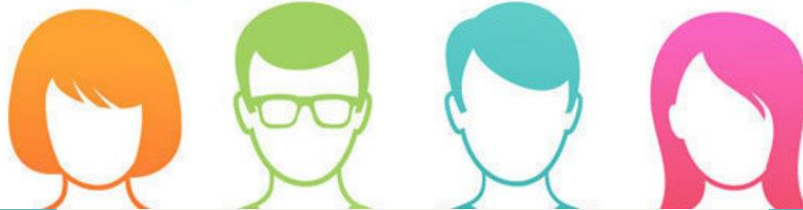


Something

AWESOME

is happening!



PSTA'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2019



Upcoming Events February

- Feb 01** **First Friday Food Truck**
Food Truck TBA • 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Feb 05** **Sam's Club**
Operators' Lounge • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Feb 07** **Florida Central Credit Union**
Operators' Lounge • 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Feb 15** **AFLAC**
Operators' Lounge • 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Feb 19** **Chair Massages**
Operators' Lounge • 4:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.
Admin 2nd Floor • 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.
- Feb 20** **Blood Drive**
Flag Poles • 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

**SAVE THE DATE: ROADEO & FAMILY FUN
DAY COMING SATURDAY MARCH 2ND!**

If you would like to meet with any of the representatives individually or in a different location, please contact **Sue Keim** at ext. 1856

We Love Our Employees!
Happy Valentine's Day



Presidents Day is an American holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February; Presidents Day 2019 occurs on Monday, February 18.

Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, the holiday became popularly known as Presidents Day after it was moved as part of 1971's Uniform Monday Holiday Act, an attempt to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers.

While several states still have individual holidays honoring the birthdays of Washington, Abraham Lincoln and other figures, Presidents Day is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents, past and present.

NOTE: PSTA'S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED.





Veterans Resource Group for PSTA Employees

Our goal is to provide veterans that are employed at PSTA and their families access to resources, services, community engagements and efforts.

We will also serve as a resource and service to those in need, creating job opportunities and recruiting veterans or assisting other veterans at PSTA.

**All PSTA military veteran employees
are welcome to participate**

CONTACT: Tom Heyob

Email: Theyob@psta.net

Phone: **727.417.8772**

 U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

STAND DOWN *for* HOMELESS VETERANS

Saturday, March 30, 2019
9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.
Veterans Courtyard
C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center

Services available for homeless
Veterans and those at risk include:
Medical Care
Employment Assistance
Hair Cuts
Housing Information
Breakfast and Lunch
Drivers License ID
Bike Raffles
And more...

A Stand Down Court will also be available! Veterans interested in
addressing minor legal concerns with the 6th Judicial Circuit Court will
have the opportunity to speak with experts to possibly
reduce or dismiss fines or legal fees!

PSTA will provide free bus transportation to all Veterans attending the
Stand Down. Show your VA ID and ride for FREE!



February is dedicated to honoring the achievements of African Americans. There have been many contributions by African-Americans throughout this country's history, including helping to shape transportation through inventions and actions.

- **Maya Angelou** has stated that she was the first female African American Street Car Conductor in San Francisco at the age of 16.
- **Charles Banks** invented the Hydraulic Jack which allows us to keep buses well maintained and safe.
- **Garrett Morgan** invented the first traffic signal in 1922 in Cleveland, Ohio. The signals were used throughout North America until the invention of the automatic red-yellow-green light signals.
- **Meredith Gourdine** invented the exhaust purification system for automobiles in 1967, now known as the Catalytic Converter, helping to keep our air clean.
- **Rosa Parks** refused to obey the bus driver who asked her to give up her seat for a white passenger, which helped spearhead the Civil Rights Movement.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



PSTA employees enjoyed the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Awards breakfast at the Coliseum.

PSTA participated in the MLK parade this year. Special thanks to all the volunteers!



CAREER DAY AT HOLY FAMILY PRESCHOOL



The Public Engagement Team, AJ Ortiz and daughter Raegan, age 4, participated in Transportation Week, showing the kids traffic signs, how to travel on a PSTA bus, and promoting safety awareness.

