

KSPTA NEWS

Spring 2023

**KSPTA
Executive Committee**

- President**
Alesia Klassen
- Vice President**
Clinton Pepper
- Secretary**
Mary Hewes
- Treasurer**
Diane McCartney
- East Region**
Dwight Myer
Randy Winkler
- Central Region**
Rob Young
John Ferguson
- West Region**
Both positions vacant



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Regional Safe Driver Competitions Are you Ready to Roll?

KSPTA is returning to Auburn-Washburn High School for the first regional event in 2023 on April 15. Auburn-Washburn is located on the south side of Topeka at 5900 SW 61st Street. Competitor and judges check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. At 9am there will be a brief orientation, followed by the written test, course drive thru, and then the competition will begin.

There will be coffee and donuts available in the morning during registration and a concession stand during lunch.

The second competition will be held on April 29 at Douglass High School, 910 East 1st Street, Douglass, KS. Douglass is located south of Augusta, KS on Hwy. 77. Registration/competitor check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. There will be a brief orientation, followed by the written test, course drive thru and then the competition will begin.

Again, donuts and coffee will be available in the morning. There will

not be a concession stand at this event, however Casey's and Betty's Burgers (highly recommended) are located across the street.

Of course, you are more than welcome to bring a cooler with lunch and drinks for your team to either competition. No alcohol will be allowed.

Registration forms for these events can be found under the upcoming events tab on our website www.kspta.net.

We do ask that you pre-register so we are able to accommodate everyone who wants to attend by ensuring that all types of buses are available. However, you can show up on the day of and we'll do our best to take care of you.

Please remember, you may choose which regional competition you compete in, but you may compete in only one.

Who Can Compete & Requirements:

The regional competitions are open to any person who is currently employed or has been employed within the past 12 months as a full-time or substitute school bus driver in the state of Kansas.

Contestants shall meet all Kansas school bus driver qualifications in accordance with K.A.R. 91- 38-6.

NOTE: All competitors must present their license during the registration / check-in process.

We suggest you to bring a lawn chair, sunscreen, and an umbrella in the event of rain or hot sun.

You may download the Safety Competition Book and study guide at: <http://www.ksde.org> or www.kspta.net.

School Transportation Safety Conference May 31 - June 2, 2023 Drury Broadview Plaza Hotel Wichita, KS

Registration forms are now available on our website. Don't delay....super early bird registration (\$125.00) ends on May 5, 2023.

Only competing drivers and competition judges are eligible for the special rate of \$100.00. Only 20 judges slots are available.

After May 5 registration becomes \$175.00 for everyone.

Please note, payment must be made at time of registration. This must be in the form of an actual check, pay online, or PO. Anyone using a PO must have their conference fees paid in full by June 30. Remember, anyone who participates in conference workshops, speaker presentations or meals on Thursday or Friday must be registered for the conference.



Early Conference Check-In

5:30-7pm on Tuesday, May 31.

For those who arrive in Wichita early and would like to avoid check-in lines, you are able to check-in early for the conference at this time. After you have checked in for the conference, and if you are a competitor, please have your CDL ready to check in with the School Bus Safety Unit.

Awards Banquet

Banquet seating begins at 6:30pm. Your banquet meal is included in your conference registration. Meal service will begin at approximately 7pm followed by the awards presentation.

Banquet tickets WILL NOT be sold at the conference.

If your spouse/companion/kids do not want to attend the conference, but would like to attend the banquet with you, you may purchase a banquet ticket for \$35 when you register. If the children are under 12, please contact KSPTA for children's pricing

You must order any extra tickets at the time of registration.

If you would like to attend the banquet only (no other conference events) you may order tickets by completing a registration form and ordering the number of tickets you need. Please remember, these tickets will admit you only to the banquet. No other conference events are included in this \$35 per person price. Tickets must be purchased by May 15.

Vendor Showcase

Featuring products / services pertaining to the school bus industry will be held on Thursday, June 1 from 6-8pm in the Riverview lobby area and patio.

Conference Hotel

**Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview
400 West Douglas Ave., Wichita Ks
316-262-5000**

\$103.00*/night plus tax

You must ask for the KSPTA Room Block

The room block for arriving early (May 30th) is full. At of now there are only a few rooms left in the block for the remaining days.

Additional info and direct link for making your room reservation is available on our website.

*Rate offered is the state government rate and may be subject to change in the event the government rate changes in April.

If you are planning to park in the parking garage across the street from the hotel, there is a \$10 per night charge. The maximum height of the parking garage is 7'.

