The IPTA 58th Annual School Transportation Conference and Tradeshow was held at the Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn on July 18-20, 2022. Over 191 transportation personnel from almost all 99 Iowa counties attended.

The conference had an outstanding lineup with topics covered by speakers that traveled to Iowa from seven different states, and every segment was presented by a first class list of presenters, that shared a wealth of experience and expertise with conference attendees.

The conference included Iowa’s Largest School Transportation Tradeshow, having 41 exhibitor booths, with five school buses (2-electric powered) on display inside the spacious Iowa Exhibition Hall.

The Iowa Pupil Transportation Board of Directors would like to Thank everyone that attended this years IPTA Conference and Tradeshow! You are all definitely the most valuable asset for the continuing improvement in students and staff safety on Iowa’s school buses. Have a safe and smooth 2022-2023 school year!
Day one of the IPTA 58th Annual School Transportation Conference and Trade-show began at 6:30 a.m., with our IPTA board members loading conference bags and setting up for registration.

The keynote speaker was Andy Masters and he captivated everyone with his program “Love what you do!”

Next up was Gene’ Henderson with the very serious program, “Marijuana and School Bus Drivers Don’t Mix”.

Marc Steel, with Hoglund Bus Company provided a nice overview pertaining to IC Electric school buses. In the afternoon session Karen Main held the very informative program, “Speak Up Workshop”

Lea Boggle, Primer Wireless held a three person panel discussion with (Lt-Rt) Max Christensen, DE, Tim Lyons, Benton CSD, and Nathan Beal, Storm Lake CSD on how to leverage technology to increase student safety.
Day two of the IPTA summer conference opened with Annual Board of Directors meeting and breakfast.

The 2022 IPTA Vendor Tradeshow with 41 exhibitors booths, with five full size school buses on display in the Holiday Inn Iowa Hall. Two of the school buses displayed were the new generation electric buses. It was an outstanding trade show with over 191 attendees spending time reviewing products and services available that could make improvements to their school transportation departments.
In the afternoon the Truck Center Companies with Nick Musto, Central Region District Manager, Thomas Built Buses, had an informative session providing an overview of the new Thomas Electric School Bus.

Max Christensen, Education Consultant, for the Iowa Department of Education presented the ever popular school bus hall of fame. In this program Max shows actual pictures of school bus deficiencies found by the Iowa School Bus Inspectors during the first and second half state wide inspections, keeping the school districts involved completely confidential. This session always shows good examples of deficiencies that no school bus mechanic wants to find on their communities school buses.

On Tuesday afternoon the afternoon break out programs (Picture 1) Dave Weyler, with the Truck Center Companies held a Thomas workshop. Doug Yager, Hoglund Bus Company (Picture 2) had a breakout session for IC bus, and Karen Main, (Picture 3) held a small group session for conference attendees to hone their communication skills. Lou Demario and Emily Budesheim, Tyler Technologies, (Picture 4) held an informative break out for the computerized school bus routing. As always the break out sessions were well attended and they provide a small group environment that encourages a great deal of in depth discussions.
**Day three** for the IPTA Conference began with Hoon Ge and the program, “Busting Biodiesel Myths.” Hoon broke down the myths in great detail with this informative session. (Hoon Ge is pictured with Lisa Coffelt, Iowa Renewable Fuels Association.)

Next up was Scott LeRette the author of the book, and soon to be released movie, “The Unbreakable Boy.” Carlos Guerra, IPTA Board President hosted this session and Scott took the conference attendees on his journey dealing with the emotions of addiction while raising a boy with autism and broken bone disorder. Scott just an average guy from Iowa shared his journey with honest and brutal candor. He received a standing ovation at the conclusion of his presentation. (Lt-Rt Chris Darling, Scott LeRette, Carlos Guerra)

Max Christensen, DE Education Consultant, and Chris Darling, IPTA Executive Director, spent a productive session reviewing data from the newly released DE survey.

It was an in-depth group discussion on what benefits districts have available to attract and hire new school bus drivers.
The last large group session of the day was a panel discussion lead by Megan Ellsworth, DMCC and Dan Roberts, Davis County CSD. Both Dan, Megan and their ELDT training teams provided attendees a good overview of what their ELDT Training programs included. They also talked about the differences between the community college program and having your own in-house community school program.

The 2022 IPTA conference ended with a very well attended New Directors Training Workshop.

Max Christensen and the Iowa DE Staff spend approximately four hours reviewing everything that new transportation directors need to know as it pertains to laws, rules, regulations and best practices.

The dates for next years IPTA Conference and Tradeshow will be July 17-19, 2023
IPTA 2022 Board Member Election Results

2022 Board of Directors Election Results: We have 3 returning board members, Carlos Guerra, Julie Nemmers, and Dan Walston, all were re-elected to the IPTA Board. Mary Jo Hetrick, Transportation Director at Bondurant-Farrar was elected to her first term on the board. Everyone here at the IPTA would like to welcome Mary Jo to the board and we are looking forward to working with her over the next three years.

Changes in our IPTA Board of Directors are natural transitions. We wish Randy Merrigan, our former IPTA board member and good friend, the best in whatever he chooses to do in the future. Randy “Thank you” for everything that you have done during your many years on the board of the Iowa Pupil Transportation Association, and for your continued support to the Sioux City CSD.

IPTA 2022 Conference Nightly Entertainment

This year on Monday night for the Hogland Bus Company Banquet we heard the amazing vocals of Bonne Finken.

On Tuesday evening the 3rd annual Cornhole tournament was held during the Truck Center Companies Thomas Family Barbecue. This year the Cornhole tournament was a double elimination event with 80 participants making up the 40 teams competing in the tournament victories. Congratulations to everyone that played and to the four teams that finished at the top of this fun event.

Life: What you believe, What you desire, What you have to do!