SAVE THE DATE



ROADEO
2019



SATURDAY

02 MAR 2019

9:00 AM

at the **PSTA Headquarters**
3201 Scherer Drive, St. Petersburg, FL

Come support our drivers and maintenance teams

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

(for judging and other activities)

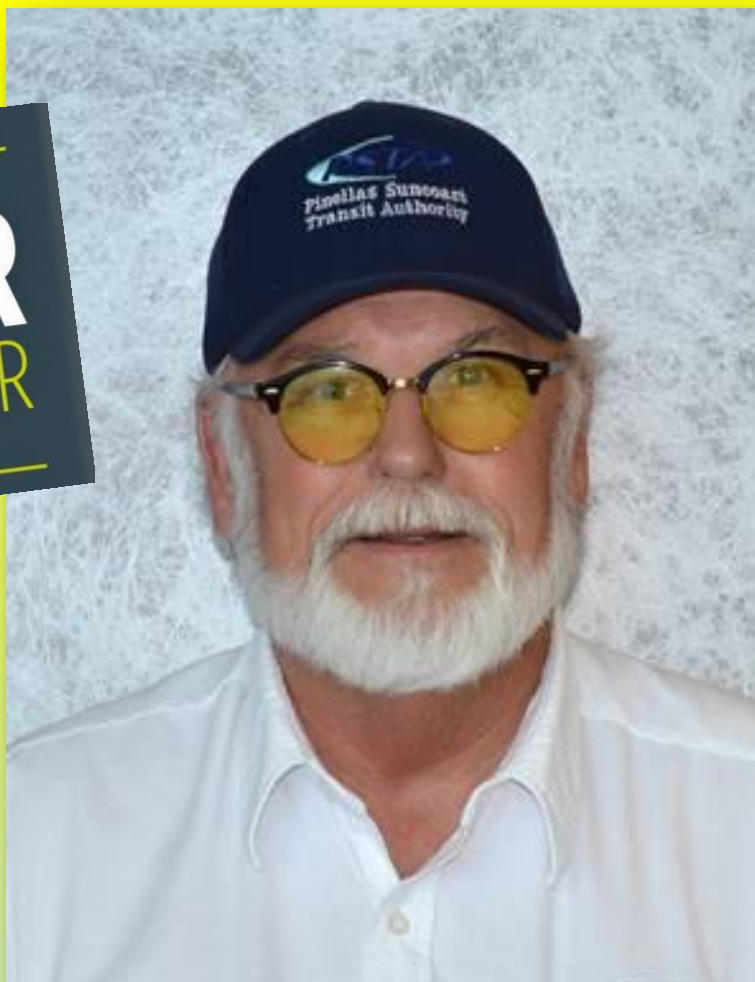
Contact Melissa Black **727.540.1854** or mblack@psta.net

**Come out, bring your family,
and have some fun!!! FREE
FOOD, GAMES, PRIZES, and
more!!!**

Let the good times roll!!!

CONGRATULATIONS TAB WARD!

DRIVER
OF THE YEAR



Mr. Tab Ward has been with PSTA since April of 1989. He has always exemplified professionalism and valor in everything he does. Mr. Ward has repeatedly gone above and beyond in his duties to personify the true spirit of PSTA, while always serving the public in a safe and courteous manner we should all be proud of. He has been a great mentor for many drivers and continues to not only perform at exceptional levels, but keeps a great attitude and high spirits that compel others to do the same.

Tab has been a husband for 33 years and a proud father to his three daughters, Gabrielle age 25, Madison age 22, and Sophia age 20. He enjoys Drag Racing and attends The Gator Nationals every year. Tab also likes Rugby and Hockey and roots for The Tampa Bay Lightning. When he is not driving a bus, you may also find him working on his friends dragster.

PSTA is proud to have Tab as a part of our family and hopes great success in his future!

EMPLOYEE PROMOTIONS

- ❖ NEW Interim Transportation Supervisors:
 - Lulzim Sherimeti
 - Aaron Merck
 - Jeff Sink
- ❖ Jason Langmeyer - promoted to Risk Manager



We had 60 employees from all over the organization to participate in the Employee Focus Groups as a follow-up to the Employee Surveys. We should receive the results later this month!

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

**THANK
YOU!**

KUDOS TO YOU!

