

Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation



The Road Ahead

fall 2015

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Kevin Doty, MAPT President



As I write this I am sitting in a hotel room in Orlando, Florida. It's not what you think. I am getting my son moved into his home for the next 17 months for automotive and diesel training. My first thought is this is not where I'm supposed to be a week before school starts. It has been a little stressful but we don't always have control of everything going on around us. This is when it is important to have a strong team. I put a lot of confidence in my staff and don't worry much when I'm gone. If any of us were absent from our position for a long period of time things would not be sustainable. For short periods of time a good team will put in the extra effort to make things work.

The same has been happening with MAPT for many months now. During that time the Board and MAPT staff have stepped up to take care of business. Now that we have had this time to regroup, we were able to restructure the office and hire an Executive Director. This move will put the full "team" back

together and allow us to advance our Association for the benefit of our Members.

Mark Niewoonder has been selected as MAPT's new Executive Director. With more than a 30-year career in Pupil Transportation, two terms as MAPT President and a passion for the safety of Michigan's school children, Mark is sure to provide our Association with outstanding guidance and success. Mark is retiring from Van Buren ISD and will join the MAPT staff October 5th.

It is my hope and desire for this organization to grow by a renewed focus on Member services. This will not happen through the efforts of one person but through our Staff, MAPT Board and our Members who volunteer their time to help with our mission. I am excited for what our future holds and welcome each of you to become involved with our Association. Remember that MAPT is here for you — have a SAFE and enjoyable school year! 🚌

BUS PURCHASE PROGRAM

If you're in the market for new school buses the MSBO Bus Purchase Program makes the process of bidding and ordering buses extremely simple and smooth. The bidding has been accomplished for you; all that is left is to "build" the bus desired and compare pricing from the bidding dealers. It is not a sole source bid process. Districts can compare and choose among three participating dealers, who

represent International, Blue Bird, and Thomas/Freightliner. Phase I of the 2015-16 MSBO Bus purchasing program is open October 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016. Additional information can be found on the MSBO website at www.msbo.org under the support services tab. For questions or more information regarding the program, contact Scott Little at slittle@msbo.org or 517.327.2582. 🚌

MAPT CONTACT INFO

6250 W. Michigan Avenue | Suite A
Lansing, MI 48917
Phone (517) 886-0881
Fax (517) 886-0882
www.mapt.org

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MAPT POSTER CONTEST 2015 WINNERS

MAPT is pleased to announce the winners of the 2015 Michigan School Bus Safety Poster Contest. The theme this year was “Bully Free Zone” and we received entries from Division 4, Special Education and Division 3, Grades 6-8. Four awards were given in the two divisions.

Why not have your school participate during School Bus Safety Week, October 19-23, 2015? Posters for 2016 can be drawn anytime between September 8, 2015 and April 30, 2016. The 2016 theme is “# STOP ON RED”. Official rules and entry form may be found at www.mapt.org under the “resources” tab. 🚌



Division 3 1st Place: Autumn Hammond, Southfield Regional Academic Campus



Division 4 1st Place: Bryan Musian, Sanilac ISD



Division 4 2nd Place: Andrew Withey, Sanilac ISD



Division 4 3rd Place: Joey Jones, Sanilac ISD

TRAINING SCHEDULE

DATE	CLASS	LOCATION	TIME
2015			
Oct 7, Nov 11, Dec 2	Basic Transportation Administration Issues	MAPT Office	9:00 – 4:00
October 14	Liability and Tort Law	MAPT Office	8:30 – 12:30
November 18	Human Resource for Transportation	MAPT Office	9:00 – 4:00
December 16	Laws, Rules and Regulations	MAPT Office	8:30 – 12:30
2016			
February 10	Managing Staff Training	MAPT Office	8:30 – 12:30
Mar 9, Apr 13, May 11	Basic Transportation Administration Issues	MAPT Office	9:00 – 4:00
March	Pre-Conference: Human Resources for Transportation	TBD	TBD
March	Spring Conference	TBD	TBD
April 20	Laws, Rules and Regulations	MAPT Office	8:30 – 12:30
May 18	Managing Staff Training	MAPT Office	8:30 – 12:30
June	Michigan School Bus Driving Championship	TBD	TBD
June 20	Pre-Conference: Liability and Tort Law	Shanty Creek Resort	8:30 – 12:30
June 20	Pre-Conference: MDE Mandated Supervisor Training-Part I	Shanty Creek Resort	1:30 – 4:30
June 21 – 23	MAPT Annual Conference	Shanty Creek Resort	TBD
July, 2016	Technician and Support Staff Conference	TBD	TBD
July	Train the Trainer Beginning School Bus Driver Pre-Requisite Road Trainers	TBD	TBD



