

February 2009

NEWSLETTER



AA Transportaton Co., Inc.

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on the web at:

www.aatransportation.com

MESSAGE FROM THE TOP

PENNY FOR YOU THOUGHTS OR DOLLARS FOR YOUR POUNDS?

Well, as you all know with my open door policy, I value your thoughts and opinions... but what the heck would you do with a penny anyway? I have come up with my own AA Transportation stimulus package!! I will pay two dollars per pound to each employee for pounds they loose during our "Biggest Loser Contest". This is above the previously announced team prizes. If you didn't sign up previously, no problem, just stop in and get weighed, you won't be able to join a team. However, I will still buy the pounds lost at two bucks each.

At my last check up, my doctor indicated to me that not only did I have high cholesterol, but according to the chart on the wall I am in the obese column. I mention this because a lot of studies have found significant health risks for people in this category and even for me it sounded like they were talking about someone else. Since then, I have lost twenty pounds and dropped my cholesterol over 100 points. I am hoping for a much healthier 2009, so join me and get a few bucks while you are at it!

Here is some information to consider:

Obesity - an Epidemic

Overweight and obesity has reached epidemic proportions in the United States, as well as worldwide. Data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics indicate that the prevalence of obesity, 2.8% in 1976-1980 to 22.5% in 1988-1994 and 30% in 1999-2000. Roughly 31% of American adults meet the criterion for obesity - about 59 million American adults, more than 64% of the US adult population.

Several Health Risks and Conditions Associated with Obesity Include: Diabetes, Heart Disease, Stroke, Hypertension, Some types of Cancer, Sleep Apnea, Osteoarthritis, Gallbladder Disease

WHAT A STINKING JANUARY WE HAD

I want to thank everyone for their hard work and patience dealing with the severe cold weather and all of that awful snow and ice. The parents, children, schools and I particularly appreciate the safe driving by all of our drivers. We carry a very precious cargo in our buses, cars and vans - school children. When we do our jobs safely and are cheerful when things are not so good, we do the best job we can. Please keep up the good work. It always pays off in the end.

Thank you,

Ron Ernenwein, President

JUST IN - SPECIAL NOTICE

**FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE
TO THE OPENING OF THE
NEW HOUSE OF BLUES IN
BOSTON AT 7:00PM ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16,
2009.**

WE HAVE 200 FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE.

SEE JOHN POND, LIMO MANAGER FOR TICKETS. OPEN TO ANYONE.

CONGRATULATIONS

Email received on January 29, 2009

Hi Rita,

I'm glad we had a chance to speak this morning. I also wanted to say thank you to my son's school bus driver Matt for going the 'extra mile' making sure the children get to and back from school. He watches out for the children while driving them to and from AMSA. He's an awesome bus driver. Thank you!

Best,
Deborah Long (Ari's mom)

Email received February 4, 2009

Thanks for the call (head's up) this morning. It worked out and I didn't get the calls I expected. Perhaps the ELC and Elementary got them.

Sharon is such a sweet person...she was apologizing to everyone along the way. Please tell her how much we appreciate her.

Thanks again,
Linda
(Sutton Schools)

AA Transportation Biggest Loser - Team Challenge

Well, we are underway! The initial weigh-in took place on January 19 to January 21. There are a total of 72 employees participating.

The Corporate Team has 20 members weighing-in at 3486 total pounds.

The Cherry Street Team has 20 members weighing-in at 4424 total pounds.

The Lake Street Team has 24 members weighing-in at 4848 total pounds.

The Webster Team has 8 members weighing-in at 2087 total pounds.

REMEMBER, the next weigh-in is on Monday, February 16th at the Main Office and we will allow three days to do the weigh-in, so all team members can participate.

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

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 teams.

We are also 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 be available in the March Newsletter.

Progress of the team challenge will be listed in the monthly AA Transportation Newsletter. Any questions, contact the Human Resources Director.

Announcing Our Birthday Present Program

An Annual Birthday Present Program is being established to recognize and acknowledge our employees. Hopefully we can start on or about March 15th, we will give each active working employee (of AA Transportation Co., Inc.; AA Limousine Service; AA Trucking, LLC; and HMEC) and every child of each active working employee (up to and including age 14) a present on their birthday, and each year thereafter the employee remains active and working as our employee.

