

DUTU NEWSLETTER

September 2011

DUTU Party
 Sept. 30th
 6pm – 11 pm
 Cash Bar

Please RSVP by
 Sept. 16th
 with cash deposit.

**Don't forget
 The Wellness
 Screening
 Program**

Register.wellness-
 inc.com/u46

Or call
 866-935-5462

Next In-service
 Meeting

October 7th
 Elgin High
 7:30am

Anyone have
 chairs to donate
 for our
 breakroom???

**Register and
 check out your
 pension and
 social security**

imrf.org
 socialsecurity.gov

Reminders & Important Information

General
 Membership
 Meetings

Elgin High School
 5:30 pm
 September 15th
 October 13th

**Coming In October
 Union will be selling winter
 jackets, Jean shirts and more**

Welcome back everyone!

I hope you had a good summer. I think most of us would have liked a longer summer but getting back to driving the bus feels good. We had a good year last year. We improved attendance by 1.4%. We also reduced our preventable accidents by 55% all while driving 4,612,963 miles. Keep up the good work.

The first week and a half was pretty hectic for most of us. We all know things will settle down as we get our routine set. Now that we have driven our routes a number of days we can go back and re-write our sheets *again*. I tried doing my route sheets on the computer this year. I downloaded the sheets from our web site, (mydutu.org), and then proceeded to hunt and peck my way through my route. It took a bit longer than I thought, but man do they look good.

I hope all of you saw the form for our "Back to School Union Party. It's on September 30th. It will start with social at 6, and dinner at 7. There will also be music and dancing from 8 to 11. There is a cash bar. I hope to see a full house. There are a limited number of seats so get your form and money turned in as soon as possible. If you need more information you can ask Wendy, Heather, Cindy or Carol.

We plan to have the kitchen area and lockers sprayed for pests during our Thanksgiving break. Anyone one with stuff in a locker needs to remove it by Friday November 18th. That Friday after work any locked lockers will be opened and all lockers emptied. If you want to keep the locker you have now you need to see Sara so it can be assigned to you. Any lockers not claimed through Sara can be claimed "first come, first serve" after break. Before you return from Thanksgiving break this area will be cleaned.

Have you noticed the new faces? We have ten new drivers. Take a moment to get to know them and make them feel at home.

Have a good year, drive safe. I hope to see you out there!

Lyle Moseman

Governing Council Members:

President: Lyle Moseman
Vice President: Donna Frey
Secretary: Brenda DelHotal
Treasurer: Carol Gunn

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Health & Safety: Betty Skyles
Newsletter: Heather Bayer
Grievance: Joe Haubert
Sunshine: Sue Olson
Staff Development: Janet Lewandowski
Membership: Tammy Clinton
By Laws & Legislation: Donna Frey
Audit: Linda Turnquist
Field Trips: Dan Umbach
Decorating & Social: Sara Rodriguez
Accident Review: Cindy Moseman
Election: Collette Cruz
Benefit Resources: Laura Taets
Student Discipline: Sue Hamm
Association Representative (AR): Liz Mole

BARGAINING TEAM

Brenda DelHotal
Jim Burns
Heather Bayer
Sue Hamm
Jay Niehus
Donna Frey
Lyle Moseman
Dave Ramis
Carol Gunn
Dan Umbach

LABOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Lyle Moseman
Heather Bayer
Jay Niehus
Brenda DelHotal
Wendy Skornia
Donna Frey

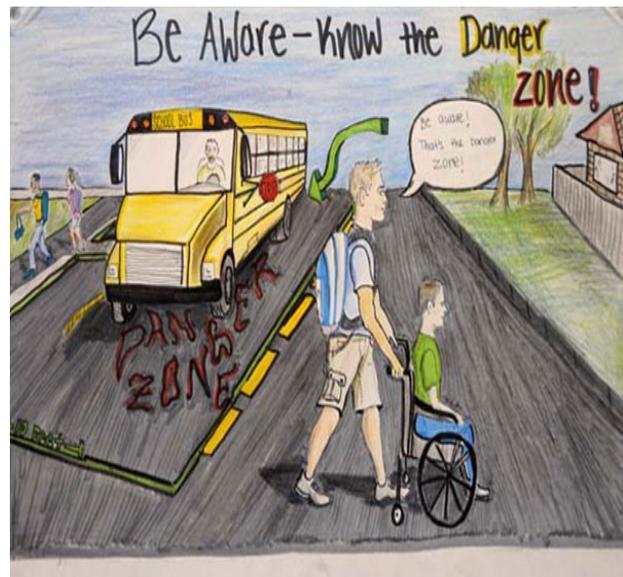
List of cards that were
given on behalf
of our union