Kudos to the following AWESOME employees who recently received commendations from our customers! Thank you for the efforts you have made and for going above and beyond. Your attitude and actions will make customers come back to use our service and feel that our service is worthwhile. YOU make the difference!

- Andrew Andrzejczuk
- Robert Arnold
- Aarion Battle
- Annette Braithwaite
- William Butler
- Donna Cameron
- Arthur Corley
- Richard Davenport
- Robert Davis
- Valerie Grain
- Ronald Hays
- Ashia Holmes
- Dobie McCaskill
- John Mooney
- Doug Oakley
- Arron Plumb
- Zelda Robinson
- Kris Villanova
- Judy Watson
- Michael Whitehead

Great Job!

SAFE DRIVER AWARDS

December **2018**

SAFETY,
OUR
#1 **PRIORITY**

| OPERATOR NAME | DATE EARNED | NUMBER OF YEARS AWARDED | TYPE OF AWARD |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| RAYMOND THORNTON | 12/14/2018 | 24 | Pin |
| CHARLES HUBBARD | 12/20/2018 | 19 | Pin |
| PATRICIA SHINGLES DAVIS | 12/3/2018 | 19 | Pin |
| CARLOS QUILES | 12/25/2018 | 13 | Pin |
| PATRICK FOSTER | 12/27/2018 | 13 | Pin |
| MICHAEL MINER | 12/11/2018 | 12 | Pin |
| MELISSA MURRAY | 12/11/2018 | 12 | Pin |
| TOM LOWERY | 12/25/2018 | 12 | Pin |
| MATTHEW H HARPER | 12/8/2018 | 12 | Pin |
| JOSE DEINE | 12/17/2018 | 11 | Pin |
| BRUCE MORAN | 12/17/2018 | 11 | Pin |
| KEITH RALSTON | 12/7/2018 | 10 | Pin, Safe Driver Patch, Certificate |
| JAMES SHARP | 12/7/2018 | 10 | Pin, Safe Driver Patch, Certificate |
| DEBORAH POUNTNEY | 12/12/2018 | 9 | Pin |
| JOSE SANTIAGO | 12/2/2018 | 9 | Pin |
| KEVIN M SABLAN | 12/7/2018 | 9 | Pin |
| JOSEPH CALARCO | 12/17/2018 | 9 | Pin |
| JAILAL PUCHOON | 12/20/2018 | 9 | Pin |
| DALE STEFANSKI | 12/17/2018 | 9 | Pin |
| BRADLEY T BARBOUR | 12/7/2018 | 9 | Pin |
| BRIAN C VAUGHAN | 12/7/2018 | 9 | Pin |
| JASON MANCUSO | 12/7/2018 | 8 | Pin |
| MICHAEL SLAWSKI | 12/26/2018 | 8 | Pin |
| ALARIC V. REVELS | 12/12/2018 | 7 | Pin |
| JAMES T. SCHMAL | 12/12/2018 | 7 | Pin |
| JUDY A WATSON | 12/5/2018 | 5 | Pin, Safe Driver Patch, Certificate |
| NATAGNADE NELSON | 12/28/2018 | 4 | Pin |
| DOBIE MC CASKILL | 12/7/2018 | 2 | Pin |
| TATASHA N LINDSAY | 12/18/2018 | 1 | Pin, Certificate |
| ERIC R TAYLOR | 12/10/2018 | 1 | Pin, Certificate |
| SANPORTA BROWN | 12/24/2018 | 1 | Pin, Certificate |



NEW EMPLOYEES

The following bus operator student trainees will be promoted to full time operators effective Sunday February 24, 2019:

- ▶ Jean Vil
- ▶ Ron Colon
- ▶ Julio Castro
- ▶ Gena Barina
- ▶ Andreana Bell
- ▶ Julia Meadows
- ▶ Calvin Davis
- ▶ Daniel Lemay
- ▶ Marquis Sutton
- ▶ Alan Harris
- ▶ Joelyn Murphy



LISTEN TO THE DOCTOR

by **Bill O'Connell, Superintendent of Transportation**

They may not always be right but they are always looking out for your best interest. We don't always want to follow their advice and we sometimes want to find reasons to ignore it but trust me, there are reasons that preventative checkups are recommended by the healthcare professionals.

