



The Road Ahead

Volume 8, Issue 1

March, 2008

Our mission is to support providers of travel instruction for the purpose of teaching people with disabilities and seniors to travel safely and independently.

Heading

A Message From Our President

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Dear ATI Members,

I'm pleased to report that our Seventh Annual Educational Conference last August in Reno, NV, was a tremendous success. I write these words not because I pulled them out of the air, but because that is how ATI members who attended the conference and evaluated the individual sessions as well as the overall conference, rated it. We know this thanks to new board member Sarah Beard of Columbus, OH, who took the evaluation forms home and turned them into a detailed report. Thank you for this fine piece of work, Sarah.

I also want to recognize the five other ATI members who with Sarah, were elected to our Board of Directors in Reno. They are: Jane Bohannon of Olympia, WA; Marlene Lawler of Trumbull, CT; Peggy Schmidt of North Wales, PA; Mark Sheppard of Tampa, FL; and, Kevin Welch of Sacramento, CA. We are glad that you are with us, and that you are ready to pull up your sleeves to advance ATI's mission.

The board itself elected two new officers to replace two members who resigned. Mary Rieglmayer of Cleveland, OH, was chosen President-elect unanimously, and Steven Dickerson of Ogden, UT, was elected Treasurer, also without opposition. Sadly, two of our finest long-term and hardest working members left our Board with the Reno conference, Lydia Peterson of St. Paul, MN, and Millie Santiago-Liebmann of (Continued on page 2)

See Inside For:

- 2008 Conference Dates and Registration Information
- Membership Registry
- Transit News You Can Use
- Stop Requested: Seniors accessing public transportation

Place your message here. For maximum impact, use two or three sentences.

The Road Ahead Staff:
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www.travelinstruction.org



President's Message Continued...

New York, NY. Lydia is keeping busy preparing for our 2008 educational conference in Minneapolis, MN from August 15-17; and Millie, who earned her baccalaureate degree last May, told me in a January conversation that she is ready to help ATI any way she can. While we already miss Lydia and Millie on the board, you can see that they remain very active ATI members.

Speaking of our August 15-17 annual conference, I urge ATI members to start making plans now to attend, and even better, encourage a travel trainer colleague, an educator, a parent, or a local transportation agency representative to come to our conference. I believe that all ATI members should take responsibility to help build our membership.

Or, you might wish to consider taking a bigger step for ATI—like submitting a proposal to make a presentation at the Minneapolis conference. Every ATI member adds value to this organization by sharing what you have learned in the real travel training world. Over the years, I've heard more than one member state that the networking ATI provides throughout each of its annual educational conferences is invaluable. Why? Because members share their experiences, both good and bad. Think about formalizing your knowledge into a 2008 conference presentation.

By now, each member should have received a copy of the Call For Papers in the mail. If somehow you haven't received the mailed copy, the Call For Papers is reprinted in this newsletter, and it is posted prominently on the ATI Web site. You have until March 21st to submit your paperwork for a presentation.

See you in Minneapolis,
Terry Moakley

ATI's eighth annual conference is scheduled for Friday, August 15th through Sunday August 17th, 2008.

Location: The Depot—A Renaissance Hotel
Minneapolis, MN

SAVE THE DATE!

We are counting on you! Share your knowledge and tricks of the trade with your fellow members. **See the call for papers on page 5**



Registry Questionnaire

NAME: _____ PHONE: Work _____

ADDRESS: _____ Home _____

STATE: _____ ZIPCODE: _____ E-Mail _____

PROVINCE: _____ PROVINCIAL CODE: _____

COMPANY/ AGENCY: _____

Public School Public Agency Contract Service

Adult Service Provider

Other (Please Explain) _____

POSITION TITLE: _____ Years in Position: _____

Program Administrator: Travel Instructor: Travel Trainer: _____

Total Number Years (providing Travel Training for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities other than blindness)

Trainees Served: (Providing instruction to travel safely and independently using public transportation)

Please check all that apply:

Seniors Adults with Disabilities other than blindness (over 21)

Students with Disabilities other than blindness (under 21)

Individuals with Mobility Devices Other (Please Explain)

Type of Instruction Offered:

Please check all that apply

Group Training for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities other than blindness

One on One Training for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities other than blindness

Other (Please Explain)



Educational Background:

Please check all that apply

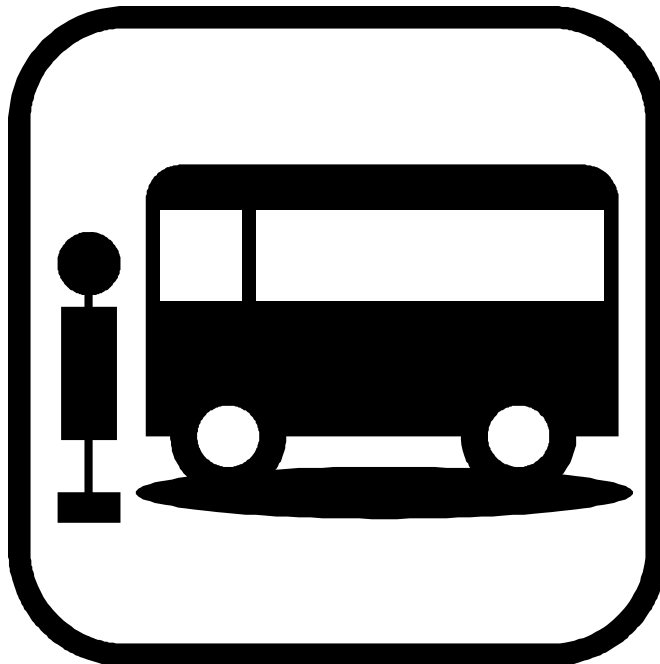
Masters Degree Bachelors Degree Associates Degree

Vocational/Technical College High School/GED

Is there additional information you wish to include?

Would you like to be listed in the Travel Training Registry on the ATI Web site?

YES NO (Your information will be kept in the database for ATI but not posted)





CALL FOR PAPERS

The Association of Travel Instruction
www.travelinstruction.org
Presents Its
Eighth Annual Educational Conference
Friday, August 15 - Sunday, August 17, 2008
The Depot – A Renaissance Hotel
Minneapolis, MN

The Association of Travel Instruction invites you to present at its 2008 Educational Conference. The focus of the conference will be current topics of interest in the fields of travel instruction/travel training; recent innovations in travel instruction/travel training programs; and, information sharing. Please consider submitting a presentation proposal.

Conference Module Outline

Theme: Training Competencies for the Effective Practice of Travel Instruction

Seeking Proposals in the Following Areas:

Track 1: a module on TI Competencies from Section A (**Medical Aspects of Disability**)

For example, ATI seeks a presentation(s) on travel training Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with multiple disabilities, e.g. polytrauma.

Track 2: a module on TI Competencies from Section E (**Travel Concepts**)

For example, ATI seeks a presentation(s) on teaching skills for moving purposefully in the transit environment to persons with developmental disabilities.

Track 3: a module on TI Competencies from Section G (**Systems of Transportation**)

For example, ATI seeks a presentation(s) on travel training persons with disabilities to use Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems.

Track 4: a module on TI Competencies from Section H (**Mobility and Information Access Devices**)



For example, ATI seeks a presentation(s) on innovative use of technology in travel training. As another example, ATI seeks a presentation on the impact of video and digital photos on travel instruction.

Track 5: a module on TI Competencies from Section I (**Travel Skills and Techniques**)

For example, ATI seeks a presentation(s) on adaptive techniques used in teaching travel skills. Other examples of presentations that ATI seeks include safety strategies and techniques, and, is teaching street crossing lessons in small groups a safe teaching strategy?

Track 6: a module on **other topics/issues** of importance for travel instructors and travel trainers.

Note: ATI also requests presentation proposals suggested in the 2007 Conference Evaluations, including but not limited to:

- Working with families to gain more trust
- Stranger awareness
- Ethics, liability, and policy in travel instruction programs
- Issues related to locus of control
- Issues related to fear of litigation
- Professional boundaries, and
- Expansion of previous ATI conference presentation topics

Please Note: The section letters and module titles in bold used on the first page and above are taken from *Competencies for the Effective Practice of Travel Instruction and Travel Training*, published by Easter Seals Project ACTION and available at <http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/DocServer/04COMP.pdf?docID=6363>.

Presentation proposals may be submitted on any one module topic, or a combination of topics within one module.



ASSOCIATION OF TRAVEL INSTRUCTION

CALL FOR PAPERS – 2008 Submission Instructions

Presenter Information Form:

Please fill in the “Presenter Information Form” completely.