August 2011

The Scruggs family - sympathy

The 2011 National School Bus Safety
Week theme is:

“Be Aware – Know the Danger Zone”



The dates are
October 17th – 21st 2011

“SPEAK OUT”

Work ethics, 2 words which mean so much to most people, but mean so little to a chosen few. Having good work ethics isn't just “showing up” to work, but showing up in the proper uniform, in the proper state of mind and a great positive attitude. It disgusts me that the work ethics in our department have been declining over the years. I see drivers driving with no lights, not using turn signals, placards in the back windows and just a flat out pathetic attitude. Why do some people drive with placards in the back window?

Is it because they were running late? Is it because they forgot? Actually, it is nothing more than a sign of true laziness. Removing the placards is part of our job!! If you had work ethics and pride in your job that would be done. And what about backing out with your cord plugged in? ARE YOU KIDDING ME? You are suppose to walk around your bus! The door is a few feet away from the cord. How come I NEVER backed out with my cord plugged in once in the 20 years of driving? It's because I hold myself to a higher standard. I get paid a good wage and I don't take that for granted. I have been in several bargaining meetings over the summer and our whole bargaining team have been trying to convince the district that we are true professionals. Doesn't everyone realize we are trying to save our jobs? EVERYONE better wake up! Because I believe MOST of our employees need this job. I believe some people wouldn't be able to hold any other job. We ALL need to pull it together and get on the same page. We need to put ALL issues to the side and practice better work ethics! When you get off that shuttle and walk in the building, you should treat that building as an airport terminal, and “CHECK YOUR BAGGAGE” at the door!! Clear your mind, change your attitude, and show everyone how much pride you have in yourself! OUR JOBS DEPEND ON EVERYONE . PITCHING IN!! It all starts with “Work Ethics.” Lets do this!

Dave Ramis
Proud Union Member
and Bargaining Team Member

Always wondered why some bus drivers believe that state laws and transportation work rules do not apply to them.

Example: I have personally seen drivers not completely stop at railroad crossings and not open their service door.....ISNT THAT A LAW!!!!!!

Worth mentioning

On August 31st I counted 19 employees with improper shoes and clothing. Luckily management didn't catch these people and send them home.

Concerned

Great start to a great school year. Although changes were made to our High Schools we really stood up to the challenge. Some tweaking still needs to be made to these changes but overall we did it. APPLAUD TO ALL!!!!

Proud U-46 Employee

**Please submit any “speak outs” to Heather Bayer's mailbox.

Training Corner

Welcome back. Janis and I hope you have had a wonderful restful summer. We have been busy in the training office; we trained and or evaluated 10 new employees this summer, as always we know all of you will be friendly and patient while they learn the "ropes". Our industry has had no new laws passed over the summer; however we have a couple reminders. We encourage you to do your physical early every year; however the state will not renew a permit if the physical is not within sixty days of the permit expiration date. We also would like to remind everyone about pre-trip. We are living in a post 9/11 world; some of you may not have realized that our industry changed that day also. It's SO very important for your safety as well as our children's that you do a complete pre-trip on your bus, be on the alert for any packages, objects that should not be there, anything out of place, check all the nooks and crannies, but also be aware while in traffic, and as we memorize our routes for the school year be on the lookout for people who should not be hanging around, packages that should not be on the corner, or people taking pictures. The article below is a chilling reminder of how our industry has changed. We hope all of you have a wonderful fall and as always the training door is open if you need us.

Your Trainers,
Shelly and Janis

Police investigating suspicious object placed underneath school bus

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. — The Gwinnett County Police Hazardous Device/Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit is investigating a suspicious device that was placed on a school bus as it was stopped in traffic on Wednesday.

The Gwinnett County Police Department said that it received a call from a passerby reporting that she observed a female exit her vehicle and place an object underneath a Gwinnett County Public Schools bus as it was stopped for traffic at an intersection. The female returned to her vehicle and drove off.

As the school bus drove off, the suspicious object fell from the bottom of the bus onto the roadway. The bus in question was located when it arrived at Minor Elementary School in Lilburn. As a precaution, the school was locked down for a short period of time while technicians from the Hazardous Device Unit searched the bus for any suspicious devices or objects.