Special Notice:

Breakfast will not be provided as part of conference registration fees. Breakfast is provided only to registered guests of the hotel. If you are not a registered guest of the hotel you may purchase a wristband for \$10 per day/per person that will allow you to eat breakfast at the hotel.

If you choose to partake in the breakfast kick-back and DO NOT pay for these meals, your district will be billed for the full conference registration amount of \$275.00 as KSPTA will incur your breakfast expenses.

Our Featured Conference Speakers

Patrick Mulick is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Originally from the humble town of Boring, Oregon, Patrick earned his undergrad and masters in special education and behavior analysis from Gonzaga University. While spending several years educating students with disabilities, from pre-school to high school, Patrick developed a particular love for working with students with autism and behavioral challenges.



Today he works as an educational consultant and as the Assistant Director of Autism and Student Independence for the Auburn School District in Washington State. As a nationally recognized speaker, Patrick has committed his work to all those who work with students with disabilities through a hybrid of instruction and inspiration. His resources and strategies have helped make the complex simple, equipping teachers, administrators, therapists, paraeducators, and bus drivers alike.

Patrick will be featured on the conference program on Thursday, June 1. His opening program begins at 8am and is titled "Supporting Escalations on the Bus". This program explores the escalation cycle that some students may encounter on the bus. While these can create some of the most dangerous moments in transportation, they are moments that can be minimized, reduced, and in some cases avoided through the use of appropriate proactive and reactive strategies. You will be equipped with methods of intervening and be prepared for the next moment of crisis.

After a short break, Patrick will tackle his next topic, "Autism: What It means to us, What it means to them". Making the bus ride a

good experience for everyone is the goal of this session. When it comes to students with autism, that means knowing what to look for and knowing what to do. Patrick puts transportation staff behind the wheel of what it feels like to have autism and then provides various strategies to consider for support. From using visuals to establishing routines, he demonstrates how doing a few of the little things right can go a long way for these wonderful students.

After lunch, Patrick will share his presentation on "Working with Families of Students in Special Education". He says "Together we can take kids far, but only if we work together." With this perspective taking workshop, Patrick shows how parents of students in special education often end up becoming isolated and unsupported. Small ways are demonstrated as to how we all can connect with families, creating greater collaboration between school, home, and transportation. Reaching out does not have to take a lot of effort, but it does take an effort that can be life changing for families and students.

Finally, his final conference session, "Filter for Change" begins at 4pm. Get ready to engage with behavior! Patrick pops the hood and looks at the filter all professionals should have when looking at behavioral challenges on the school bus. This engaging presentation bridges the gap between behavioral science and what can be realistically and effectively implemented by transportation staff. With best practice strategies, the first and last step in every student's day can be a positive one.

Kansas native Dustin Galyon joins the conference on Friday, June 2.

Dustin considers himself a high octane guy from the Midwest who loves people and wants to help others love themselves. His professional career has been focused on leading and mentoring young people. Dustin and his wife, Marissa, along with their children Jackson and Savannah, reside in Hesston, Kansas.

His first of two programs begins right after lunch and is titled "Embracing Difficult Conversations". Have you ever avoided a difficult conversation?

Have you ever avoided a difficult person because of a difficult conversation that has or needed to happen? Difficult conversations can be productive and fruitful but it's tough. Did you know that this generation has the highest IQ of any generation. They are the most globally connected, right-brained, didactic generation of all time....BUT THEY have the LOWEST EQ of all time!! What does that mean? It means they have VERY poor conflict resolution skills!!! Throughout

this workshop we will learn how do EMBRACE DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS!! Together we will EMBRACE what many reject and learn applicable steps to take and teach when dealing with difficult conversations.

Dustin will close out the conference for his final presentation at 3pm with "Be the Best at Getting Better".

During this time, we will examine and create applicable steps to grow in three key areas:

- 1) How am I treating the person sitting in my seat? (THAT'S YOU!)
- 2) How do I elevate relationships by modeling relationships?
- 3) How do I improve CULTURE?

This is no doubt by the time you leave this session your outlook will be completely different.



Call for Award Nominations

Members of the KSPTA Awards Committee are seeking assistance to find Kansas school transportation personnel who are deserving of special recognition for the following awards. Winners will be announced and recognized at the KSPTA Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, June 2 in Wichita.

Distinguished Service Award: this award is meant to recognize school transportation personnel who are deserving of special recognition for the actions/efforts in providing safe transportation of students, providing leadership with in their districts transportation department and going above and beyond the normal call to duty. Please note: this is not a Years of Service Award.

