

As 2011 comes to a close and we begin to focus on welcoming in the New Year, we would like to take a look back at the success of the NorthEast Passenger Transportation Association (NEPTA). The success of NEPTA is a result of the strong membership support and the devoted leadership from the NEPTA Board of Directors, as well as the support from the event participants and sponsors.

#### *Conference and Expo*

NEPTA joined forces once again with Mary Beth Mello, FTA Regional Administrator, Region 1 and FTA staff for another successful Biennial Conference and Expo in March 2011. The conference entitled "Charting the Course for the Next Generation" was in recognition of all of us focusing and positioning our industry for future success.

The brainstorming for the 2013 event has begun and we will begin to update all of you in the beginning of next year. **Hold the dates:** Tuesday, March 26 and Wednesday, March 27 2013. Mark those calendars and plan to join us for another successful event with the FTA.

#### *Golf Tournament and Scholarship Program*

The 13th Annual NEPTA Scholarship Golf Tournament was in September in Bloomfield, CT and we are proud to report from the origin of this program, NEPTA has awarded \$63,500. We encourage all of you to join this event, whether a golfer or a sponsor, it is a worthy cause and a fun day on the course.

#### *Tri-State Conference*

Thank you to the Tri-State Conference committee, along with Tom Meyers, Pat Christian and Jim Wood for offering NEPTA the opportunity to sponsor a Fleet Maintenance Forum in Portland, Maine in September. This is the second year NEPTA has participated in this program and we look forward to returning next year.

#### *Annual Dinner Meeting*

NEPTA hosted their Annual Dinner Meeting on Tuesday, December 5, 2011 at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, MA. Special thank you extends to John Englert, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Rail & Transit Division; Angela Grant, Martha's Vineyard Regional Transit Authority Administrator and MARTA Treasurer; Francis Gay, Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority Administrator and the Massachusetts Rural Transit Assistance Program (MARTap) Advisory Committee for collaborating efforts to assure an informative and successful event.

The two-day MassDOT, MARTA, MARTap December Conference and Training started with an Advanced Mobility Device Securement Skills Development Workshop followed by the event Welcome-Kickoff from Stephen O'Neil, Worcester Regional Transit Authority Administrator, MARTA President and Jonathan Davis, MassDOT Acting Administrator, Rail and Transit Division.

Patricia Monahan, National RTAP Executive Director introduced procurement software and other RTAP available products and training modules for transit authorities and agencies. Thank you to Patricia Monahan and Rob Tassinari, National RTAP Senior Technical Manager, for their presentations.

After lunch, Vicki Shotland, Executive Director Greater Hartford Transit District and NEPTA President welcomed the group to the NEPTA Annual Meeting and then introduced Mary Beth Mello, FTA Regional Administrator, Region 1 and FTA Staff for the "Priorities for the Coming Year". We would like to thank the FTA for their updates and for their uniformed Patriot team spirit.

Lissa Paris, Partner with Murtha Cullina, LLP lead an interactive Human Resource Workshop which focused on maintaining accurate personnel folders, keeping up to date with HIPPA, changes to the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment 2011, followed by general Q&A. Thank you to Murtha Cullina for sharing their knowledge on such important topics.

Richard Davey, Secretary & CEO MassDOT welcomed the annual dinner meeting attendees and talk on important topics surrounding transit and the strategies MassDOT has for moving transportation forward.

Carol Tally, Executive Director, NEPTA welcomed the group on behalf of the NEPTA Board of Directors and thanked the 2011 NEPTA Executive Committee and Board of Directors. In acknowledgement and appreciation of their 6 years of service to the NEPTA board, Vicki presented Tom Meyers, South Portland Bus Service with a plaque and also acknowledged Thomas Boyle, MBTA for his years of service. Both departing board members will be missed but NEPTA hopes to welcome them back to the board in the future.

NEPTA is extremely proud of the NorthEast Passenger Transportation Scholarship Award Program. As a result of successful golf tournaments and sponsorships, the program committee selected 8 students to be recognized this year. All of the applicants were strong and showed a strong drive academically.

Congratulations to the following recipients and their sponsors:

Jennifer Chaves - Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District

Cameron Dunbar and Krystal Oldread - UMass Amherst Transit

Shona Norman - Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority

Kayla Scanlon - Cape Ann Transportation Operating Company, Inc.

Kyle Smythe - Brockton Area Transit

Diane Tarantino - Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority

John Montana - Peter Pan Bus Lines

#### *Hall of Fame Award*

Gary Thompson, Chittenden County Transit Authority and a member of the NEPTA Board of Directors was unanimously voted as this year's NEPTA Hall of Fame recipient. Gary has been with Chittenden County for over 30 years and has been a member of the NEPTA board for 5 years. Congratulations to Gary!

#### *Richard H. Doyle Award*

The first Richard H. Doyle Award was presented to George S. Anzuoni. Unfortunately George was not

able to be with us at the annual meeting but accepted his award via a pre-taped interview presented by his sons, Chris and Stephen.

NEPTA extends a sincere thank you to all of the event participants and event sponsors.

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Northern Bus Sales, Inc.

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Best wishes for a warm, safe and healthy holiday season and best wishes for the New Year.