Abstract:

Please include a brief abstract of your proposed conference presentation.

Questions Concerning Conference Content:

Lydia Peterson, Local Arrangements Chairperson
lydia@swissmail.org
(651) 603-4897

Terence Moakley, ATI President
tmoakley@unitedspinal.org
(718) 803-3782, ext. 277

Deadline:

Please submit your completed Presenter Information Form and Abstract either electronically to either of the two above-listed individuals by Friday, March 21, 2008, or by regular mail on a disk postmarked no later than March 21, 2008, to:

ATI Conference Papers
P.O. Box 2042
Madison Square Station
New York, NY 10159



At the 2008 Conference, please come prepared with the following:

To make your presentation accessible to participants with low vision or blindness, a few copies of any handouts or PowerPoint slide information must be provided in **large print** and on **disk** (in MS Word or RTF file format; image files in PDF, JPEG or TIFF) on the day of the presentation. Please provide a print copy and disk of any handout materials for the ATI archives. Please make your written presentation ~~available in handout form, with a few copies in large print and on disk to expand ATI's body of~~ knowledge, and to share the presentation with those who were unable to attend the conference.

ASSOCIATION OF TRAVEL INSTRUCTION

CALL FOR PAPERS - 2008

Presenter Information Form

Name of Presenter: _____

Additional Presenters: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Title of Presentation: _____

Module Area(s): _____

Presentation Format:
 Paper/Seminar (1 hour)

Workshop/Panel (1 hour)

Note: Conference presenters must plan on bringing their own Audio/Visual and computer equipment/ accessories including power strips and extension cords as you deem necessary. All accepted proposals will be acknowledged by e-mail or telephone.



IMPORTANT! Remember to include/attach a brief Abstract of your presentation.

Association of Travel Instruction Registry Update

By Frances Rankos

In the original proposal to establish a registry, the Registration Committee suggested that members of ATI sign the Code of Ethics before the member could be listed on the registry. The code was adopted by ATI members in 2001 to be part of the certification process.

At the 2007 ATI conference in Reno, Julie Wilcke from Portland, OR raised an important question about organizational members signing the Code of Ethics. Originally, the code was intended for instructors and trainers who are individual members of ATI. Peggy Groce and Roseanne Bopp both verified that this was the original intent of the code.

The present Code of Ethics was not created for an employer who is an organizational member to sign on behalf of their employees. At this time, each instructor and trainer would have to be an individual member of ATI to be listed on the registry. Some of the members who completed the survey and signed the code at the Reno conference were organizational members.

One approach ATI could take now is to post the registry with an individual and organizational section whether or not the Code of Ethics was signed, since the registry is only informational. Instructors and trainers who choose not to become individual members of ATI could remain on the registry in the Organizational section, but not be able to advance to registration or certification. The board of directors might also consider whether there is a benefit to companies having an organizational membership.

I propose that the Registration Committee members contact the organizational members in their region to start the development of a different Code of Ethics for these employers. This will give the association time to resolve the code issues before the next phase of registration while demonstrating to the membership that there has been movement toward the goal of certification.



Transit News You Can Use

Five ATI members—Chris Hunter, Frances Rankos, Mary Riegelmayr, Leland Schooley, and Kevin Welch—will be the faculty for a series of three day “Introduction to Travel Training” courses sponsored by Easter Seals Project ACTION. This is an intensive training program that combines classroom instruction and field practice. Priority will be given to applicants who are new to the travel training field, have limited opportunity for continuing education and limited contact with other travel trainers, and who get their application in early. The application deadline for a March 31st-April 2nd course in Chicago, IL is February 8th, and the deadline to apply for a June 9th-11th course, also in the Windy City, is April 18th. More details are available at projectaction.easterseals.com.

The National Transit Institute is offering several intensive two day workshops on “Managing the Cost of ADA Paratransit Services.” These workshops are scheduled for March 5th and 6th in Baltimore, MD, and for May 22nd and 23rd in Mesquite, TX. The audience for these workshops is paratransit professionals, and each workshop will bring together participants from a variety of systems to compare experiences with managing costs and to review available information about successful cost management methods. For further information, including a downloadable registration form, please go to www.ntionline.org/courseinfo.asp?coursenumber=ID017.