To each active working employee, we will present an embroidered logo AA Transportation collared type shirt (short or long sleeve), on the day of their birthday. If the employee is on school holiday or not working on the day of their birthday, we will give the present to them at the first convenient day before or after their birthday. Employees whose birthdays fall during the summer months when there is no school, and the employee is not working, will receive their birthday present at the fall startup meeting.

To each child of an active working employee (up to and including age 14), we will present an AA Transportation logo tee shirt (or similar type shirt), to the employee to give to their child on the day of their birthday. If the employee is on school holiday or not working on the day of their child's birthday, we will give the present to them at the first convenient day before or after their birthday. Children of employees, whose birthday falls during the summer months when there is no school, and the employee is not working, will receive their birthday present at the fall startup meeting.

A child of an active working employee is defined as a child up to and including age 14, born and raised and living with the employee parent, a step child living with the employee parent, or an adopted child living with the parent. If more than one parent is an active working employee, then only one birthday present will be given to a child.

An active working employee is defined as an employee of any company named above, who is a driver, monitor, mechanic, office staff person or management person, and who is listed on the company employee roster as an active employee. If an active working employee works in more than one company, only one birthday present will be given to the employee.

Our goal is to begin this program around March 1st. To do so, we need to gather the birthdates, names, ages and the shirt size of the children of our active working employees. Managers are requested to gather this information and forward it to Human Resources by February 25th, who will keep the records for this program. We already have the birthdates of all employees, but we do not have their shirt sizes. So, Managers are requested to also gather the shirt size for all employees working at their location and forward them to Human Resources by February 25th. Employees should report all shirt size changes to their Manager, who will forward all changes to Human Resources, so we can keep records up-to-date.

We are looking to identify the types of shirts, colors, etc., we will purchase for the first year of this program. When we have the shirts delivered, and the information to begin distribution, we will give each active working employee and each child of an employee their birthday present, with birthdates starting January 1, 2009. Once we catch up to present time, Managers will be given the birthday presents for their employees and children each week at the Manager's Meeting for distribution to their employees and children.

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please contact me.

James Pankonen, General Manager

Human Resources, Safety & Training

Julie D'Ambra, Director

508-791-9100 ext 3

A reminder to all employees:

AA Transportation offers its employees a 401k Plan to invest their money in for retirement. Each year AA Transportation contributes 25% to the first 6% invested by each employee. That's like getting an immediate raise.

During these hard financial times, it's easy to forget about your future and what will be waiting for you when you retire. Plan ahead for that day. Take advantage of our company's 401k Plan.

If you put \$5.00 a week away in your 401k, at the end of 5 years you will have saved \$1,300.00, and the company would have given you an extra \$400.00 toward your

retirement.

If you are interested in signing up for this, please contact me at any time.

**It's still all about perception.
Always make it positive.**

From the Cherry Street Office (Abbey Kelley, AMSA, Grafton, METCO, Sutton, St. Johns, SPM, Holy Name, Fay, Assabet, and Charters)

Rita Ernenwein, Manager

508-791-9100 ext 2

BOSTON MARATHON

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2009

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

Bake Sweet Potato Chips

Serving size: 4

Preparation Time: 10 min

Cooking Time: 18 min

Ingredients

1 large sweet potatoes peeled

2 tsp vegetable oil

1/8 tsp table salt or to taste

Instructions

Preheat oven to 400 F. Spray 2 baking sheets with cooking spray.

Thinly slice potatoes in a food processor or by hand, they should be no more than 1/8-inch thick.

Arrange slices on baking sheets so they don't overlap. Brush with oil and sprinkle with salt.

Bake chips until they begin to lightly brown, about 15 minutes. Cool on a rack and serve.

"MAKES A GREAT SNACK"

Thanks to the Bus Washing Crew that worked so hard to get our dirty, filthy buses looking nice and clean again.



TIMESHEETS

REMINDER: Tuesday 5:00pm is the deadline for turning in your Timesheet. This will ensure that you receive a paycheck on-time for work completed the previous week.

