



Something

AWESOME

is happening!



PSTA's EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3

APRIL 2019



Upcoming Events

April

Apr 5

First Friday Food Truck - To be announced
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Apr 16

Massages
Operator's Lounge • 4:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.
Admin 2nd Floor Breakroom • 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Apr 17

AFLAC
Maintenance Break Room
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Apr 23

Blood Drive
Operators' Lounge
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Apr 27

SportsFest
Sirata Beach Resort
St Pete Beach
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



PSTA

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to all of our April babies!



PSTA's Guiding Principles

We operate with honest and transparent **communication**

We invite robust debate and **listen** to each other's ideas

We take personal responsibility to design **customer-focused** solutions and own the results

We **innovate** and drive **reliability, quality, and efficiency**

We actively engage in **professional development** and take initiative

Surviving Spring Allergies

Use these tips to manage spring allergy symptoms.

Cool Wisely



Use an air conditioner



Do not use window or attic fans



Avoid humidifiers and swamp coolers (possible molds)

Clean Up



Use a saline nasal wash



Change clothes and wash or shower away pollen

Block Wind



Use a scarf or mask on windy days



Weeds – late summer



Trees – early spring



Grasses – late spring, early summer



Molds – midsummer in warmer states, year-round in southern/western states

Garden Carefully



Avoid exposure to fertilizers and pesticides



Stay away from piles of leaves and branches (possible molds)



Do not mow the lawn (have someone mow it for you)



Keep home doors and windows and car windows closed during pollen season (especially when pollen counts are high)

Count Pollens



Stay inside during afternoons and evenings when pollen levels are highest

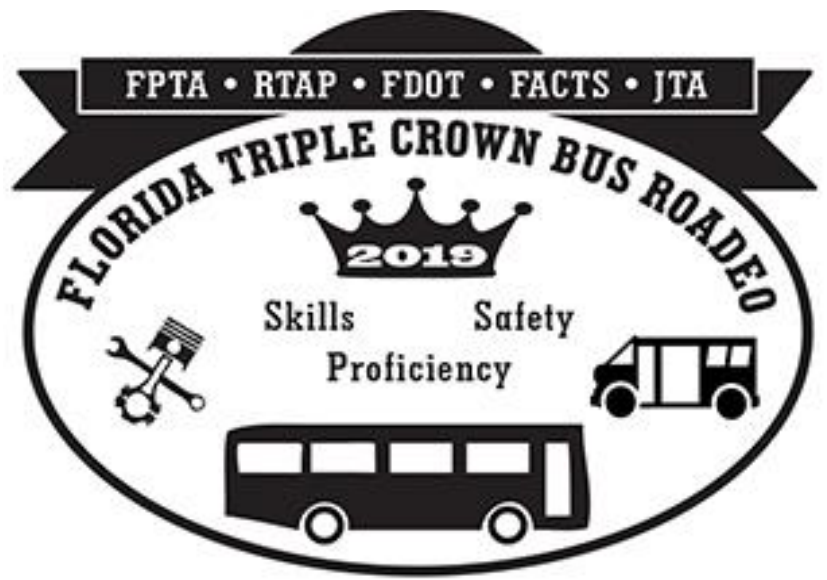
Take Medication



Consistently take doctor-recommended medicines and treatments

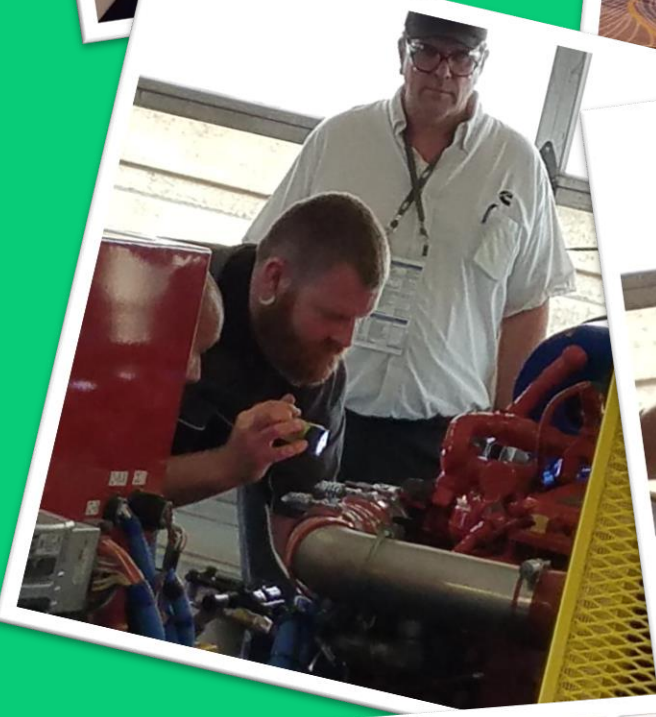


Submitted by Jeff Thompson, Director of Transportation and Rocky Macaluso, Superintendent of Maintenance Training & Technical Services