Easter Seals Project ACTION’s popular People On The Move: Using All Transportation Options, a free two day “train the trainer” workshop intended to increase accessible transportation in your community, will be held in Washington, DC on June 2nd and 3rd (apply by March 27), in Bloomington, IN on June 25th and 26th (apply by May 1), and in Eugene, OR on July 9th and 10th (apply by May 22). People On The Move trainings seek a broad audience including human service providers, school personnel, transportation providers, and persons who use/advocate for accessible transportation. For more information, visit projectaction.easterseals.com.

The Vehicle Production Group, designers of the wheelchair-accessible Standard Taxi, announced last December that they “have teamed up with AM General LLC to build our vehicles.” AM General LLC is located in the South Bend, IN, area where they currently assemble the Hummer H2, which is marketed by General Motors Corporation. The Vehicle Production Group also announced its decision to build the WAVE, a version of the Standard Taxi design that will be available for sale to individual consumers. WAVE is an acronym for Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle for Everyone. The company plans to begin manufacturing in 2009. For more information, go to www.vpgautos.com.



The SAFETEA-LU federal transit authorization and funding law was passed in August of 2005, but according to a statement issued in December from United We Ride, as of September 30, 2007, only 12 out of 151 large urbanized areas (metropolitan regions of 200,000 or more persons), and seven states with small urbanized areas (less than 200,000 persons) and/or rural areas, have been awarded FY 2006 or FY 2007 New Freedom grant funds. The New Freedom program circular (regulation) includes the financial support of local travel training programs as an eligible activity. However, the statement contends that many urbanized areas and states are making progress on the New Freedom requirements to identify a designated recipient; conduct a competitive process to select recipients for funding; and, certify that such projects were derived from a coordinated public transit-human services plan. A list of designated recipients, which will be updated as new recipients are designated, can be found at www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants_financing_3550.html. Click on the “JARC Designated Recipients” menu item. And for up-to-date information, also check out the “Updated Question and Answer Document on the JARC, New Freedom and Section 5310 Program” menu item.



Requested

SANTA ENCOURAGES TRANSIT OVER REINDEERS

By Peggy Schmidt, Executive Director

The Partnership Transportation Management Association of Montgomery County

Over the past five years, the Community Coaster has serviced the municipalities of Telford, Souderton, Franconia and Lower Salford in Montgomery County, PA. This fixed route shuttle bus system was developed and is operated by the Partnership Transportation Management Association of Montgomery County (PTMA). It provides transit service to shopping areas, senior citizen housing complexes and centers as well as economically disadvantaged housing units.

On January 2, 2008, the Coaster added two additional stops to its route. In order to introduce the Coaster and its route to the Peter Becker Community, the PTMA planned a special holiday travel training excursion.

Peggy Schmidt, the executive director of the PTMA, provided a brief overview of the Coaster system at the Community's monthly residents' meeting. There, she encouraged the seniors to sign up for their Pennsylvania Senior Identification Card as well as the first Coaster Holiday Lights Tour. Out of the 371 residents, over 100 signed up for the card. Each resident that signed up received a small gift – a neck wallet to hold their senior transit ID card.

Much to the surprise and delight of the PTMA staff, over 50 individuals signed up for the Coaster Holiday Lights Tour, making it necessary to enlist three fourteen-passenger vehicles. The day of the event, attendees were called to remind them of the time and location for pick-up. While there were a few cancellations, over 43 people arrived a half hour early to be sure all their necessary paperwork was completed. Each attendee was then given a PTMA gift bag which included the Coaster's schedule and travel training handbook. The route consisted of a modified Coaster schedule with some detours to view some of the more spectacular lighting displays. As the residents waited to board, Santa arrived with his senior transit ID card. He then helped the residents board the buses and demonstrated the features of the Coaster. As carols played softly in the background, the seniors enjoyed the light displays and learned of all the places the Coaster could take them. When the tour concluded, Santa



welcomed everyone back to enjoy light refreshments.

The holiday travel training tour was considered a big success. Seniors now feel confident about using the system and requests for the senior ID card continue to come in. Individuals that needed help planning a route were encouraged to call the PTMA's toll-free Mobility Hotline for individualized route planning assistance. Other senior communities have heard about the event and are interested in having a Coaster event of their own in the spring. Next holiday season, if Santa can fit it into his busy schedule, the PTMA plans to host numerous Holiday Lights travel training events throughout the county.



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