



AA Transportation Co., Inc.

605 HARTFORD TURNPIKE
SHREWSBURY, MA 01545

APRIL 2009

NEWSLETTER

Perfect Attendance Awards Drawing

MARCH

PAT DURAN

Cherry St.

Won a \$250 Wal-Mart Gift Card

KIM MOSHER

Cherry St.

Won a \$250 Wal-Mart Gift Card

In addition to the MONTHLY drawing for the \$250 GIFT CARDS, every employee with Perfect Attendance for the Month gets an individual monthly award too.

IN-SERVICE MONTHLY TRAINING & SAFETY MEETING SCHEDULE

1st WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH AT MAIN OFFICE 2nd FLOOR - 8:30 AM, 9:45 AM, AND 6:00 PM

2nd WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH AT MAIN OFFICE 2nd

MESSAGE FROM THE TOP

To survive this economy in these challenging economic times, I believe the most important thing to have is a plan. Now, I have been told that planning is an "OCD" (obsessive compulsive disorder) for me, however, I think in times like this it does pay off.

AA Transportation is in sound financial condition and be assured that I will not allow any cut backs to affect any employee pay rates or benefits, as a matter of fact, I will provide pay increases for all employees again in September, as I have always done!

The biggest effect the economy has had on our business is the reduction in charter orders, and the worst part of it is that it directly affects some drivers. We are counteracting this situation by getting more aggressive with our pricing and having a sales person go out and actively seek this line of business. I have found that other companies have become very aggressive in their pricing, as some of our long term customers have changed companies for cheaper prices. Another way I am trying to counteract the reduction in charter orders, is by pricing drop and picks rather than straight time for long trips, and it seems to be working. In the short term this keeps more of our drivers working. I am very optimistic that this is a short term problem and before you know it we will be on the up side of the cycle.

Biggest loser update: I am feeling the effects in my wardrobe! I had to speak at a MAPT meeting in late March, which meant buying a new suit. By the way Sean, I

FLOOR - 9:30 AM

3rd TUESDAY EACH MONTH
AT WEBSTER, BARTLETT
HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM -
9:15 AM

4th TUESDAY EACH MONTH
AT SOUTHBRIDGE TOWN
HALL 2nd FLOOR - 9:00 AM

**STARTING
SEPTEMBER
2009 - ALL
MEETINGS
WILL BE ON
TUESDAY**

**STOP
AND
THINK**

"Kindness consists
in loving people
more than they
deserve."

Joseph Joubert, French
moralist (1754-1824)

**RENEWAL
REMINDER**

THE FOLLOWING CDL
DRIVERS ARE DUE FOR
LICENSE RENEWAL

have a bunch of jeans that don't fit anymore, let me know if you need them.

Remember to send in your recipes to Jim, we continue to collect them for our company recipe book.

Thank You for all that you do, we are who we are because of our dedicated employees!

Ron Ernenwein, President

195

That's the number of all employees who had PERFECT ATTENDANCE in March 2009.

Thank You All

**AA Transportation's Biggest Loser -
Team Challenge**

+23

After the second weigh-in, March 16-20, the TEAMS had a combined weight GAIN of 23 pounds. However, we are still showing an overall weight loss from the initial weigh-in, -121 pounds. Only 12 of the 68 TEAM members came in and posted a current weight. Four of the 12 TEAM members lost weight, and one TEAM member posted a weight loss for the

MAY
RENEWALS

Webster/Southbridge
& Auburn

Lori Boisvert,
Virginia Christianson,
Theresa Cronin,
Laura Dawson,
Gregory Kontoes,
David Milosh,
William Milosh,
Renata Sudyka

Lake Street

Robin Ellsworth,
Kenneth Gordon,
Tara Preble,
Debra Waite,
Albert Walver

Cherry Street

Linda Brigham,
Edward Bourgault,
Kimberlie Hamm,
Jodie Johnson,
Marcia LeBlanc,
Luis Rodriguez,
Lewis Tucker

JUNE
RENEWALS

Webster/Southbridge
& Auburn

Adam Flagg,
Patricia Julian,
Miguel Perez,
Karen Robinson

Lake Street

Emmanuel Asante,
Angela Bryant,
Kenneth DuFresne,
Jacqueline Dunbar,
Debbie Maguire

Cherry Street

Tinnelle Bombard,
Eleanor Carroll,
Julie D'Ambra,
Janice Marando,
Sheri Milliken,

second month in a row.

