

# Fare Box Bulletin

March 2021  
Volume II Issue 1

## Association of Travel Instruction

- [Travelinstruction.org](http://Travelinstruction.org)
- [info@travelinstruction.org](mailto:info@travelinstruction.org)
- 928-212-5161
- @AssociationAti

## Newsflash - Conference Update

The ATI conference committee has been busy since last year's successful virtual conference! We are committed to providing the same quality content and camaraderie as always, even in these unprecedented times.

The 2021 ATI annual conference is slated to take place in person August 11th-13th of this year, but we wanted to reach out to membership to gauge interest in an in-person conference. ATI

### Inside this Issue:

- Committee Updates
- Upcoming Events
- ATI Leadership
- Connection Court
- Extra! Extra!

wants to make every effort to hold an in-person conference, but the health and safety of our membership surely takes precedence.

With that said, please consider filling out this SHORT survey on this year's annual conference. If the choices were: have a "traditional" in-person conference, or have an all-virtual conference, which would you choose? Please answer [here](#):

We look forward to hearing **responses by April 30th**. Thank you in advance.

**“Promoting  
Independence in  
Public Transit”**



**CLEVELAND**

# Information Seeking

The ATI Professional Development Committee is inviting you to share your expert knowledge!

**TOPIC: What steps do you take to create "Policies and Procedures" for your travel training program?**

**How do you keep it relevant and updated to your needs?**

Ways you can share:

- Highlight your organization as a presenter(s) in one of our monthly webinars
- Send in details or a template that can be shared on our ATI website blog or Newsletter
- Email any suggestions or responses to Doraleen Taulanga: [dtaulanga@rideuta.com](mailto:dtaulanga@rideuta.com)

Thank you for your willingness to share. This will be a great start to building the ATI resource page on the website.



Are you a regular social media user? If so, this might be for you. ATI is seeking a volunteer to assist with its social media accounts. Of course you don't need to be a master at Twitter or an Insta genius for this role. Looking to tag team this task with someone, even better. All ideas are welcome and appreciated. Please email the Media Committee if you or someone you know is interested. Click [here](#) to inquire. ←

## **Professional Development Committee:**

Maintaining a calendar of engaging webinars and teleconferences on the hottest topics in the travel-training and O & M fields - that's the role of the Professional Development Committee!

This winter, we've already heard from two dynamic speakers, Brett Christensen from the Kennedy Center in Connecticut led a thought-provoking session on travel-training considerations for persons with cortical visual impairment (CVI). He'll be back on April 6th at 2:00pm EST to continue the discussion but this time with a focus on the Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing community. ATI Board Member David Abrahams, and his colleague Phillippe Jean-Louis, from the New York City Board of Education successfully adapted the wildly popular Annual Conference workshop "Intersection Analysis 101" for a virtual audience.

A reminder that certificates of participation are available - free of charge - by emailing a request to [info@travelinstruction.org](mailto:info@travelinstruction.org). Please allow 3 business days for processing.

# Update Avenue

## **Important Dates:**

### **April 7th - 2021**

**2:00pm EST** - Travel Training Considerations for the Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing Community

Presented by: Brett Christensen, The Kennedy Center

### **May 5th - 2021**

**2:00pm EST** - Linking the Transit Family of Services for Persons with Disabilities

Presented by: Steve Yaffe, Yaffe Mobility Consulting, IPATH Board Member

### **Aug 11th - 13th - 2021**

ATI Annual Conference—Stay tuned for more information including ways you can submit a presentation.

We're working with the Media Committee to produce a series of short "Meet the Member" videos that will allow you to learn more about professionals and their TT programs from across the United States and Canada.

Lastly, coming soon will be a resource directory board on the ATI website will offer a one-stop place where members can go to see job openings in the field, non-ATI training opportunities, panel discussion announcements, and more!

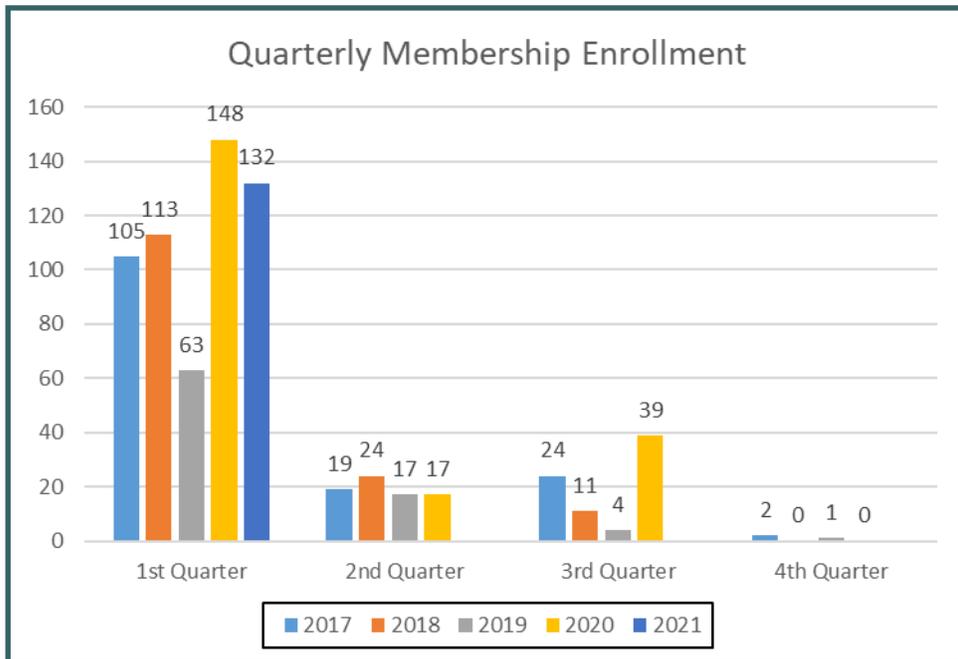


# Update Avenue...Continued from page 3

**Media Committee:** In trying to keep up with it's growth, the Media Committee has begun it's "Meet the Member" segment. Linda Chamberlain and Linda Salzer Shepard have gotten the ball rolling and plan to bring membership monthly segments on WHO makes up ATI (individuals, organizations, agencies). Stay tuned for more information on this project.