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

by Don Olendorf, MAPT Legislative Counsel

Lawmakers returned to Lansing right after Labor Day for what is anticipated to be a busy Fall session. The first order of business was to tackle a scandal that has consumed the Capitol and Michigan since early August. A Special Committee was formed and, after reviewing an 800-page report of charges, reported out recommendations for expulsion of Representative Todd Courser (R-Lapeer) and Representative Cindy Gamrat (R-Plainwell). On September 10th, the House met in a marathon session and after a series of difficult maneuverings, Rep. Courser tendered his resignation just after 3:00 AM on September 11th. Rep Gamrat was expelled with 91 Aye votes approximately one hour later. The House Chamber now has only 107 members with the resignation of Representative Brandon Dillon (D-Grand Rapids) earlier this summer to take the helm of the Michigan Democratic Party. These new developments significantly impact what it now takes to pass legislation in the House: 54 votes in favor instead 56 votes as is the norm.

Special Primaries will be held on November 3rd in all of the vacant seats with a Special General Election Date set for March 8, 2016. The process for the

next legislative term will then normalize in August 2016 with a new Primary, followed by a General Election set for November 8, 2016.


Coming up in terms of Fall legislative priorities, we will see a lot of effort to get a Roads and Infrastructure fix. At this point, Legislative Leaders and the Governor have agreed to and framed a general outline of a proposal that includes approximately \$800 million in new revenue and \$400 million in structural cuts. Details are yet to be determined. You will also see a focus on a new Energy Plan that focuses on customer choice and stabilizing our rate and regulatory system. This is being done to prepare for new power plant projects to replace aging coal-fired energy plants.

In terms of education, expect to see movement on what is referred to as the “Third Grade Reading” plan with an emphasis on improving literacy in Michigan. Additionally, after four years, it is expected that a plan addressing Professional Staff Evaluation procedures will see legislative action.

Legislative action affecting pupil transportation is proposed to address illegal “Pass By” issues that MAPT has long

fought for. While permissible, as determined by the MSP, signage requirements on new buses giving motorists better information about when to stop or exercise caution has been introduced. The bill is House Bill (HB) 4046 (2015), sponsored by Representative Holly Hughes (R-Montague). In cooperation with Representative Hughes, MAPT along with the Michigan Department of Education and the Michigan State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division are conducting an important pilot project in October 2015 with ten (10) school districts and some 40 Michigan school buses to pilot test a new Driver Alert system to enhance school bus lighting in Michigan. Representative Hughes has been a tremendous supporter of pupil transportation.

Lastly, we have another Senate Bill – SB 486 (2015) introduced by Senator Curtis Hertel, Jr. (D-Lansing) that also looks at the illegal “Pass By” problem by increased fines and penalties. SB 486 has co-sponsorship from Senator Tonya Schuitmaker (R-Lawton). This is a good sign and we can expect to see movement on these bills.

Many thanks are due to Senator Hertel. 



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

MAPT extends a warm welcome to those Active Members who recently joined our Association. One of the best things about our Association is our member networking. That's why we're asking members from neighboring districts to reach out to these new members with a phone call or an email. Introduce yourself and let them know about regional meetings, county wide events or other resources. And to all members, if you ever have a question, please call the MAPT office and we'll refer you to a member that can help.