Heroism Award: this award is meant to recognize school transportation personnel who are deserving of special recognition for performing a heroic act during the 2022-23 school year. The purpose is to recognize an individual who has performed an attempt to save a life or performed other notable like act. This individual will

have demonstrated humanitarian efforts, heroism and skill in saving or attempting to save a life without regard for his/her own personal safety.

Nancy Schulz Safety Award: A new award established in March of 2021 in memory of Nancy Schulz, a dedicated individual who set the bar high when it comes to school bus safety. This award will be presented to an individual who advocates excellence in school bus safety and promotes the value of school bus drivers whether teaching or changing the school bus world for the better. The awardee would have made a major contribution to safety in school bus transportation and making a positive difference to transportation employees and students riding the school bus.

Additional information and nomination forms can be found on our website at www.kspta.net or by requesting a form via email to www.kspta1970@gmail.com

Nancy Schulz Memorial Conference Scholarships

If you, or someone you know, would like to attend the conference and unfortunately doesn't receive support from their district you/they may apply for one of four Nancy Schulz Conference Scholarships. This scholarship covers the cost of registration only.

There will be two scholarships offered to conference alumni and two scholarships offered to someone who has never attended before.

The application forms are available on our website and must be received by April 15th. Recipients of these scholarships will then be notified within 3 business days of their award

KSPTA Officer Elections

During the annual KSPTA Business Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, June 1 at 7:30am the Call for Nominations for election of officers for the 2023-24 Executive Board will be initiated. As a member of the KSPTA Executive Committee you will be part of a team who will depend on you!

To be nominated individuals must be

- Paid members of the association
- Available to participate in 4-6 board meetings per year
- Attend and assist during regional competition events
- Attend and assist to annual conference
- Faithfully carry out all other duties required by the office to which you are elected

While most school districts and transportation departments are fully supportive of someone from their district serving on the KSPTA board, this position is separate from your job. Have a conversation with your transportation director and/or superintendent about your position. Most districts allow KSPTA board members to use school district vehicles to travel to/from KSPTA events. Additionally, they agree to pay normal wages when KSPTA events/travel occurs during normal work hours.

The following positions are up for (re)election:

Vice President (oversees State and regional competitions, equipment, and equipment trailer)

Secretary (takes minutes of board meetings and KSPTA annual meeting)

Regional representative positions for West, Central, and East.

For more information please refer to the KSPTA Constitution and Bylaws found on our website.

2023 Conference Schedule

Tuesday, May 30

5:30-7pm Early Conference Check-In

Wednesday, May 31

Competition Day

Thursday, June 1

8am Open Session
Supporting Escalations on the Bus

10:15am Autism: What it Means to Us;
What it Means to Them

12:45pm Working with Families in Special
Education

2:30pm Breakout Workshops
Emergency Safety Intervention Training
Selecting the Right Child Securement
Basics of Sign Language

4pm The Filter for Behavior Change on the Bus

Friday, June 2

8am What's Next in Electric School Buses

8:45am Breakout Workshops
Grants/Rebates for Electric School Buses
Training for Leaders of Classified Staff
WiFi on the School Bus ... Friend or Foe

10:00am Breakout Workshops
Fire on the Bus (Smoke Simulation)
Transportation Q&A
There's a State Wide Radio System?

12:45pm Embracing Difficult Conversations

2pm Breakout Workshops
ELDT - Where should you be in this process?
Recruiting/Retaining Transportation Personnel

3pm Be the Best at Getting Better

6:30pm Doors open for banquet seating

7pm Meal service begins

7:30pm Award Presentations

Please Note: Workshops are subject to change without notice. In the event a scheduled presenter is unable to attend, KSPTA will make every effort to fill that time slot. However, time constraints may not allow scheduling of a suitable substitute presenter.

Upcoming Events

March 22 Mechanics Workshop (Dodge City)

March 29 Mechanics Workshop (El Dorado)

April 12 One Day Stop Arm Violation Count Day

April 15 Regional Safe Driver Competition (Topeka)

April 18 Wheelchair Securement Workshop (Girard)

April 19 Wheelchair Securement Workshop (El Dorado)

April 20 Wheelchair Securement Workshop (Salina)

April 29 Regional Safe Driver Competition (Douglass)

May 31 State Safe Driver Competition (Wichita)

June 1-2 Transportation Safety Conference (Wichita)

June 19-20 Train the School Bus Driver Trainer Class (Must attend all 4 days)

July 19 Drug & Alcohol Reasonable Suspicion Training for CDL Supervisors