphics applied.



A brand new HO scale 4" long plastic bus model by "Mini Metals" (Classic Metal Works), in 1:87 scale, is this spectacular TDH-3610 GM Transit bus, in Fifth Avenue Coach Company (New York) graphics. The green and cream-colored bus is so full of tiny graphic details, it is hard to enjoy them all without use of a magnifying glass! It is just a perfect model, with rubber tires, in plastic, and comes with tiny windshield wipers, and side mirror that you must attach. This bus was built 1947-48 and is referred to as the "old look" GM's. General Motors Truck and Coach Division built this version until about 1959. Over 35,000 of these real TDH-3610 type buses were manufactured, and most lasted 15-20 years in service. It is interesting that Round 2 recently bought the Classic Metal Works/Mini Metal models, so I expect to see many new releases, (including BUSES) in the future!



The next model is die-cast and plastic in 1/43 scale, 8" long, by Hachette Models of France, and are made in Bangladesh. It models a very unusual bus to our American eyes, a Ford Greyhound Super Coach, made for the Australian market. It has a unique streamlined appearance, and has a roof rack for luggage. It is right hand drive, of course, and is painted in a cream color with blue graphics for "Greyhound Coaches of Australia."



The following five models are new releases from our friend Jeff Silver of Awesome Diecast of Florida who attends our annual

June MBOT Spring Fling at our museum. Mr. Silver markets his MANY new 1:87 scale (HO) diecast buses under his logo of "ICONIC REPLICAS" in their "Bus and Motorcoach Collection" series. First is a most colorful MCI coach in the current livery used on a commuter fleet at my local airport here at the Baltimore BWI Marshall Airport, and is covered with blue toned airplane graphics, the route map from the airport to Gaithersburg, Maryland, and



our local transit authority's logo "MTA Maryland." This is truly an "eye-catching" model bus! All of these Iconic Replica HO models are about 6" long.



Next is a Van Hool coach in the livery graphics of GRAY LINE HAWAII. What is interesting is the colorful roof logo for Polynesian Adventure Tours. All of these little Iconic replicas have full interiors, side mirrors, and rubber tires, and all are manufactured in China.

Next, another MCI coach in the colorful livery of BOLT BUS. Operated by Greyhound Lines of Dallas, Texas, "Bolt for a Buck" is the slogan, and I see these always stopping here in downtown Baltimore. Again, these models are fully die-cast metal.

Next is a handsome two-tone green/silver model of the "New Flyer" Xcelsior coach by New Flyer of America of St Cloud, Minnesota. An accurate model of this popular transit bus, Iconic Replicas has captured the real bus in "spot-on" miniature style! "It's bright ahead," is New Flyer's ad slogan on the bus.

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VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AT ANNUAL DINNER

At the Annual Meeting held on October 28, 2017, the following report was given concerning this year's Fleet Volunteers. It has been a privilege for me, thanks to the Fleet Chairman, John Oakman, to be the Fleet Manager. This has allowed me to organize Work Sessions to try to maintain our Fleet and Annex facility.

Over the past 5 - 6 years, as Tom Mozer can attest, the fleet committee consisted of just Tom and I at many Work Sessions. I am happy to say this past year I have seen a complete change. Work Sessions now consist of 10 - 12 volunteers on a regular basis. This truly helps the Museum to have a fleet that runs and looks good on display, as well.

Please allow me to give you this year's statistics:

This year 31 volunteers assisted us (20 more than last year)

Eleven of the 31 qualified for the Annual Meeting Distinguished Recognition and free meal

A total of 1,405 hours were recorded by these 31 volunteers

I could not have completed any of the Annex Work without the following individuals:
Lynn Burshtin, Michael Burshtin, Walter Earl,

Michael Hepler, Jim Kalin, Ken McNelis, Tom Mozer, Angel Tollens, Becky Tollens. Alan Whitman, Ed Wolf. Angel and Becky Tollens have not missed a Work Session or Museum Event this year for a combined total of 450 volunteer hours.

Tom Mozer has been my Assistant Fleet Manager, "go-to" person in a pinch, and has amassed 2,600+ volunteer hours for the Auto Museum and Bus Museum.