One TEAM member lost 12 pounds in the second month -
CONGRATULATIONS!

One other TEAM member lost 9 pounds, and 2 other TEAM
members lost 3 pounds each.

**The next monthly weigh-in is any day the week of
APRIL 20 to 24, Spring Vacation Week. Again, this is not
a required weigh-in, only the last weigh-in is required
during the week of June 8-12 Participants can come to
the Main Office and see Julie to record their weight,
anytime between 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.**

There is still time to become a participant, and take Ron up on
his individual challenge. He will pay each participant \$2.00 for
every pound lost as recorded on the last weigh-in during the
week of June 8 to 12. No extra participants were added in
March. The extra participants will not be included in
the TEAM numbers, but can still individually win by losing.

If a TEAM member does not do the next weigh-in, that's OK,
because the important weigh-in is the last one, the week of
June 8-12. Remember, the TEAM with the greatest
percentage loss will be the winner.

After the 2nd weigh-in, the Home Office TEAM still has the
lead in total percentage weight lost (1.017%), followed by the
Webster TEAM (.815%), and the Corporate TEAM (.803%)
drops to 3rd place.

The winning TEAM will receive a free trip to Foxwoods,
including ACT Bus transportation to and from, meal tickets
and a slot play voucher for all team members and one adult
guest per team member.

Good luck to all the TEAMS and individual participants.

We are still looking to give a special prize to the team member
who has the highest individual percentage weight loss. The
exact prize is still being worked on. More information should

John Pond,
Benjamin Wright

JULY
RENEWALS

Webster/Southbridge
& Auburn

Claire Degon,
Bonnie Hensley
Lake Street

Barbara Coleman,
Pam Dunbar,
Alfred Hauelsen,
Nicole Irving
Cherry Street

Nicole Barthelmes,
Theresa Benoit,
Perry Briggs,
Darlene Fraser,
William Hoffman,
Caren Raad,
Tracey Snow,
Cynthia Stone,
Hector Vazquez

Contact your Manager
with your renewal
information at least 30
days prior to your
renewal date, to avoid
losing your driving
privileges while waiting
for your renewal
license.

BOSTON
MARATHON
IS
MONDAY,
APRIL 20,
2009.

be available in a future Newsletter. Any questions, contact the Human Resources Director.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS FOR
STICKING WITH THIS FUN EVENT!**

HEALTH TIP

How Weight Loss Helps Your Colon

Cutting a few pounds not only will help you toward your ideal weight but also may cut down on colon growths.

People who are overweight tend to have a higher risk of developing colon growths -- those pesky little benign tumors that stand a chance of turning cancerous. Dropping the extra pounds appears to drop the risk.

Passing on Polyps

A study of nearly 8,000 Japanese men showed that when their body mass index (BMI) went up, so did the number of colon adenomas, a kind of polyp that could become cancerous. But a year later, the men who had trimmed down had a lower occurrence of polyps than the men who gained or maintained their weight. The extra pounds may somehow encourage insulin resistance and chronic inflammation, two things thought to spur cancer cells.

CONGRATULATIONS

JUDY BRUEN

Received March 20th - I just wanted to thank you so much. You guys are the best Limo company I have ever worked with. Everything you guys did was spot on. thanks so much Judy for everything. awesome to work with you!

Bryan Jones, Senior Account Executive, Entercom Boston - WEEI, WAAF, WRKO, WMKK

PAT TIGHE

Received March 26th - Good Morning!

It is a great day when I get to pass along positive comments and information regarding one of our school bus drivers in Shrewsbury!

Following a minor incident in Bus #53 along the middle school tier of her routes yesterday, Pat Tighe received a glowing

**SCHOOL BUS
DRIVERS
NEEDED.
LAST YEAR
WE SENT
OVER 90
BUSES TO
DO
MARATHON
WORK.
CONTACT
YOUR
MANAGER IF
INTERESTED
IN WORKING
THIS
CHARTER.**

**FLEET
MAINTENANCE**

**John Hartman,
Manager**

508-845-7216

Inspections have started again. Make sure your pre-trip book is up-to-date and your bus is clean. If you need anything repaired, tell your Manager or bring your bus to the garage.