Personally I heard many stories from friends and coworkers of how they went to have a colonoscopy and had to pay hundreds (if not more) of dollars for this procedure that was classified as preventative. Because of these horror stories, I ignored the fact that my doctor would remind me to have it done year after year. I figured that there was no history of problems in my family so therefore everything would be fine. Then along came 2018, a year that will never be forgotten in my lifetime.

I have never had any major medical problems and have never come close to meeting my health insurance deductibles; however in March 2018 I had to be admitted to the hospital to receive IV antibiotics after being bitten by a bug and getting a staph infection. This was the first time that I had ever come close to reaching my out of pocket max for the year and this is where my life changed forever. It was at this point that as the year was coming to an end for our insurance coverage, I decided to schedule a colonoscopy knowing that it could only cost a couple hundred dollars before I reached the max.

Well I had the colonoscopy and SURPRISE, I was told that I had Colon Cancer. My world had just been turned upside down. After seeing a surgeon and then following up with a second opinion, I went to Moffitt Cancer Center and underwent a 9 Hour surgical procedure where they removed a golf ball sized tumor and approximately 1/3 of my colon including 23 lymph nodes. I spent 4 days in the hospital and several weeks at home recovering and am truly blessed to say that I was the lucky one. I did not have to undergo any type of radiation or chemotherapy treatments and all of the tissue that was removed shows no further signs of Cancer.

I am sharing this story with the hopes that everyone takes the time to pay attention to their Doctors and trust that they are looking out for your best interests. Take advantage of all of the preventative procedures that are available through your insurance and last but not least pay attention to your health.

HEALTHY TIPS



Add a fruit or vegetable to each meal today.

Drink more water. (Try infused water)

Drink one less soda or caffeinated beverage.

Move for 15 minutes.

Show gratitude to 2 people.

Take 100 steps outside.

Upgrades to PSTA's Fitness Center

Check out the new elliptical, agility ladder, and resistance bands in the wellness center. Employees can join for just \$5 per month. Be lean and mean in 2019. Cheers to good health!

LOVE YOUR HEART

- Get active
- Eat well
- Control cholesterol
- Manage blood pressure
- Reduce blood sugar
- Lose weight
- Quit smoking



AMERICAN HEART MONTH



NEW Performance Innovation Teams have launched!



Teams have formed made up of employees from all over the agency to discuss and submit ideas on how PSTA can improve performance in the following strategic areas: Community Support, Financial Stability, Customer Satisfaction, Employee Engagement, and Commitment to Performance.

Introducing Leadership PSTA Class of 2019!

Congratulations to these high-potential employees who have been selected to participate in PSTA's premier 10-month leadership development program.



Angeli Baker - Finance
Bonnie Epstein - Planning
Kessia Eugene - Maintenance
Mark Knight - Project Management
Mia Kabigting - Marketing
Terri Evard - Transportation

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to our newest Transit Planner, Amna Parson! Amna recently graduated from the University of South Florida with a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning. Way to go, Amna!

If you're interested in going back to school, please inquire about our NEW Driving to Success Degree Achievement Program! Contact Tamika White in HR at 727-540-1850 or twhite@psta.net for more information!



At Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, we strive to provide a work environment that promotes a values-driven, high performance culture, offers versatile careers across the organization, and encourages diversity, transformation, and innovation. PSTA University focuses on building a resilient, sustainable organization of the future by delivering a wide range of progressive training and organizational development initiatives.

Here are some of the Professional Development Opportunities PSTA offers its employees:

- Leadership development programs
- Internships, apprenticeships, and interim programs
- Degree Achievement Program (Tuition reimbursement)
- Special cross-functional team projects
- Certifications
- In-house and outside training workshops
- Mentoring
- Career coaching
- Industry conferences
- Formal presentation opportunities
- Active participation in community and civic affairs

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UPDATES

by Abhishek Dayal, Director of Project Management Office

The Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project is a rapid transit connection between the downtown St. Petersburg and the cities of South Pasadena and St. Pete Beach to the Don Cesar Hotel. The project will be funded through a combination of federal, State, local and PSTA funds. This will be the first project in the Tampa Bay Region to ever advance in the highly competitive federal Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program for federal funding.