Region	Name	District	Phone	Email
1	Lori Malnor	Northern Michigan University	(906) 227-2103	Lmalnor@nmu.edu
3	Kenneth McInerney	Alpena Public Schools	(989) 358-5793	mcinerneyk@alpenaschools.com
3	Monica Williams	Pellston Public Schools	(231) 539-8801	mwilliams@pellstonschools.org
4	Gordon Seyler	Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools	(989) 756-2500	seylerg@wpas.net
5	Jeannie Crawford	Tri-County Busing, Inc.	(231) 876-3052	tricitybusing@gmail.com
5	Chris Parker	Northport Public Schools	(231) 386-5153	cparker@northport.k12.mi.us
6	Michael Burlingame	Ashley Community Schools	(989) 847-4000	mburlingame@ashleyschools.net
6	Ken Carll	Vestaburg Community Schools	(989) 268-5255	kcarll@vcs-k12.net
7	Cindy Dietzel	Arenac Opportunities, Inc.	(989) 846-7500	aoidispatch@arenacop.com
9	Steve Delong	Owosso Public Schools	(989) 725-7665	delongc@owosso.k12.mi.us
9	Kathleen Fuller	Charlotte Public Schools	(517) 543-3400	fullerk@charlottenet.org
9	Andrew George	Grand Ledge Public Schools	(517) 925-5406	georgea@glcomets.net
9	George Gibson	Perry Public Schools	(517) 625-3107	gibsong@perry.k12.mi.us
9	William Sipola	Haslett Public Schools	(517) 339-2078	sipolawm@haslett.k12.mi.us
10	Mary Dorff	Flushing Community Schools	(810) 591-2786	mary.dorff@flushingschools.org
10	Mark Fahr	Davison Community Schools	(810) 591-0813	mfahr@davisonschools.org
10	Linda Miller	Clio Area Schools	(810) 591-0310	lmiller@clioschools.org
10	Fred Ondrajka	Owendale-Gagetown Area Schools	(989) 678-4261	ondrajka@owengage.org
10	Duane Paehlig	Sandusky Community Schools	(810) 648-5210	dpaehlig@sandusky.k12.mi.us
12	Charlie Butz	Whiteford Agricultural Schools	(734) 856-1443	butz@whiteford.k12.mi.us
13	Matthew DuShane	Blissfield Community Schools	(517) 486-3803	mdushane@blissfieldschools.us
13	Carol Kachaterian	Jackson Public Schools	(517) 541-2182	ckachate@jpsmail.org
14	Lisa Bosch	Kalamazoo Christian	(269) 544-2332	lbosch@kcsa.org
14	Tammy Kay Hanstine	Three Rivers Community Schools	(269) 279-1148	thanstine@trschools.org
14	Shawn Hayward	Thornapple-Kellogg Schools	(269) 795-5540	shayward@tkschools.org
14	Joe Huepenbecker	Athens Area Schools	(269) 729-5427	huepenbeckerj@athensk12.org
15	Daniel Paquette	Buchanan Comm Schools	(269) 695-8402	dpaquette@buchananschools.com
17	Becky Jo Wheeler	Reed City Area Public Schools	(231) 832-4232	jwheeler@reedcity.k12.mi.us
18	Charlotte Beier	Royal Oak Public Schools	(248) 545-0064	cbeier@durhamschoolservices.com
18	Linda Gilmore	Holly Area School District	(248) 328-3090	linda.gilmore@has-k12.org
18	Amy Pomaville	Warren Consolidated Schools	(586) 825-2960	apomaville@wcskids.net
18	Frank Richmond	Holly Area School District	(248) 328-3090	frank.richmond@has-k12.org
19	Laurie Kisovic	Romeo Community Schools	(586) 281-1756	laurie.kisovic@romeo.k12.mi.us
19	Beth Witgen	Romeo Community Schools	(586) 281-1756	beth.witgen@romeo.k12.mi.us
20	Lisa Mathews	White Cloud Public Schools	(231) 689-3392	
20	Jim Shcwartz	Newaygo Public Schools	(231) 854-9301	schwartzj@hesp.net



NATIONAL CONGRESS FOR SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION CONVENES

Kim Hooper, Transportation Consultant, Wayne County RESA, Two time Past President MAPT

In 2013 the Michigan Department of Education appointed Lori Richardson, Kelly Dean, Kevin Doty, Carl Ingram, Darryl Hofstra, Kim Hooper, Dale Goby, and Ken Micklash as Michigan delegates to the 16th National Congress for School Transportation (NCST). The meeting occurred May 17-20, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa with Ken Micklash chairing the delegation.