Meanwhile, police set up a perimeter around the object that fell from the bus, closing the intersection from traffic and pedestrians for further investigation into the object and its contents.

A thorough search was conducted on the bus, and no suspicious devices or objects were found. The object that fell from the bottom of the bus turned out to be a thermos that contained water. Authorities were not yet sure what the motive was or why the female placed the thermos underneath the school bus.

Investigators with the Gwinnett County Police Department, FBI and Gwinnett County Fire/Arson are conducting "a thorough criminal investigation into the highly suspicious circumstances of this event," the police department said in a statement.

Hello and Welcome Back

As the AR Chairperson for our union, I had the opportunity to attend the Illinois Education Association Summer Leadership Academy in July. This program is available every year to IEA members and offers a variety of classes designed to help build more effective unions. The training I attended focused on Association Representatives, or ARs. An AR is similar to a 'Shop Steward' or 'Union Steward' for those familiar with the operations of other unions. We will be using ARs because it has been proven that when properly trained, having them is the most effective way of sending and receiving information between members and the union governing body (, and, can sometimes be helpful when dealing with management issues.) ARs have often been referred to as the backbone of a union. Having ARs is relatively new to our union and is slowly being embraced by our members. If you have not met your AR, you will soon. But before we plunge head first into the new year we will be taking some important steps . First, Chris Jones and Shawn Bernhardson have generously agreed to act as AR Co-Chairpersons. We will soon be meeting to try and decide a course of action.. .I think having them on the team will offer a much needed balance and intelligence to our discussions. Second, we will be getting some long anticipated training for our ARs. Our new Uniserv Director, Cathy Wyzykowski, will be giving the training later this month. Once we have accomplished those things we should be able to use our new skills to help build a more viable union.

Sincerely
Liz Mole
AR Chair

From the VP

Here's to the kick-off of a wonderful new school year!! I would like to bring up a few points to help make it a nicer year for all. As you can see most of these things are just common courtesies. It could be easy to forget them when you are stressed, but we all need to remember the Golden Rule and treat others the way we want to be treated. With R E S P E C T !

****First of all, smile and wave at ALL yellow buses! There is a VERY good chance that you know that driver. If not, then you will probably meet them soon. And even if it is a different bus company, smile and wave anyway. You will be making a good impression for yourself and our district.**

****If another bus is already at the gate waiting to exit the lot, please wait back far enough so as to not block their view. It will be your turn soon.**

****Please don't use your cell phone in the restrooms. Some of us are trying to have a "private" moment.**

****When entering and exiting the building always check behind you to see if there is anyone following you and hold the door for them. MOST people do this, but when someone forgets to because they are in a hurry or have something on their mind, well, it could be taken as rude or even disrespectful.**

****Be careful when hurrying to catch the shuttle or to punch in when you are running late. Some of our co-workers have almost gotten knocked down and someone could get injured. It is JUST not worth it. Slow down.**

So lets work as a team and be kind and helpful to each other and we can make this a great school year, together!!

Donna Frey

Happy Labor Day

Labor Day is the time of year when the nation honors the working people who have built this country and made it prosperous. It is also a time to remember the achievements of the organized labor movement in United States history. As is often noted every September, many of the basic rights and benefits that are sometimes taken for granted were not kindly handed to workers by employers. It took the hard work and dedication of thousands of union men and women who struggled bravely to win these rights.

The labor movement in the United States led the struggles to:

1. End child labor
2. Establish the legal right of workers to form unions and collectively bargain for wages, benefits and working conditions
3. Establish the 8 hour work day and paid overtime
4. Win workers' comp benefits for workers injured on the job
5. Secure unemployment insurance for workers who lose their jobs
6. Secure a guaranteed minimum wage
7. Improve workplace safety and reduce on the job fatalities
8. Win pensions for workers
9. Win health care insurance for workers
10. Win paid sick leave, vacations, and holidays as standard benefits for most workers
11. Win the right for public sector workers to collectively bargain
12. Win passage of the Civil Right Acts and Title VII which outlaws job discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin
13. Win passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act
14. Win passage of the Family Medical Leave Act

Unions today are using their political power to:

1. Stop attacks on the 40 hour work and paid overtime
2. Defend the nation's safety and health laws
3. Protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare
4. Protect the rights of patients against the abuses of managed care
5. Defeat radical measures that would deny the freedom of union members to participate in politics

I think we should also take a moment and consider those who diligently fought to establish our union some many years ago. From what I've learned, it was a very difficult and long battle. It is because of their achievements, and the achievements of their successors, that we can be proud. We have a lot to be thankful for during this Labor Day holiday.