Seven of these volunteers traveled in excess of 100 miles to attend each Work Session:

Lynn and Michael Burshtin - Richland, NJ

Michael Hepler - Bayonne, NJ

Jim Kalin - Long Island, NY

Ken McNelis - Blue Bell, PA

Angel and Becky Tollens - Rochester, NY

The other volunteers are from the local area. However, as you can see, time and distance are not a problem or excuse for any member who really wants to see this Museum move forward in preserving our BUS HISTORY. You, too, can join this TEAM of amazing volunteers if you wish. Whether it is for just one session, or more, we need your assistance! Please see the article on upcoming dates and let us know you will join us.

I was surprised and honored to have learned that I personally achieved 1,161 volunteer hours for the Bus Museum/AACA to receive a Free Life Membership from the AACA Museum, along with a plaque recognizing my efforts.



Ken McNelis with Dave Schmidt

In closing, I want to let you know that I mistakenly omitted Mark Watson in the recognition last year. I would like to take this opportunity to personally apologize to him and to thank him for all his efforts last year and this year. Thank you for your service, Mark Watson.

Online Shopping Waiting for You

It is that time of year when you think about gift giving. Whether you want to purchase for that other bus enthusiast in your life, or if you want to leave hints for others for you, this is a good time to go visit the Gift Shop on the Museum's Website. (<https://busmuseum.org/store-2/> for memorabilia or <https://www.companycasuals.com/BusMuseum/start.jsp> for apparel, bags and other gifts). With the On-Line Gift Shop, you can shop for holiday gifts right from the comfort from your home, and have them delivered direct to your door. Whether it is bus models, caps, shirts and many other items, you can find them right online. Take a look and get your order in for the gift-giving season!

Also, with the gift shop selling materials, the Museum would like to request that if you have any extra bus banks or materials you would like to donate for the Museum to sell, they will be greatly appreciated. Our visitors enjoy

purchasing all type of memorabilia, and if you have extra just sitting around, it will help our gift shop stay stocked.



Model Bus Musings (continued from p 6)



Finally, we have another iconic replica model in die-cast perfection. A touring coach by Van Hool painted in a stunning metallic blue color as seen on the highways travelled by Arrow Stage Lines of Norfolk, Nebraska. The rear of the model bus is lettered "Very special people inside, Drive Safely, Est. 1928, Arrow Stage Lines." There are many other new releases from Iconic Replicas. They are truly a modern leader in model buses!

Until our next issue, Happy Collecting!

My Favorite Bus by Jon Corson



I have been asked to write about the bus I own, a 1929 Blue and White EBT Model W GM Yellow Coach. The following is the story of the bus in the pictures that you see here.

Collecting and restoring buses is an uncommon part of the "old car" hobby. Of the few old buses that have survived, most are in museums of transportation or have been cosmetically restored and used for promotional purposes. I too got into the hobby collecting and restoring of old cars, but in the back of my mind was a desire to find and restore the type of old bus that I had ridden on as a child. As time passed, I scanned many old car magazines for an old GM Yellow Coach Bus, but none ever turned up. An elderly Greyhound Driver I met told me of two partial bus bodies in a junkyard in the West, and a man who owned a complete bus in Salt Lake City. I tracked down the latter and found it was a Model U or W Yellow Coach, which was exactly the type of bus I had ridden on as a child. EBT Transit, a subsidiary of the East Broad Top Railroad, a narrow gauge coal hauler in Pennsylvania, had operated it.

There were several problems, not the least of which was that Salt Lake City was a long way from PA. Further, the owner had disassembled the bus and only the chassis and part of the roof remained in one piece. Now, one of the reasons that old buses having survived is because they were built with composite bodies, meaning metal over a wood frame, until the late 1930s. Once it has been taken apart and probably one of a kind, how does someone else put it back together, particularly when it has never been done before and there are no patterns or drawings?

We decided to buy it and work out the problems later. A flatbed tractor-trailer that would otherwise have returned empty to the East was located and hauled all the pieces back. Our first view of the bus was almost disheartening, just a rolling chassis and boxes and boxes of loose pieces of wood and metal.