Oil change miles are

report from a parent to the Sherwood Middle School Principal. I have attached a portion of the text of the e-mail that the principal received below:

"I am sorry to hear about this incident this morning. I wanted to put in a positive word about Pat, the driver for Bus 53. She is super, very responsible, and always handles the children well. If there had to be an accident -- I am glad she was behind the wheel to deal with the issues that can arise there-after."

Kudos to Pat for being a responsible and proactive driver, and to all the Shrewsbury Team make safety our number one priority each and every day!!

Drew A. Damien, Transportation Coordinator, Shrewsbury Public Schools

LINDA PERNO & Webster Office

Received February 20th - Thank you so much for your association with the Health Fair. Even though the turnout was poor for seniors, we so much appreciate the association of AA Transportation. We are already looking forward to next year and hopefully improve in some areas.

Sheila Baxter, Auburn Chamber of Commerce

AA TRANSPORTATION RECIPE BOOK

Three recipes received in March. Good start, but I know we have many great cooks out there. So send me the recipes for your favorite dishes.

We will publish a "Company Cook Book." We will then distribute the AA Transportation Cook Book to all employees at the Thanksgiving Holiday Employee Party. It is free to everyone, so share your favorites.

Each employee sending in a recipe will be recognized for their contribution. Recipes can be for any kind of dish. Be sure to provide the list of ingredients, preparation, cooking and serving instructions. The number of servings per recipe would also be helpful.

Send all your recipes to the Main Office, Attention Jim. Just

now in the computer. You should still look at the sticker on your bus and make sure your bus, van or auto gets the oil changed on time.

Always drive safe, always.

AA LIMOUSINE SERVICE

John Pond, Manager
508-791-9100 ext 1

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2009 BOSTON RED SOX TRIPS

\$235 PER PERSON PER TRIP

AUGUST 1 to 2, 2009 vs Baltimore in Baltimore, MD

SEPTEMBER 19 to 20, 2009 vs Baltimore in Baltimore, MD

\$75.00 Non-Refundable Deposit Guarantees Your Seat More Details to Follow

Contact John at 508-791-9100 ext 1. to take advantage of any of these Events.

Open to All Employees and Friends.

3rd ANNUAL BOSTON

write them out, drop off on my desk, email me. The recipes received will be grouped together by type, then put into book form. Our target is to have our Cook Book ready give out to employees at the Thanksgiving Holiday Employee Party in November.

Any questions or ideas, please see Jim.

BIRTHDAY PRESENT PROGRAM

Presents for birth dates starting January 1 through April 30 have been distributed. If you did not get yours, see your manager.

Every employee and all the children of employees, up to age 14, shall receive a present.

If you have not given your birth date and shirt size to your Manager, please do so now. Same for your children.

HUMAN RESOURCES, TRAINING & SAFETY

Julie D'Ambra, Director
508-791-9100 ext 3

Word of the Month: *Benevolent*

Adj. 1. benevolent - intending or showing kindness; "a benevolent society"

2. benevolent - showing or motivated by sympathy and understanding and generosity; "was charitable in his opinions of others"; "kindly criticism"; "a kindly act"; "sympathetic words"; "a large-hearted mentor"

Spring is just about here. Just a friendly reminder that April and May are very high accident months.

Speeds tend to be up as the pavement gets dry. You will also notice more energy on the bus as the kids head home from school. You will find it difficult to pay attention to those driving

HARBOR CRUISE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2009 FOR THIS FUN EMPLOYEE EVENT.

INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM BOSTON, THE CRUISE, FOOD, AND ENTERTAINMENT. MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON.

NEW YORK CITY DAY BUS TRIPS

JUNE 27TH, OCTOBER 11TH AND NOVEMBER 27TH

\$25.00 PER PERSON

DEPARTS 8:00 AM
RETURNS FROM NYC 8:00 PM

IF INTERESTED, CONTACT JOHN POND



THE EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION END OF SCHOOL YEAR PARTY

MARK YOUR CALENDAR SATURDAY

around you, as you will be paying more attention to the kids in the bus. The sand on the road is sometimes thick from the winter, making it much more difficult to stop at times. Solar glare will become an issue making it harder to see. Rainy mornings will lead to fogged up windows. Lastly, there will be our own children and their agendas to deal with.