END TIMES: End Times must be called in and noted on your timesheets. Especially if the End Time is different than the time you were told. This is for billing and payroll purposes.

EMPTY TIMES: For the contracted schools (Sutton, Grafton, etc.) charters, please indicate what time the team or group is actually dropped back at the school. This is for billing purposes.

ROUTES: Any and all routes that you do **MUST** be listed on your time sheets. Routes are paid at a standard rate already set in place and are not paid on an hourly basis.

CHARTER TRIPS: Local and in-city trips are treated as drop and picks unless otherwise noted by the Office. Please refer to your employee manual for further explanation of how all charters are paid.

OUT-OF-STATE CHARTER TRIPS: If you drive a charter that goes out of Massachusetts, you must record and turn into the office the out-of-state miles traveled in each state. This is for tax reporting purposes.

ALSO RECORD the bus you use and the start & end mileage each day. The mileage is used for various tax, budget and information reports.

From the Lake Street Office (Shrewsbury, Rainbow, Elm Park, Webster Square Day Care)

Sean Lyonnais, Manager

508-753-6322

Please remember to write everything that needs repairs down in your Pre-Trip books. Pre/Post Trip Inspections are required by Federal Law. At the end of the day, please bring in your repair slip to Kerry. This is the only way we will know what needs to be repaired. Also, please remember to check your windshield sticker for the oil change due date; we are finding buses well over due, which could cause engine problems.

Kerry and I would like to say again "THANK YOU" to everyone for doing such a great job! On Friday, February 6th, Shrewsbury High School forgot to reserve eight (8) buses to bring over 400 students to Hanover Theatre in Worcester. With everyone's quick response, we were able to provide all buses without being late for the show. Your efforts

were greatly appreciated!!!!

Congratulations to Patricia Cook for receiving her School Bus Certificate. Patricia will be driving Route 51. Also, I would like to welcome Fred Hauelsen to the Lake Street Division. He will be driving Shrewsbury #10 while Eneida Sanchez is moving over to Shrewsbury #34.

Last but not least, I hope everyone is doing well for the "Biggest Loser Team Challenge". Please remember the weigh-in is on February 16th.

Dates to Remember:

2/16 = President's Day / All Daycares and School Closed

2/16 to 2/20 = February Vacation

2/27 = Montessori / Professional Day No School

St. Mary's / Professional Day No School

3/20 = Shrewsbury Public Schools / Professional Day No School

Al-Hamra / Professional Day No School

Montessori / Elem Closed for Conferences / No School

From the Webster Office (Auburn, Southbridge & Webster)

Linda Perno, Manager

508-943-0482

Quote: *Work; Whatever your life's work is - do it well. A man should do his job so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn, could do it no better.* MLK, JR

Please welcome the new additions to the Webster Division: Ray Sullivan CDL, Michael Lamoureux CDL, Jessica Harvey - Monitor

February/March is 7-D sticker time again. All 7-D vehicles must be inspected. Drivers of vans/cars that are park outs need to have your vehicle inspected between February 1st - March 31st, and the sticker will be changed to green. Please mark your Timesheet that the inspection was completed, with the mileage to and from the inspection location listed below. When arriving at Belsito's, please continue to the rear of the building and wait in your vehicle. An Inspection Tech will come out to drive your car or van into the bay for the inspection.

Inspection Station:

Belsito's Automotive,
245 Southwest Cutoff – Route 20
Worcester, MA 01604

Hours: 9:00am - 4:00pm

All route drivers are asked to please send in your revised route sheets as soon as possible. Spare Drivers appreciate up-to-date route sheets when coverage is needed. The Spring charter season is upon us. If you are interested in doing charters, please contact the office.

Thank You to All :)



From SPED - Cherry Street

Cindy Fish, Manager

508-791-9100 ext 2

Reminder - the next quarterly meeting for ALL SPED Drivers and Monitors from ALL work locations is Thursday, March 19th at 5:30PM.

Spring Cleaning Time - some of our vehicles are starting to look like they need it.

A power Wash unit is available at the Main Office, on the side of the garage. See Dino for help.