Then we found a man, Mr. Thomas C. VanDegrift, of Detroit, who had

not only worked for GM Coach, and saved many of the drawings, but who also owned a completely restored twin of the coach of ours. A visit to Detroit, many conversations, measurements, and many copies of drawings later, restoration was started on our coach. Mr. VanDegrift also provided some history of the coach, which as built almost as a prototype for the Sales Department. It was the first Yellow Coach with a raised roof or "monitor" that you could stand up and walk through. It was sold in August of 1929 to the Iowa Railway and Light Company in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Kelso Restoration of McConnellsburg, PA started the restoration and slowly the new wood frame arose from the chassis and the old metal skins fit! There were replaced by new metal panels since the originals had too many dings and creases. Next we were faced with finding seats, all window hardware, interior lights, coach lights, luggage rack, rear grill and drumhead, and, worst of all, two curved pieces of old fashioned wire embedded safety glass for the rear corners of the coach. Little by little, the parts started to come together from across the country. Unbelievably, we found an original pair of curved window glass in the East Broad Top Railroad shops, where they had laid gathering dust undisturbed for 50 years. The correct coach lights were found after a coast-to-coast search at the Carlisle, PA swap meet, only 11 miles from us.

In only 14 months, a chassis-up restoration was completed and it was repainted and re-lettered in the colors of the old East Broad Top (EBT) #9. The EBT Transit Company had 12 buses, mostly 18 to 21 passenger White's, Rio's and Yellow Coaches, including three like #9. Early buses had this look to woo customers away from the railroads to show them



that bus travel was just as luxurious as train travel. The Bus Company was sold in the early 40's by the railroad.

This bus was built as chassis #130564 by the General Motors Truck Division of Yellow Truck and Coach Manufacturing in Pontiac, MI. It seats 21 passengers plus the driver and weighs 10,000 lbs. empty. It had as standard in 1929, the Buick overhead valve 6 engine, four-speed transmission, four-wheel hydraulic vacuum assist brakes, and a 12-volt electrical system. It has a 185" wheelbase, and is 24 feet long overall and 7 ½ feet wide. It is one of only two of the Yellow Coaches with the old-fashioned imitation railroad car observation platform rear-end that has survived.

Year End Letter from Chairman of the Board

November 2017

Good Morning,

As 2017 comes to close, on behalf of the Museum of Bus Transportation Board of Directors, I would like to thank all of our members for your wonderful support as we all work to stabilize and prepare the Museum to move forward for the years to come.

Thank you to all of our members that were able to participate in the Annual Meeting of the Museum held in late October. We had strong representation from all aspects of our membership community. The Museum Board delivered a wide ranging report on the activities of the Museum this year. Please read a complete report in the upcoming Musings and plan to join us for the 2018 Annual Meeting the last Saturday of October 2018.



Just a couple of the many accomplishments in 2017:

- We developed a system of Committees to improve the participation by our Board Members and Advisors in the operation of the Museum with the desire to become more efficient and take advantage of the input of a wide range of talented and committed individuals.
- The By Laws were updated to reflect how we are actually operating the Museum and brought us in line with the way that many other quality institutions are operated – this will enhance our ability to approach potential benefactors.
- The Marketing Committee
 - Improved and updated the website which is now able to take credit card payments for donations, event registration and membership. In addition, Members will be able to access key documents including Board Meeting Minutes and Financial Documents.
 - Our brochures have now been updated and digitized for convenience and accuracy. Pull-Up Banners were purchased for use at venues where we showcase the Museum
 - The Museum was represented at many National and Regional Events
 - Videos were created of various lengths.
 - The Museum was featured in a national TV Series – Mysteries at the Museum
- The Fleet Committee
 - Secured Titles for every vehicle in our fleet
 - Reorganized and created a showplace at our George M. Sage Annex as well as improved security
- The Museum Secretary coordinated the effort to have one accurate and digitized Membership List confirmed by the Museum Treasurer which is making us more efficient and saving the Museum the cost of postage.
- All communication with the Museum is responded to within one business day – both written and verbal.
- The Events Committee provided the leadership for an enormously successful Spring Fling with a dramatic increase in attendance as reported by both the Bus and Motorcoach News and National Bus Trader.

A major goal for 2017 is to balance our yearly budget which for many years has been operating on a deficit basis. As a result of diligent expense controls as well as increased membership and gifts – especially a major gift by the Krapf Family – we are very close to realizing our goal. The result of making this goal a reality will be our ability to reach out to the world of Foundations and Corporations to apply for grants and support to do future projects to enhance and move forward the Museum of Bus Transportation's mission to preserve our industry's heritage.

Please consider giving a Year End Gift to support the Museum of Bus Transportation.

Donations can be mailed to the Museum or made through the Museum Website: www.busmuseum.org

The Museum of Bus Transportation is a registered 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Thank you!