The project will feature Business Access and Transit (BAT) Lanes designed to be a semi-exclusive lane for buses using the corridor. Stations will be designed every mile with a raised platform to allow for level boarding.

The project is managed by the Project Management Office with assistance from several departments including Transportation, Maintenance, Planning and Marketing. PSTA has completed 30% of the design for this project. Design is anticipated to be completed by Fall 2019 with construction to begin late Fall 2019. The project is scheduled to open for revenue service by late 2020/early 2021.



CENTRAL AVENUE CORRIDOR BUS RAPID TRANSIT

The **goals of the Central Avenue BRT** project:

- Develop and implement successful BRT service that supports local revitalization and economic development plans
- Supports tourism with a fast, convenient transportation alternative between two of Pinellas' major tourist centers
- Attracts new ridership
- Supports the unique character of the area
- Provides service in a cost-effective manner

Come out and learn more!

OPEN HOUSES



- **February 16, 2019**
- Saturday at 10 AM
- 6315 Central Ave, St Petersburg

- **February 20, 2019**
- Wednesday at 6 PM
- St. Petersburg College (SPC) -
Downtown



It's Spring Break Time!

For the third year in a row, PSTA is partnering with the City of Clearwater and Jolley Trolley to bring enhanced service to Clearwater Beach for Spring Break. Riders will be able to park for free in the public lot at 112 S Osceola Ave (where city hall used to be), and board the trolley heading to the beach for free. For the return trip, they can board free at Clearwater Beach Transit Center, or a new stop being built in the northwest corner of the Clearwater Marina parking lot (this is the preferred return boarding location). The promotion will run from March 1 through April 29, with service every 30 minutes until 10 p.m. on weekdays and every 15 minutes until midnight on Friday/Saturday/Sunday.

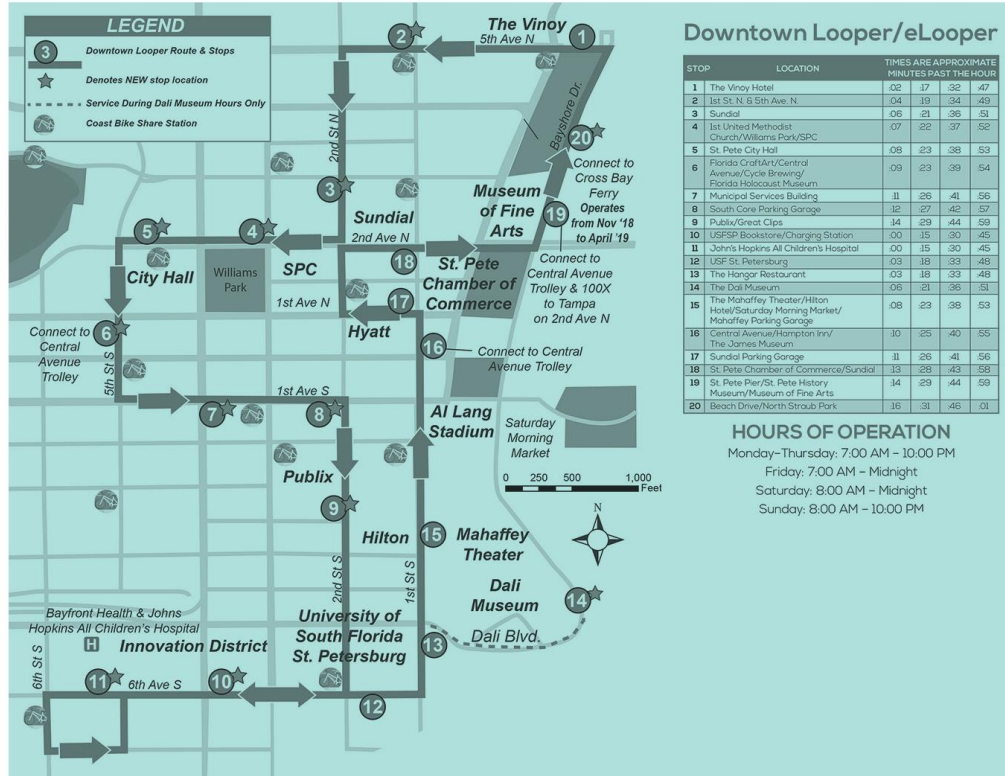
Bold wayfinding signs point the way to the free parking lot, so we anticipate many people will get the opportunity to use public transit during this very busy traffic season. In previous years we've heard from riders that they really enjoy the trolleys and the whole beach experience thanks to this Park & Ride. We'll be doing some social media contests and promotions throughout the service period and invite you to please share the content on your own social media pages (sorry, employees aren't eligible to win).