Since 1939, the National Congresses (formerly Conferences) on School Transportation have been held periodically with the primary objective of ensuring safe, efficient transportation for school children. Since 1980, the 300-plus

delegates from around the country who comprise the NCST have convened every five years.

The delegates deliberated and adopted updates to the 2010 National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures (NSTSP). The Specifications and Procedures are the primary purpose and product of the Congresses, comprising the delegates' formal recommendations for vehicles, equipment, and operational practices that contribute to the objectives of safety and efficiency for fleets across the United States. As stated within the introduction to the NSTSP, its intended use is that "the specifications for school buses and procedures

for operation are available for states to consider when establishing their standards, specifications, recommendations, and guidelines."

The NCST website is intended for persons who are involved or just interested in promoting safe and efficient pupil transportation and can be found at ncstonline.org. At this website you can find past NCST publications from 1939 to 2010, and you will have the ability to order the new findings of the National Congress later this year. 🚌

IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN BEING INVOLVED WITH THE 2020 CONGRESS AS A DELEGATE OR WRITING COMMITTEE, CONTACT KEN MICKLASH AT THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MICKLASHK@MICHIGAN.GOV).

MAPT ELECTION RESULTS

The election for Board Member positions was held at the MAPT Annual Conference on June 24, and results were announced at the closing session on June 25, 2015. MAPT congratulates and welcomes the following MAPT members to the Board of Directors:

- President Elect - Colleen Mayes, Rochester Schools/Durham School Services
- Three Year Director - Laura Tanis from Kentwood Public Schools
- Treasurer - Mike Gwizdala from Bay Arenac ISD (re-elected to Treasurer Position)



Mayes



Tanis



Gwizdala

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about School Bus Transportation, be sure to reach out to a Board Member. Contact information for all Board Members can be found on our website at www.mapt.org. 🚌

MAPT DIRECTORY

Has any of your contact information changed? The 2016 MAPT Directory will be published soon and we want to ensure we accurately print your contact information.

Please be sure to notify the MAPT office at 517.886.0881 with any changes. 🚌



ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR



John Martinez-Legus, Supervisor of the Year (right), with his Supervisor, Andrew George (left)

The winner of the 2015 Supervisor of the Year Award is John Martinez-Legus. He received his award at the 50th Anniversary Annual Conference in June. In his nomination form, Andrew George from Grand Ledge says, "John has a true passion for his position and is constantly thinking about how to improve, professionalize, and enhance the School Districts' responsibility of safely and efficiently transporting students. John has earned my respect and confidence and it is truly a joy to work as John's supervisor." John's accomplishments include successfully implementing a stop arm camera system, working with MDOT on a pilot program for signage on multiple lane roadways, and working with Senator Jones to push for legislation that would allow districts to gain funding from stop arm camera tickets and new systems. Congratulations, John!

TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR



Technician of the Year, Frank Quine (right) with his Supervisor, Craig Coleman (left)

A highlight of the Technician and Support Staff Conference is the presentation of the Technician of the Year award. This year's winner is Frank Quine from Ovid-Elsie Area Schools. Frank has been with Ovid Elsie Area Schools for 22 years, the last nine as Head Mechanic. His supervisor, Craig Coleman tells us he trusts Frank's judgment in all aspects of bus maintenance, repair and shop inventory. He has an exemplary work ethic and excels in many school transportation areas including budgeting, record keeping, and school board briefs. Frank makes it a point to be in the driver's lounge after the morning run each day so drivers can talk with him about any concerns they may have. He has established relationships and deals directly with all vendors. He recently gathered all the information for an underbody carriage wash system for the school bus fleet. Frank is a highly valued member of the Ovid Elsie team. Congratulations, Frank!