Hear are some tricks to helping you get through the spring:

Keep the dashboards on the buses free of debris so the defrosters work to their potential.

Keep the windshield extra clean for the days when the sun is shining.

Keep the drivers side window open, so that you can hear the traffic outside of the bus and especially on rainy mornings to keep the windows from fogging up.

Get some good sunglasses and leave them in the bus.

Leave a good following distance between you and the vehicle you're following. This will help with stopping distance and also allow you to see the potholes that formed over the winter, in the road.

Use the Smith System keys to keep your children and your bus safe.

Here's hoping no one has to call me this spring.

CHERRY STREET YARD

Abby Kelley, Grafton, METCO, Sutton, AMSA, St. John's, SPM, Fay, Assabet, Charters

Rita Ernenwein, Manager

508-791-9100 ext 2

CHARTER SHEET IS POSTED FOR APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30 CHARTER WORK

JUNE 13TH WRIGHT'S CHICKEN FARM

AND NOW
SOMETHING
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT

DEEP SEA FISHING TRIP

APRIL 25, 2009

6:15AM to
5:00PM

Bus leaves 146 Park &
Ride at 6:15AM Sharp!

RETURNING
approximately 5:00PM.

LIMITED TO 1st 44 PAID
people (NO REFUNDS)

\$35.00

**Per Person
Includes Boat
and Bus**

Rod Rental \$5.00

Food & Beverages
available on the boat.

Give Payment to your
Manager

If you are interested in doing IN-BETWEEN, NIGHT, WEEKEND, or LATE NIGHT (end after midnight) charter work, be sure to sign-up on the sheet in the Driver's Room. If you missed the initial posting, see me to get your name added to the list for the April to June charter work.

We have added a **LAST MINUTE CHARTER SIGN-UP SHEET** for those drivers interested in filling-in on charter work when we get last minute charter orders, or if a driver calls out and cannot do their assigned charter. This list will give the dispatchers an easy way to fill work on short notice. This sign-up sheet will remain posted until the end of April to allow anyone to sign-up for this type of work. It will cover the same period as the other sign-up lists, April 1 to June 30.

PARKING IN THE YARD

We have improved parking for school buses, limos, coach buses, autos and vans in the yard. Limos will now park on the hill and next to the street sign. Coach buses will park in the front of the yard, near the exit to Cherry Street. More school bus parking is created across from the Limo Office. More employee parking is created next to the Limo Office. If everyone parks close to the next vehicle, there should be room for all to park their bus or auto.

TIMESHEET BOX

A box has been installed in the Driver's Lounge Area for depositing weekly *Timesheets*. The Driver's Lounge is always open and the box is locked, so anyone can deposit their time sheet anytime.

CHARTER WORK

We are revising the information sheets given to drivers doing charter work. The new format will give more information about the charter and how the driver will be paid. If you have any question about a charter assigned to you, please see me or any of the dispatchers.

Thank you to all drivers for their continued good work.

**JOIN US FOR A
FUN DAY**

**SPED - Cherry
Street
Cindy Fish,
Manager
508-791-9100 ext 2**

Spring has sprung!!
The parking at the
main office has
changed. All SPED
vehicles are to be
parked behind the
garage, backed into
an available space. It
would be most helpful
if you could trade
your personal vehicle
for the SPED vehicle
you are taking. We
are trying to
accommodate
parking for
employees and
visitors at the main
office. If your vehicle
is here to be repaired,
it may also be parked
in the back of the
garage.

Reminder:
DO NOT USE cell
phone while you are
behind the wheel.
DO NOT make any
unauthorized stops
especially while you
have students in the
vehicle (even to the
office). If you need to

Remember, when you arrive early for your charter,
everyone looks good: the driver, the company and the
customer.

**LAKE STREET YARD
Shrewsbury, Elm Park, Rainbow
Sean Lyonnais, Manager
508-753-6322**

Spring is finally here!!!! Just think, we only have two and half
months left for this 2008-2009 school year. Usually at this point
of the year, I would like to send out a few friendly reminders:

Bus Inspections - Will be starting, please make sure your bus is
cleaned, i.e. windshield, dashboard, floors, etc. Also, please
make sure you continue to write every up that needs to be
repaired.

Yard Speed Limit - For any vehicle in the yard, the speed limit is
5 mph.

