



NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BUS CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

Regional Meeting Notes June 4, 2019; June 5, 2019

**Registration & Greetings**-Eric Raphael (Irvin Raphael Bus Service), Association President welcomed attendees and everyone introduced themselves

**Membership Drive**—Evie Wills, newly hired Association Administrator was introduced and reported on efforts to recruit and retain members during the Spring membership drive. A survey was distributed to meeting attendees to identify topics of particular interest to members. Also, an opportunity to join a variety of Association committees was offered. It was noted that vendor members are also invited to be active participants.

#### **Business of the Association-**

Eric addressed “Where do membership dues go?” to include expenses from website, lobbyist, Administrator, meetings, NSTA membership

Colin Michael (First Student) reviewed the Role of the Lobbyist, What’s the PAC do and he distributed a 14 page document listing school bus related proposed legislation at the State level

Evie did a presentation about Association *Standing Committees* and possible *Ad Hoc Committees*.

Participation-Members were reminded that the Association membership includes Company employees as well as owners and that all are welcome to participate in Association activities. Vendor members as well. Any member with a staff member who has expertise and/or or a willingness to work hard in an area of interest should contact the NJSBCA leadership team to be put on a committee.

Lively discussions ensued and several members immediately offered their time and expertise and joined committees during the course of the meetings. Ad Hoc committees were brought under standing committee stewardship as a result of discussions.

*Standing Committees* per Association by-laws

Membership Committee

Benefits

Communications...high tech and fundamental

Recruit and Retain

Public Relations & Education Committee

Education & Training-trainers/drivers/mechanics (MAP 21).

Stop for School Buses

STS liaison

NJMVC liaison

Business Education (owners...HR ,insurance, compliance)

Legislative Committee  
Lobbyist  
Stop for School Buses-Federal, State, Local  
State House Activity  
Finance Committee

**FUEL TAX EXEMPTION:** Eric updated the membership on the on-going fuel tax initiative the NJSBCA began working on over a year ago. The bill (Senate 1697) made its way all the way to the Governor's desk where it was conditionally vetoed after passing the state Senate and Assembly unanimously. The Governor took issue with some of the language and the Association is continuing efforts to get a fuel tax exemption signed into law. A copy of the conditional veto has been distributed to the Membership, but if you want a copy sent to you, please contact us at [njsbca@gmail.com](mailto:njsbca@gmail.com)

**Stop Arm initiative** – An exceptionally engaging presentation was lead by Chloe Williams (B.R.Williams Inc). The invited guest speaker and Association member was Rich Kelly (R.C.Kelly) and Curt Macysyn, (NSTA) to discuss the epidemic problem of motorists passing stopped school buses. This is a topic that one of our members, Dan Hillman (Hillman's Bus Service) has direct experience with and he shared a compelling video of an actual incident of a student getting struck that was shown during the presentation. It was discussed that earlier this year, NJSBCA was represented in Washington during meetings with legislators to find a way to address this and the NJSBCA also sent letters to all of NJ's Senators and House of Representatives asking them to support legislation to find effective means to address the problem at the Federal level. All members and interested parties are asked to ask their legislators to please support the "Stop for School Buses Act of 2019". *Senate Bill S.1254 House Bill H.R.2218*

**NJSBCA projects** Evie discussed meetings and conventions and activities where the NJSBCA participated or engaged such as Membership drive/visits with prospective members; STS conference; Keep Middlesex Moving TMA annual meeting; Congress Stop Arm Bus-In; Voorhees Transportation Center contact.

A discussion of "What's Next?" for the Association was lead by Evie and Eric and again, a robust discussion was had. Those in attendance demonstrated a keen interest in the Association being a vibrant and important resource for its membership. Many individuals stepped up as willing and interested participants on committees that are tasked with the important work of the Association which bodes well for the future impact the NJSBCA will have in all of our communities and businesses.

POST SCRIPT: If you haven't yet joined, the NJSBCA, memberships are still being accepted. Many important topics continue to affect our industry pretty much on a daily basis. Get your voice heard! Go to [www.njschoolbus.com](http://www.njschoolbus.com) and click on membership to get an application.