- April 6, 2019 the State Bus Roadeo and Maintenance Competition was held at JTA in Jacksonville, Florida.
- The PSTA Maintenance Team had an excellent showing, placing 3rd in the Overall Competition. The team of Tyler Johnson, Bobby Farris, and Paul Levesque have been competing together as a team for 2 years now and are showing improvement in the competition every year. Great job team!
- Our Operator Nehemia Guerra placed 7th in the operator competition out of 16 operators from around Florida. This was his second year at the state level and the driver competition was won by the Jacksonville Operator.
- Please join us in congratulating our Roadeo participants for their fine representation of PSTA at a high level of competition in the State Roadeo!





WE ARE SO
Proud
OF YOU



DRIVER OF THE QUARTER

JANUARY - MARCH 2019

Please congratulate **Jane Buckley** for having achieved the honor of Driver of The Quarter for her outstanding service and performance to PSTA.

Jane has been with PSTA since 1996 and has always shown a professional and positive attitude, proudly serving our customers with a smile. She exemplifies the true spirit of PSTA while always being safe and courteous.

Jane is a proud mother of two, who always adores spending time with her granddaughter. She is a devoted sports fan who loves to laugh and enjoy life.

We are proud to have her as part of our team!

A graphic featuring the word "Congratulations!" in a large, white, 3D-style font. The text is surrounded by a dense field of small, multi-colored confetti dots in shades of red, blue, yellow, and purple. The entire graphic is enclosed in a green rectangular border.

Congratulations!

YOU ARE AWESOME

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Emma DeJesus on her promotion to Lead Mobility Customer Service Administrator. Way to go!



Best wishes to Bonnie Epstein, Sr. Transit Planner, on her acceptance to APTA's Emerging Leaders Program 2020! Bonnie will participate in a 12-month long program which includes a variety of skill building workshops, round table sessions, online collaboration and unique access to the industry's leaders through a national mentoring program.

Kudos

CUSTOMER COMMENDATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

BUS OPERATORS

ISAIAH ABRAM

JANE BUCKLEY

JOSEPH CALARCO

ALEJANDRO CASTRO

SONNY CHENG

JESSICA COSME

KAD FEGGOUS

IRISH HENDERSON

ASHIA HOLMES

CYNTHIA HOLSTON

JUANITA JOHNSON

STACEY JOHNSON

DONALD KING

VICTOR MANLEY

JULIA MEADOWS

KATRINA NEELEY

JOHN PIMENTEL

ARRON PLUMB

BRUCE ROBB

RUTH ROBERSON

WAYNE SMITH

TERRY WHITE

KIMBERLY WILLIAMS





Kudos

***COMMENDATIONS FOR
EXCELLENT PRE-TRIPS
DURING TSA/DOHS EXERCISE***

BUS OPERATORS

DAVID RONDEAU

CLARENCE KNIGHT

MICHAEL THOMAS

KEVIN LESTER

RUTH ROBERSON

LAKETA YOUNG

GLORIA FAISON

JOE KEY

MELISSA MURRAY

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!

SAFE DRIVER AWARDS

FEBRUARY 2019



OPERATOR NAME	DATE EARNED	NUMBER OF YEARS AWARDED	TYPE OF AWARD
Willie L Beckett	2/27/2019	20	Pin, Certificate, Shoulder Patch
Abdelkader Feggous	2/23/2019	18	Pin
Donavan Francis	2/26/2019	13	Pin
Ronald Levins	2/26/2019	12	Pin
Norris Varkalhoff	2/1/2019	12	Pin
Robert L Law Jr	2/17/2019	10	Pin, Certificate, Shoulder Patch
Arron D Plumb	2/22/2019	9	Pin
Keith D Morton	2/22/2019	9	Pin
Jessica C Cosme	2/22/2019	8	Pin
Andrea Daly	2/6/2019	5	Pin, Certificate, Shoulder Patch
Daniel J Mello	2/1/2019	3	Pin, Certificate, Shoulder Patch
Lulzim Sheremeti	2/1/2019	3	Pin, Certificate, Shoulder Patch
Yonnette E Taylor	2/9/2019	2	Pin

**KEEP UP THE
GREAT WORK!**



WELCOME

NEW BUS OPERATORS!