DRIVER OF THE YEAR



Colleen Mayes (left) congratulates Driver of the Year, Betty Nelson (right)

Betty Nelson from Lowell Area Schools is the recipient of the 2015 Driver of the Year Award. Betty says, "I try to greet every student as they enter or exit the bus. Say 'Good morning,' 'Have a great day,' 'Happy Monday!' Send them into that learning environment in a good mood, ready to take on the day!" Betty designed a school bus "light display" which she takes to elementary schools' open house and community events to educate the public on what to look for and when to stop for school buses. Her supervisor, Carol Hamilton tells us, "She has a good balance of care and concern, along with discipline of students on the bus. The students that ride her bus respect and appreciate Betty and some have told me that she is the best bus driver they have ever had." Congratulations, Betty! 🚌



MAPT GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Phil Haldaman, Char-Em ISD

MAPT's Golden Anniversary conference and celebration are now just a memory. But memories made this summer will likely keep us nice and warm through the coming winter months as we reflect on our time together at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire this past June.

Our turn-out was strong; it was so good to not only see familiar faces – but lots of new ones as well! If you are one of those who are new to MAPT, “Welcome!” We’re really glad you are here. If you are one who has been an MAPT member for some time, “Thank you.” We appreciate and value your many years of wisdom and experience.

Our agenda that week was full of timely offerings: classes, break-outs, round-table discussions and trade show; yet there was just enough separation that allowed attendees to rest, reflect, and learn from each other in the quiet ambience of our secluded Northern Michigan venue.

Our keynote speaker, Steve Gilliland, left us with many good points to ponder. Among them: how making a difference in our vocations, and in the lives of others was “a matter of purpose, passion, and

pride.” He shared with us timely tips on how we can “enjoy the ride,” and be more purpose-driven rather than process driven. He even taught us how to, “hide your goat” and stay positive when surrounded by negativity.

Who can forget our elegant evening; the 50th anniversary dinner and entertainment were extraordinary! Seeing so many of our past leaders together, and listening to their stories was both inspiring and encouraging. An old saying goes, “Facts tell, but stories sell;” there were no doubt a lot of great stories told and sold that night.

Perhaps the highlight of the evening was the entertainment who drove all the way up here from the Detroit area: Dave Caruso’s *Piano Wars*. Their musical performance and audience participation were wildly entertaining!

No, we won’t soon forget that evening – or the very special 50th Anniversary conference and celebration – where the past converged with the present to create a truly memorable and rewarding MAPT event. 🚗

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

- FLEECE JACKET WELCOME GIFT
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- Polyplot Wayne Resa
- Oakland Schools
- PRIZES
- Shanty Creek Resort
- DoubleTree Bay City
- Boyne Highlands



Kellie Dean receives the President’s Award from MAPT President, Cindy Bourdon



MAPT Presidents, past and present (LEFT TO RIGHT) Front Row: Kevin Doty, Dave Meeuwssen , Darryl Hofstra, Jeff Porter, Matt Hess, Cindy Bourdon. Back Row: Tim Hofmeister, Marv Bartal, Kellie Dean, Gava Graham, Kim Hooper, Mac Dashney, Jeanne Asch, Bill Stankey, Sarah McClure & Mark Niewoonder





TECHNICIAN AND SUPPORT STAFF CONFERENCE



The MAPT Technician and Support Staff Conference was held July 16 and 17 at Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City, Michigan. This venue, geared towards families, allowed participants to attend the conference during the day and spend time at the waterpark with their families during the evening. This year's program included instructors Dan Meyers and Gary Maike from Ferris State University's Heavy Equipment and Automotive Management Programs. Their hands on classes, "Basic Theory of Electricity and Electronics" and "Proper Tire Care and Wheel Alignment" were well received by the Technician's in attendance. The Support Staff enjoyed honing their Excel skills, learning about Google Docs and learning about how to work with all kinds of personalities.

The America's Best Technician Competition was held as a pre-conference event on Wednesday, July 15. Nine Technician's participated in the written test and hands on competition. This year's winner is Jason Peckham from Eightcap Head Start. Tim Murray and Dean Councilor, both from Traverse City Area Public Schools placed second and third, respectively. MAPT is providing \$1,000 to send Jason to the National



LEFT TO RIGHT: America's Best Technician Competition Winners: Dean Councilor (3rd), Tim Murray (2nd), Jason Peckham (1st)

Competition this fall in Richmond, VA. Good luck, Jason!

