

NW DRIVER TRAINER NEWS



For Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish and the Island County School Bus Driver Trainers

A Career Worth Remembering

Thirty-four years has been quite a time commitment and journey for Dianne Bailey’s career in the school bus transportation industry. As she takes her well-deserved retirement, it is fitting that Dianne’s importance is recognized. A walk down memory lane yields her impressive contribution to this state’s student transportation industry:

- 1977 – 1979** School Bus Driver, Associated School Bus in Everett
- 1979 – 1981** Substitute School Bus Driver, Mukilteo School District
- 1981 – 1990** Route Driver for Mukilteo. She drove “The Animal Bus”, an old 5-speed conventional that growled while going up hills.
- 1990 – 2010** Driver Trainer, then Transportation Coordinator for Mukilteo. State Driver Trainer for Regions 3 and 2.

Dianne put herself through the state’s Driver Instructor’s Training Course in 1990 on her own dime. Back then, your district had to write a letter to “sponsor you. Dianne then became Mukilteo’s driver trainer instructor, delivering in-service and entry level training to her drivers for the next twenty years.

Dianne attended CWU from 1991 through 1993. She later became a state certified flagging instructor and became certified in defensive driving through evergreen safety council so she could train coaches and. For the past 10 years she has focused a great deal on student management. She works with drivers, students, administrators and parents when students need help being safe on the bus.

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This timeline does not include all that Dianne has contributed outside of her district. She was a State Driver Trainer Instructor for the Northwest and Puget Sound Regions for the past 14 years. She has contributed many of her ideas and teaching talents to – state level lesson plans, and has delivered approximately forty annual state inservices to school bus driver this would seem to be quite enough for one person to accomplish, but Dianne has also remained active in the Northwest Driver Trainer Association for twenty-one years.



Dianne Bailey

Her involvement with our Northwest Regional Rodeo started by helping with rodeo setup and and being a judge on the course. She spent years in the rodeo trailer scoring the contestants. In the last ten years, Dianne annually recruited enough judges for each event on the rodeo course... and then she did state-level rodeo judging as well!

Dianne has some words of wisdom for driver trainers and school bus drivers. “It’s a good rule of thumb to treat everyone with respect; you never know who might be influencing your future”. She also recommends, “When you have a new trainee, listen to your instincts. You will know very early if

NW School Bus Driver Workshop: Behind the Scenes



Marysville Police Department's Tactical Team and Snohomish County Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) Team

Imagine actually being in a hostage situation on a school bus. This is one nightmare we don't want to come true. But what if you could be in a hostage situation as an exercise? What if you could find out how you would react to hostage takers and most importantly, what should you do to have the best possible outcome? This unique opportunity and experience will soon be available to all bus drivers and transportation folks at the annual Northwest School Bus Driver Workshop this March 5th in Marysville.

This year the Bus Driver Workshop is called SWAT and it's just around the corner. The planning

committee for this event is buzzing with excitement as details are being finalized. Two buses will be set up for the hostage exercises so that participants will get an impressive first-hand experience. Marysville Tactical Team and Snohomish County **Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT)** Team have joined forces in preparing for this experience. Attendees can anticipate the hostage portion of the event to be very exciting and educational indeed!

Information and an affordable \$15.00 registration form for this workshop can be found at:

[NW Bus Driver Workshop](#)

Visiting State Code

WAC 392-145-041



The following are requirements to assure safety and security of the school bus during operation:

- (1) Motor fuel shall not be put into the tank while the engine is running or while passengers are on the school bus. School bus drivers, prior to commencement of any trip, shall assure that the school bus has sufficient fuel to prevent the school bus from running out of fuel.
- (2) School bus drivers, prior to commencement of any trip, shall assure that the mirrors, windshield and rear window(s) of the school bus are clean.
- (3) (3) Prior to commencement of and during any trip, with passengers aboard, every school bus driver shall ensure there are no articles in the following areas that could impede normal movement, visibility, or emergency egress: The service entrance step well; the entire main aisle from front to rear; the aisles or passage ways to any emergency door; the entire shelf area between the rearmost passenger seats and the rear emergency window (if so equipped).

In this time of winter driving there can be many things that impede a bus driver's visibility. Snow, rain or foggy windshields add to extended periods of darkness. Passengers seem to forget that exits, aisles and passage must be clear at all times. It is the bus driver that must remind their riders of the expectations and insist on adherence to safety codes. It is the bus driver that cleans their windshields and windows at the end of each school day in preparation for a fresh start in the morning.

A Career Worth Remembering

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candidate will fit in your organization." Through Dianne's experience, she recommends that driver trainers put more focus on student management with trainees. Use examples when you teach. Remind your trainees that "everything you do with your students is an experience, think about how your students react to you and change your strategy when needed". And when student discipline ends up with a parent meeting? "My first thing is to teach parents what is expected of their children and what their role is as a parent to make the bus safe".

"Listen to your instincts. You will know very early if a candidate will fit into your program"

Dianne continues on now to a much deserved retirement. Several years ago, Dianne started a hobby of making cement leaves used for garden art. She also learned to weld. All along, her retirement plan was to start spending more time with her leaves and selling them. Now she will have time to delve in to that creative dream.

During the writing of this article, Dianne's husband Bill, who was very ill, passed away on January 30. Our prayers are with Dianne who was married to Bill for 36 years. Our prayers go out to their six sons; 13 grandchildren; and four great grand-children for their loss. Dianne has a multitude of friends who stand by her. She has always been and will continue to be a shining star for many of us in transportation. Diane welcomes continued communication with her transportation family and can be emailed at leaflady@frontier.com

NW Bus Driver Workshop continued

In addition to the exciting hostess going on, Marilyn Grey is scheduled as the motivational speaker for the workshop. She will offer a fine balance to the program

Marilyn's keynote and after dinner presentations have captivated audiences nationally, and internationally. More than a million people have been informed and entertained by Marilyn as she talks about the effect of laughter on stress reduction, on celebration and dealing with change. Warmth and wit allow Marilyn to relate quickly and intimately with her audiences.

In addition to being an outstanding speaker, Marilyn is a highly respected educator, school psychologist, college faculty member and author

Poster Contest

of the book "It's All in Your Head".

It's been a longstanding tradition for districts to make a basket to donate for the workshop drawing. Amazing and unique baskets have been donated and yes WON by workshop participants. Remember, you must be present to win!

And last but not least, there is a poster contest where EVERYONE is a winner. Many districts have put their pictures together according to a theme. The theme this year is "TEAMWORK".

Giving up a Saturday for professional growth can and will be fun. The Northwest Driver Trainer Association looks forward to seeing you there!



This bus does not meet
Washington State School Bus Specifications!