The Media Committee is happy to announce it will be launching use of Microsoft 365 Business Premium. This will provide the Board with improved communication and management, data tracking, security, back-up storage and membership database options. ATI will have the ability to use Microsoft Teams for webinars, communication and monthly committee and board meetings. We are excited for this advancement in technology for the organization.

**Membership Committee:** It's reported that 2021 membership numbers have already surpassed 2020 numbers! Exciting news as we see ATI continue to grow again this year. Speaking of growth, ATI welcomed 30 new members so far in 2021, these are organization and members that were not members in 2020. The diligent committee made up of Raven Alexander and Christina Cooper is on track to crush their set goal of obtaining 148 + members. Let's see if ATI will hit 150!



**Membership:  
By The Numbers**



Like many transit agencies in the country Oklahoma City's public transportation has gone through it's own growth spurts. If you have been in Oklahoma City in recent years you may have seen EMBARK buses traveling around the city but it took a few name changes to get to where they are today.

# History Highway

## OKC Transit, More Than OK



1966 was the official beginning of the then named Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority. In fact the agency went through two additional name changes before becoming EMBARK as we know it today. The black and white photo on the left shows one of the "pay-as-you-enter" street cars which operated out of the Electric Station near downtown in early OKC transit days.

Fast forward to modern times and we see EMBARK offering free Wi-Fi on all buses & routes, implementing Sunday service and operating on all major holidays. In 2016

...Continue on page 6

# Extra! Extra!

Many organizations have a leader in their industry that people look to for resources, ideas, historical information, stories, advice and guidance. For many Travel Trainers, Peggy Groce is that leader. Through decades of work Peggy has remained a strong advocate in the field of Travel Training and Disability Rights. Award winning *Able Magazine* recently published a detailed story outlining Peggy's tremendous work in Travel Training beginning in 1970. Click [here](#) for the full story.



Mayor Bill Di Blasio, left, and Commissioner of the Mayor's Office for People with disabilities Victor Calise present Peggy Groce with the Frieda Zames award at the 2018 ADA celebration at Gracie Mansion.



# Connection Court

Do you have Social Media? Connect with ATI:

**Twitter: @AssociationAti**

**Facebook: Association of Travel Instruction**

**ATI Blog: [www.travelinstruction.org](http://www.travelinstruction.org)**

## History Highway ...Continued

EMBARK received “North America’s Outstanding Public Transportation System” by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) for systems providing less than 4 million rides annually. Today, OKC riders can use Token Transit, the mobile fare payment system as a new, cashless option. In 2018 streetcar fever that spread across many transit agencies in the country hit OKC. The streetcar route stretches nearly 5 miles in the greater downtown area. This allows the Central Business District to connect with nearby districts. The successful connection of the districts has led to streetcar route expansion and additional routes in the Central Business District. The committee overseeing the expansion hopes to see streetcar service to Oklahoma City University via the historic plaza district in the future. OKC has shown it can stand the test of times and continue to offer new transportation options to visitors and residents in such a wonderful city.



Photo above: night time, red streetcar on tracks stretching to the right side with buildings in the background.

## Want to join the team?

It's easy. ATI has several Committees that are always welcoming new members. You'll discover the teamwork and comradery that comes along with joining any area of the organization. Have a skill to contribute or not, you can sign up now. Contact [Info@travelinstruction.org](mailto:Info@travelinstruction.org) to have a Committee Chair follow up.

## ATI Leadership

**Board of Directors:** David Abrahams, Raven Alexander, Felisha Barbee, Melody Bundy, Christina Cooper, Mike Culver, Mike Davis, Brittany Hoff, Anthony Johnson, Kristi McLaughlin, Sean Powers, Kristen Salkas, Doraleen Taulanga

**ATI President:** Kristi McLaughlin

**Preceding President:** Mike Davis

**President Elect:** Sean Powers

**Secretary:** Anthony Johnson

**Treasurer:** Kristen Salkas

**Conference Committee Chair:** Anthony Johnson

**Professional Development Committee Chair:** Doraleen Taulanga

**Membership Committee Chairs:** Raven Alexander & Christina Cooper

**Media Committee Chair:** Brittany Hoff

**Professional Certification Committee Chairs:** Melody Bundy & Mike Culver

### ***Mission Statement:***

*To advance the right of all persons with disabilities and older adults to equal access to public transportation and community participation by providing: support, information, training and education to promote quality Travel Instruction.*

### **Membership Options:**

- ➔ **Individual—(\$50)** Entitled to vote in Annual Board of Directors elections. Receive full membership benefits, access and discounts
- ➔ **Organizational—(\$110)** Designates one individual that is entitled to vote in Annual Board of Directors elections. All members receive full benefits.