Time Sheets - Need to be turned in by Tuesday afternoon, this
will allow me to get payroll completed by 5pm on Tuesday night.
If you pass it in after Tuesday, there is no guarantee you will get
a paycheck on payday.

Two-Way Radio - All two-way radios must be turned on with the
volume up. For Lake Street drivers, please make sure your
radio is on Channel 1. That will be only way you will be able to
communicate directly with the office. Two-way radios are for
COMPANY use only. If your radio is not working properly,
please let us know so we can work on repairing the problem.

I would like to express my appreciation to all my day care drivers
for a JOB WELL DONE! Every one of you did a remarkable job
the last four weeks of school dealing with the 45-minute
dismissal delay that Worcester Public School set in place to
make up some of the snow days.

Dates to Remember:
4/10/09 St. Mary's - Good Friday; NO School
St. John's - Good Friday; NO School

make any extra stops, inquire within the office first. During all pickups and drop offs, USE YOUR RED LIGHTS. This is also required at all schools.

A HUGE THANK YOU!! All of the timesheets were passed in this week by 1:00 PM on Tuesday. Thank you for all who attended the 3rd 7D meeting. It was an experience for all! June 11th will be an informative meeting on First Aid. I hope to see everyone there. Remember to bring your cards to be updated.

DRIVER'S LOG BOOKS - your log book is to be filled out everyday before and after your route.

**AA
TRANSPORTATION'S
NEWEST STAR**

On Wednesday March
11, 2009
Catherine Guyette
(Webster Monitor)
debuted on Fox 6

Montessori - Professional Day; NO School

April 10 Worcester Public Schools will be attending this day (snow day make up)

4/20/09 Patriot's Day; NO School

4/21 to 4/24 Spring Vacation Week

4/27/09 St. Mary's - Professional Day; NO School

WEBSTER OFFICE

Webster, Southbridge, Auburn

Linda Perno, Manager

508-943-0482

Spring has sprung! That means Charter season is upon us! Reminder that if you have not signed up for Charter work, please do so by stopping by the Webster office.

Summer work is right around the corner also, if your route is a year round route then you will be expected to continue with that schedule. If you route is not, there will be summer work available. It's never too early to prepare your summer vacation schedule, please send in your written schedule to the office so we can plan the work accordingly.

The warm weather should soon be approaching and the students will want to open those School Bus windows. Reminder to please make sure they are closed at the end of your route.

Thank you all for your dedication, teamwork, & safe driving:)

Quote: It is far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help.

Preventing Problem Behaviors on your School Bus

- **Get to know your students - Smile and greet them by name each time they get on your bus.**
- **Be a positive Role Model - Be friendly and polite, say PLEASE**

**NEWS for
"Diner Wednesday"
with VB at
Gracie's Diner
593 S. Main Street
Webster, MA 01570**

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Pasta Salad with Asparagus

Ingredients

1 pound cooked ziti
1 cup cooked asparagus
1 can baby corn, drained
1/2 cup diced oil-packed
sun dried tomatoes
2 tablespoons chopped
fresh parsley
2 tablespoons chopped
fresh basil
1/2 cup bottled Italian or
Caesar dressing

Directions

Cook pasta according to
package directions.
Drain and transfer to a
large bowl.
Add asparagus, corn,
sun-dried tomatoes and
parsley and toss to
combine.
Add dressing and toss
to coat.

Prep Time: 15 min

Serves: 4

& Thank You, show the students the kind of behavior you would like to see from them.

- **Respect Students Personal Space - Students have little personal space on a school bus, If you must approach a student, be sure to keep at least an arm's reach away.**
- **Be aware of your Body Language - AVOID gestures, facial expressions, finger pointing. They may appear threatening.**
- **Establish Rules - Keep your rules short and simple. Give a copy to all students and be sure to post them in your bus.**
- **Set Limits when Rules are Broken - Tell the students the RULES are important and should not be broken and have the student engage in the consequences of their actions and the expected future seating plan for that student and agree on a time frame for their improvement.**
- **Remain Calm - Even when students are aggravating and hostile, don't allow them to push your buttons stay committed and your self control is also a learning tool for the students, you never want them to see or think they got the best of you!**

AA Transportation is on the Web

Click Here:

www.aatransportation.com

**CALL or FAX US
508-791-9100
508-845-7215 FAX**