David W. Schmidt, Board Chair
Museum of Bus Transportation
161 Museum Drive
Hershey PA 17033

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Fall 2017 Bus Musings

Email Addresses Requested

As a non-profit entity, the Museum of Bus Transportation has to watch all expenses carefully. The Board reviewed expenses, and one expense that can be cut back is the actual printing and mailing of this newsletter to the membership. If this newsletter is emailed, the printing and mailing costs will be lowered significantly.

One of the benefits beyond saving the expense to the Museum will be that the Newsletter will start to have more website links in it. You, as the reader, will be able to see more news items in more detail than the newsletter itself can hold, due to size limits. The links that will be inserted will let you know that additional information will be available at a particular website that is being discussed, or for more information, the new museum website (which is currently being built) at www.busmuseum.org. You will be able to click on the link provided to see what is there, rather than have to type in a web address on your computer or phone.

Please send your Email address to Secretary@BusMuseum.org. As with your membership information, this will be held confidential, and will not be sold, provided or otherwise distributed to anyone else other than Museum Communications. It will be kept private and secure.

Bus Trivia

For this edition, we thought it would be fun for you to put on your “Who IS that Professional” hat. Take a close look, and if you can identify this professional driver in the picture, write to us here at the “Bus Musings” and let us know your guess. Write to Marketing@BusMuseum.Org and your name will be placed into a drawing to win a prize from your Bus Musings.



MBT's 2018 Spring Fling • June 2 • Hershey, PA



Saturday, June 2, 3:00 pm Parade of Buses - procession will begin around the back of the Museum and the buses will be announced when they reach the front of the Museum.

2 Trophies to be Awarded 1 for People's Choice and for the Long Distance award for the bus which travelled the furthest distance to attend.

Buses on display will be marked with year and make of the bus. Please register to bring your bus to put on display as well.

For questions call Becky Tollens, 585-737-4046, or email to receive updates:
Events@BusMuseum.org



MODES OF BUS TRANSPORTATION Intercity, transit, school bus, motor coach conversions.

BUS STUFF TO PURCHASE! Tables of bus and transportation artifacts for purchase!

PARADE OF BUSES! Vintage & Restored

VIEW THE MUSEUM'S RESTORED FLEET!

A Shuttle bus will run every hour between the Museum and MBT's storage Annex to view the MBT fleet.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES AVAILABLE Special food truck will be open on the Museum Grounds



Calling all Bus Memorabilia Vendors! Do you have bus memorabilia that you are looking to sell? We are always looking for new vendors for the flea market on Saturday.



DATE Saturday, June 2, 2018 **TIME** 8:00 am—4:00 pm

LOCATION Antique Automobile Museum Campus (indoors and outside), Rt. 39, Hershey, PA

ADMISSION Free to MBT members. Regular admission will be reduced to only \$7 for non-MBT members from \$12!

Questions? Email us at Events@busmuseum.org



161 Museum Drive Hershey, PA 17033 • Tel. 717-566-7100 Ext 119 • Fax: 717-566-7300 • www.busmuseum.org

2018 Adopt A Bus Program

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Thank you for your interest in adopting a bus. We appreciate your support in interest in keeping the MBT fleet healthy!

Please select Option #1 or #2 below and indicate if you would like to adopt one bus or the entire fleet:

☐ **OPTION #1:** Enclosed is my donation of \$300.00.

☐ I would like to adopt bus _____ (funds will be used for storage and maintenance expenses for this particular unit)

OR

☐ I would like to spread my donation of \$300 over the entire fleet.

☐ **OPTION #2:** I pledge \$25 per month for 12 months for a total of \$300.

☐ I would like to adopt bus _____

OR

☐ I would like to spread my donation over the entire fleet

GUIDELINES:

- By adopting a particular bus selected above, your name will be displayed on the description plaque if the bus is in the Museum or on the windshield if the bus is stored.
- If you choose to spread your donation over the entire fleet, your name will be placed on a special plaque which will be placed on the wall of the Museum near the buses.
- The Adopt a Bus Program support is for one fiscal year.
- The Museum of Bus Transportation is a 501(c)3 organization; your fee may be used as a tax deduction.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and continued support of the MBT!

Please mail completed form and check made out to the Museum of Bus Transportation to:

Museum of Bus Transportation
161 Museum Drive
Hershey, PA 17033