Maruf Mizan

Stan Miranda

Joe Vieira

Michael Ledesma

Solomon Jelks

Arron Curry

Alex Reynolds

T'Naisha Ward

MJ Sayce

Jason Miele

Keith Clark

Elsa Velez

Andy Him

Katherine Yates Champion



TO OUR NEW STAFF!

New Finance Dept employees:

- Sue Chiu, Senior Accountant
- Kerry Dudley, Accountant



PSTA has launched a new employee-led ideas program, called Performance Innovation Teams. These creative and hard-working teams delivered their first presentations to Executive Leadership on Friday 3/29, sharing new ideas to help us improve in many important ways!



Community Support Team, focusing on recycling efforts:

- **Gabrielle Donaldson**, Transportation Operations
- **Jacob Labutka**, Planning
- **Kimberly Leggett**, Transportation Operations
- **Tom Heyob**, Transportation Operations
- **Barbara Irizarry**, Transportation Operations

Employee Engagement Team, focusing on an improved employee suggestion program:

- **Elizabeth Green**, Transportation Operations
- **Sue Laughlin**, Finance
- **Juan Luvian**, Planning
- **Diane Randall**, Finance

Financial Stability Team, focusing on making bus boarding easier:

- **Bonnie Epstein**, Planning
- **Dan Dumond**, Transportation Operations
- **Oakie O'Hara**, Transportation Operations
- **Terence Selover**, Transportation Operations

Commitment to Performance Team, focusing on reducing passenger injuries:

- **Jackie Gamble**, Transportation Operations
- **Anne Cheevers**, Transportation Operations
- **Gloria Faison**, Transportation Operations
- **Heather Sobush**, Planning
- **Nicole Dufva**, Planning

Customer Satisfaction Team, focusing on internal information flow:

- **Amna Parson**, Planning
- **Edith Randle**, Marketing
- **Sherry Schiavone**, Transportation Operations
- **Yvonne Rembert**, Customer Service



Thank you to all these employees who stepped up to help bring new ideas to life. Watch for more news as they move forward with their projects!

Submitted by Trish Collins, Director of HR



PSTA received Silver-level recognition in the APTA Sustainability Commitment!

Submitted by Jacob Labutka, Transit Planner

The APTA Sustainability Commitment recognizes members who commit to becoming more sustainable in their operations and practices.

Through a series of core sustainability principles, the Commitment provides both agency and business members with a common framework that helps define, initiate, and advance sustainability in the public transportation industry.

These principles include:

1. Making sustainability a part of your organization's strategic objectives
2. Identifying a sustainability champion within the organization coupled with the proper human and/or financial resources and mandates
3. Establishing an employee outreach program that engages staff on: how they can help realize the organization's sustainability goals the organization's progress in meeting those goals
4. Undertaking a sustainability inventory of your organization
5. Provide the transit industry with products and services that contribute to sustainability (*for business members/non-operators*)





Submitted by James Bradford,
Chief Operating Officer

Hey PSTA'ers and to this year's Sportsfest Team –

First and foremost, thank you for your support! By last week's deadline, we had a record setting number of participants sign up – a lot of new faces, should be an excellent event this year! Additionally, I have five (5) competitive spots still available for any late-comers who may still be interested in competing on **Team PSTA**, just reach out to James Bradford.

Again, all others are welcome to come on down as observers and to cheer on the team – it's **Saturday, April 27th** on the beach behind the **Sirata Beach Resort**. Competition begins promptly at **9AM** for Volleyball, Tug-of-War, Surf 'N' Turf, Dodgeball, and the Corn Toss.

Here's the upcoming PSTA practice schedule between now and 4/27:

- **Monday, April 15th from 4PM until 5PM** (behind the Admin Bldg/ All are welcome/ Sneakers and Workout clothes only)
 - Group Stretch
 - Volleyball Return and Set Drills
 - Tug-of-War Technique and Strategy
- **Thursday, April 18th from 4PM until 5PM** (behind the Admin Bldg/ All are welcome/ Sneakers and Workout clothes only)
 - Group Stretch
 - Volleyball Set and Serve Drills
 - Tug-of-War Technique and Strategy
 - Dodgeball Strategy
- **Tuesday, April 23rd from 4PM until 5PM** (behind the Admin Bldg/ All are welcome/ Sneakers and Workout clothes only)
 - Group Stretch
 - Dodgeball Scrimmage
 - Volleyball Scrimmage
- **Thursday, April 25th from 4PM until 5PM** (behind the Admin Bldg/ All are welcome/ Sneakers and Workout clothes only)
 - Group Meet-Up Plan and Competition Rules Review
 - Group Stretch
 - Volleyball Scrimmage
 - Tug-of-War Scrimmage