The winning entry of the Idea and Invention contest was submitted by Curt Alofs on behalf of Chuck Wittingen and himself from West Ottawa Public Schools. The idea is to replace the bus door key entry with a toggle switch. This allows the door to be opened and closed with a toggle switch to easily keep out the weather elements. This contest is always a fun and interesting part of the Conference program.

Special thanks to our Business Partners: Hoekstra Transportation for providing

the Welcome Gift travel mug and the Grand Prize gift card; Cummins Bridgeway, A Parts Warehouse, Crystal Flash Energy and Transportation Accessories Company for sponsoring gift cards; Quality Collision Services for sponsoring scholarships; and Thermo King Michigan for their cash sponsor. A HUGE thank you to Kevin Harkness, Technician and Support Staff Conference Chair, for his hard work and dedication to the success of this conference. We also applaud Tim Murray from TCAPS for making the arrangements to use the TCAPS bus garage for the hands on training portion of the conference. 🚌



MICHIGAN SCHOOL BUS DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIP

Twenty-five drivers competed in the 2015 Michigan School Bus Driving Championship on June 16th at the Ogemaw County Fairgrounds in West Branch, MI. Drivers took three written tests this year, a general knowledge exam, a “mystery event” test with 17 steps for picking up students and a pre-trip test.

The pre-trip event was changed to a written examination this year, similar to the International Competition’s vehicle inspection test. Contestants then demonstrated their driving skills in 12 events situated on a course throughout the fairgrounds; right turn, left turn, curb line, student loading, straight line, diminishing clearance, stop line, backing, railroad crossing, offset alley, serpentine and parallel parking.

Each event is designed to evaluate a driver’s ability to handle the bus under actual or simulated driving conditions. An

Awards Banquet was held immediately following the competition.

The top three 2015 Michigan School Bus Driving Champions are:

1ST PLACE

David Shannon, Northville Schools

2ND PLACE

Dawn Hunter, Wayne Westland Community Schools

3RD PLACE

Stephanie Emond, Huron School District

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Ruth Engerson, Hudsonville Public Schools

The winner of this competition earns the honor to compete at the International Competition. Due to a scheduling conflict, David Shannon was not able to attend so Dawn Hunter represented Michigan at the 45th International School Bus Driver Safety Competition on July 18 and 19 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dawn placed 14th among 38 best of the best contestants. Good job, Dawn! 🚌

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1st Place: David Shannon



2nd Place: Dawn Hunter



3rd Place: Stephanie Emond



Rookie of the Year: Ruth Engerson



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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Pete Pizzimenti
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pete.pizzimenti@midwesttransit.com



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Mutual Aid Directory

On the evening of October 31st, 2014 Alcona Schools had a group of 3 adults and 5 students on a return trip from Louisville Kentucky for a National FFA Convention. They were on I-75 heading north, just south of Flint, when the van they were in suddenly quit running. They were in a freak blizzard. Rod Cordes, Transportation Supervisor from Alcona Community Schools, turned to the MAPT Mutual Aid Directory for help. He contacted Robert Payman from Flushing Community Schools who not only sheltered the students and staff until Rod and his mechanic could pick them up, but towed the vehicle to Flushing's Bus Garage where it could be inspected. This is the Mutual Aid Directory in action!

MAPT is updating the current Mutual Aid Directory for 2016. To be included in this revision, please complete the items listed below and return this form to the MAPT Office by ***October 30, 2015***.

MAPT will provide the updated Mutual Aid Directory online under the Members Only section. The updated directory will also be available in a three ring binder (5 ½ x 8 ½ x 1) at a cost of \$15.00 which includes shipping and handling.

___ **Check here if you would like to purchase a 2016 Directory for \$15.00.**

Complete this form and fax to MAPT (517-886-0882)
or email to sknechtges@mapt.org
Please type or print clearly

Name of School District: _____

County(s) Served: _____

Regular Transportation Office Hours: _____ Office Phone Number: _____

After regular office hours contact:

1. Supervisor's name: _____

Home phone #: _____ Cell #: _____

2. Mechanic's name: _____

Home phone #: _____ Cell #: _____

3. Other contact: Dispatcher Secretary Other _____

Home phone #: _____ Cell #: _____



THE ROAD AHEAD

MAPT Newsletter
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