A vacuum is available at the Main Office by the fuel pumps.

Wipe down your interior, clean inside of all windows, and spray disinfectant.

A special thanks to all of you, we had 100% of timesheets passed in. Let's keep it up.

To all the members of the "Biggest Loser", Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Lee Cruz and Gerry Baxter as they recover from recent illness.

Welcome to our new employees: Heather McMaster, Karen Capen, and Bruce Klein.

Fleet Maintenance

John Hartman, Manager

508-845-7216

BUS INSPECTIONS start again April 1st. If you have anything that needs to be fixed on your bus, tell your Manager so we can get your bus in for repairs.

Keep your Pre-Trip book current and be sure to turn-in your Pre-Trip forms.

Watch your OIL CHANGE MILES. This is the most important service we can do to keep your bus running good. If you need an OIL CHANGE, contact the Garage directly for a day and time to get it done.

**THINK like the Customer, then
ACT like the Owner.**

Limousine Operations

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.**

**Please note that the Philadelphia Phillies trip has been cancelled, because we
could not buy group tickets from the Phillies Team.**

Open to All Employees and Friends.

3rd ANNUAL BOSTON HARBOUR 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 BUS TRIPS

WATCH FOR THE SCHEDULE FOR THESE TRIPS.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR TWO SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS, WHO WOULD LIKE TO
VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME TO TRANSPORT SPECIAL OLYMPIC ATHLETES ON
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH AND SUNDAY MARCH 1ST.**

IF INTERESTED, CONTACT JOHN POND

Perfect Attendance Awards

219 EMPLOYEES

HAD PERFECT ATTENDANCE
IN JANUARY

DRAWING WINNERS FOR A
\$250 WAL-MART GIFTCARD EACH

PAUL BABIN
LAKE STREET

TARA PREBLE
LAKE STREET

THANK YOU TO ALL EMPLOYEES WHO CONTINUE TO HAVE PERFECT
ATTENDANCE.

Things turn out best for the
people who make the best of
the way things turn out.

IN-SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

IN-SERVICE MONTHLY TRAINING & SAFETY MEETING
HELD EVERY MONTH SEPTEMBER THRU JUNE

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

2nd WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH AT MAIN OFFICE
2nd 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

IF YOU NEED A LICENSE RENEWAL, CONTACT
TERRY COSTA AT THE MAIN OFFICE 508-791-9100

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STARTING SEPTEMBER 2009, ALL IN-SERVICE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY

School Bus License Renewals

THE FOLLOWING CDL DRIVERS ARE DUE FOR LICENSE RENEWAL

MARCH RENEWALS

Webster/Southbridge/Auburn

Gary Capezzuto, Donna Fontaine

Lake Street

Sheila Falcone, Gail Flynn, Peter McCabe

Suzanne Panarelli, Boomisudha Potheri

Cherry Street

Judy Bricault, David LaFleur, Frederick Lewis

Ana Lopez, Blanca Lugo, Sharon Maynard

Theresa Sullivan, Ronald White

APRIL RENEWALS

Webster/Southbridge/Auburn

Margaret Chenevert, Laura Corriveau

Sherry Jovan, Marcel Langlois, Roland Paulhus

Lake Street

Roberto DeJesus, Paul Moisan

Cherry Street

Roy Blanchard, Monique Desrosiers

Cynthia Fish, Pacianita Robles

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

AA TRANSPORTATION WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER COMPANY PHYSICALS EACH MONTH. SEE YOUR MANAGER TO SIGNUP IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE.

SCHOOL BUS LICENSE RENEWAL CAN BE COMPLETED UP TO 3 MONTHS OR 90 DAYS BEFORE YOUR RENEWAL DATE.

Contact your Manager with your renewal information at least 60 days prior to your renewal date to avoid losing your driving privileges while waiting for your renewal license.

Check It Out

NOW ON THE WEB AT: www.aatransportation.com

PAST AA TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTERS

JUST CLICK-ON THE 'NEWSLETTERS' LINK ON THE LEFT SIDE OF OUR HOME PAGE. ALSO TAKE TIME TO LOOK AT ALL THE OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO COME TO OUR WEBSITE.