More info about the Spring Break service, including maps and schedules, is available at www.PSTA.net/springbreak.



THE GREEN WAY TO GET AROUND DOWNTOWN

Downtown St. Petersburg is a cultural hub that is booming with culinary experiences, shops, museums and more! The best way to enjoy this hot spot, car-free, is to catch a ride on PSTA's downtown Loper. The Loper's **15-minute service** runs around downtown St. Petersburg seven days a week, and is always **free of charge**.



ZERO EMISSION
100% ELECTRIC BUS

DOWNTOWN
Looper

DUNEDIN BLUE JAYS PARK & RIDE



PROMOTION DETAILS: This free Park & Ride service is brought to you in partnership by PSTA and the City of Dunedin. Baseball fans and spectators are encouraged to park their cars at a free parking lot in downtown Dunedin and ride a trolley to the Florida Auto Exchange Stadium. The service is free for game-day ticket holders and will run hourly during all regular games. For premium games, the service will run every thirty minutes for one hour before the game starts and one hour after the game has ended.

PROMOTION DATES & TIMES: The promotion will run during all Blue Jay's games from February 23 through March 25.

8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday

8:30 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday

PARK & RIDE LOT: This Park & Ride lot is located in downtown Dunedin: Entrance at the intersection of Skinner Blvd & Milwaukee Ave.

Rider Notice: The Dunedin Blue Jay's Park & Ride is served by all of the Jolley Trolley routes. Riders can pick-up the trolley at any stop along the route and ride for free by showing their game-day ticket.

GET INVOLVED ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

by Maryanne Sobocinski, Administrative Assistant Planning, TRAC Coordinator

Greetings PSTA Staffers! I am sharing a work habit that helps promote PSTA on social media sites. More than two-thirds of Americans find their news from social media sites. Each day, I look for PSTA promotions, events, noteworthy accomplishments and interesting transit related news to share on Social Media. All it takes is a photo, a tag line, a copy of PSTA approved promotional brochure or ad, and sharing it with @RidePSTA, transit partners, agencies or municipalities involved such as @ForwardPinellas or @FDOTDistrict7 and tag PSTA staff!

It's simple. Try it. Share news. Get involved and help promote PSTA to riders and non-riders on a daily or weekly basis. Stay tuned for more fun ways to promote #moderntransit, #mobility, #regionaltransit, and all things PSTA!



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Valentine's Day Heart Sugar Cookies



12 servings
273 calories

Ingredients

1/2 pound butter, softened
2 1/2 cups sifted all-purpose flour,
1 cup sifted confectioners' sugar, 1 tablespoon milk, 1 teaspoon
vanilla extract

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (170 degrees C).
2. Mix butter in a mixer until light, add remaining ingredients.
3. Knead until velvety.
4. Roll one-half of the dough at a time to about 1/4 inch thickness using the smallest amount of flour possible.
5. Cut out and bake on a lightly greased pan for 12 minutes. Cookies will be almost white when cooked.



- We're starting a PSTA employee newsletter and we need your help!
- We're looking for cool pics, catchy taglines, and limited text.
- Tell us about your projects, programs, milestones, and successes.
- Let us know about awards, events, and other special interest stories.
- Co-Worker Kudos, Shout-Outs, Commendations, and Employee Spotlights.
- Please send high resolution photos with your articles.
- Send your articles and photos to Tamika White at twhite@psta.net.
- All submissions are subject to editing for brevity, appropriate language, and relevance.

Cool ideas for the newsletter? Please contact your Newsletter Committee: Tamika White, Juan Luvian, Nicole Dufva, and Shelbie Harris.





That's all Folks!