Liz Mole

Thousands of people turned out on a cold and wet Saturday February 26, 2011 for a solidarity rally with the Wisconsin workers struggle outside Chicago's City Hall and State of Illinois building. Our own Bob Gorlewski and I were there to give our support



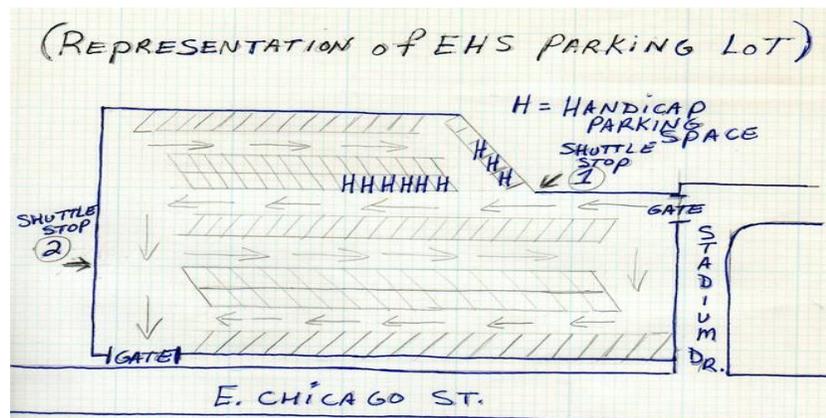
B
O
B

G
O
R
L
E
W
S
K
I

Donna's Rant...

There are almost 400 parking spaces in the Elgin High and Sherman lots for the transportation employees. Only **TEN** are designated as handicapped parking. The only employees that should be parking in these spaces will have a handicap placard or license plate registered in their names.

I know the handicap markings are faded and hard to see, but we are hoping that they will be repainted soon. Until then, here is a map to help you to locate these spaces and leave them open for your co-workers with a verified physical disability.



However, if some of you chose to continue to be rude, inconsiderate and lazy the results could be severe. The fine for unauthorized parking in a handicap parking space is up to \$350.00. Using someone else's placard will cost you \$500.00 to \$1000.00 and their placard will be revoked. YOU will cause them to lose it. The State can also **revoke YOUR license**. For bus drivers that means you will **LOSE YOUR JOB!**

If this sounds harsh, then consider this. These people are willfully breaking the law and causing discomfort and pain to others by forcing them to walk farther than they would have to by taking those parking spaces that have been dedicated to their use.

The District is in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and has shown compassion and consideration for its employees. I am insisting that ALL my co-workers do the same. And to that effect, I will begin calling the Elgin Police Department on those who continue to abuse these spaces.

I am only doing this to stick up for the rights of our co-workers with physical disabilities and for myself. I know many of you will be surprised to hear that this has been going on for years and will agree with me that this behavior has to stop.

Thanks for listening,
Donna Frey

REFRESHER COURSES FOR OCTOBER 2011

6:00pm – 8:00pm
500 Shales Pkwy
In the Drivers Room

Wednesday October 5th

Heather Bayer
Vicki Brown
Donata Butcher
Tina Drohan
Erin Fako
Lovetta Honegan
Cindy Jansen
Reinaldo Jorge
Sandra Kawabata
Jacklyn Manley
Peter Marselle
Marisela Morales
Mary Mosley
Nancy Neff
Mike Nowak
Alfred Riefler
Tanya Smith
Tamara Stricklin
Paulette Walsh
John Wilson
Nicole Wojcik

Tuesday October 11th

Carolyn Aasen
Earl Flackus
Marina Gross
Stanley Haczela
Eric Hurst
Charolette Johnson
Deanna Johnson
Robert Mesmer
Melanie Meyer
Diane Milligan
Kim MooreSowers
Kristina Padilla
Maria Rivas
Robert Sobczyk
Frank Thompson
Margaret Tiffany
Michael Tiffany

Thursday October 13th

Donna Austin
Brian Barry
Barbara Birchfield
Mary Boyd
Stanley Burnidge
Russell Feltgen
Donna Jimenez
Karen Levkulich
Elizabeth Lewis
Diana Lokcinski
William McKinstry
Dennis Pierce
Laura Soderlund
Gary Wehrle
Tammi Wlodek
Cathy Wozniak
Patrick Zeiss