VA Stand Down Update

Submitted by Kimberly Leggett,
Mobility Analyst



- The Annual VA Stand down Event on March 30, 2019 was held at the Veterans Administration Campus. PSTA provides free transportation to and from the event for Pinellas County residents. A new 50 ft PSTA hybrid bus was also there for demonstration.
- In addition to ensuring full service transportation needs, Kim Leggett was there for the Transportation Disadvantaged program, giving status updates on eligibility, prequalifying veterans for the program, selling transportation disadvantaged tickets, assisting with filling out applications and answering questions regarding the program.
- Approximately 350 veterans attended the event. Some of the vendors included Congressman Charlie Christ and Team, Boley Centers, Inc. (HVRP), Stetson University Veterans Law Institute, Supervisor of Elections, Home Depot, Daystar, and a number of Veterans Organizations such as Disabled American Veterans (DAV) & Auxiliary (DAVA and the Knights of Columbus Council. Services provided included hair grooming, foot washing, personal survival kits and blankets were given to every veteran. This year, there was a celebrity, Miss Veteran America 2018, was there!
- Special thanks to all the PSTA volunteers this year: Bob Lasher, PSTA All-Star Veterans that served in the Armed Forces: Al Burns, Craig Daniels, Lisa Nooner and Tom Heyob!





2019 Spring Break

Park & Ride FREE

March 1 through April 30, 2019

Looking for something to do this weekend?

**Come check out the Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival –
and get there on the
PSTA Suncoast Beach Trolley!**

- We are running a FREE Park & Ride Service to get you to the beach hassle free!
- Effective March 1 through April 30, 2019:
- Park FREE at City Hall
- Board FREE at City Hall, Clearwater Beach Transit Center, and the Marina
- PSTA Beach Trolley and Jolley Trolley will run approximately every 15 minutes
- Monday - Thursday • 10am - 10pm
- Friday, Saturday & Sunday • 10am – Midnight

PIER 60

SUGAR SAND FESTIVAL

Presented by



ST. PETE CLEARWATER

Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival is a seventeen-day beach-wide celebration that pays tribute to Tampa Bay's two most valuable assets: our sugar sands and our sunsets!

Head to the beach and enjoy FREE activities for all ages, including a children's play area, street performers, artisans and crafters, live entertainment, fireworks, sand sculpting classes, speed sand demonstrations, and the master sand sculpting competition.

The showcase of the Sugar Sand Festival is the main attraction — The Sugar Sand Walk Exhibit. This ticketed exhibit can only be seen once a year, and no two years are alike. Stroll through a 21,000 square-foot tent filled with sand-sculpted art crafted by world-class sculptors using Clearwater's internationally famous sugar sand. These aren't sandcastles — they're premiere works of art. Don't forget your camera!

What You Can Bring (and What You Should Leave at Home):

- Permitted: Blankets, Low lying beach chairs
- Not Permitted:
 - Coolers
 - Pets – only service animals are permitted
 - Grills, hibachis, or open flames of any kind
 - Glass containers or bottles
 - Unauthorized vendors or solicitors
 - Tents, canopies or umbrellas
 - Firearms, unless otherwise permitted by Florida Statute, Chapter 790 (2011)
 - Knives or weapons of any kind
 - Fireworks or laser pointers

Please leave the beach as beautiful as you found it!

PIER 60

SUGAR SAND FESTIVAL

Presented by



ST. PETE CLEARWATER

FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

Beach Concerts: Come celebrate the sunset and enjoy free live music on Clearwater Beach! It's a dance party in the sand!

Buskers: Street performing or busking is a live entertainment unlike any other. A street show draws its substance from its audience as many shows incorporate their acts around the actions of those watching the show. What makes busking even more unique is the fact that the audience decides the worth of the performance. There is never an admission fee and no tickets are sold.

Fireworks: SATURDAYS 4/13, 4/20, 4/27 @ 9PM: Come see the night light up on Clearwater Beach with free fireworks! Bring a beach blanket or a low lying lawn chair to see a dynamite Fireworks display. You'll have a blast!

Sugar Sand Cornhole Tournament: SATURDAY 4/13 at 10AM: Join us for some fun in the sand with a cold MONSTER in your hand!!

Sand Sculpting Classes: 2PM Daily, Saturdays 11AM & 2PM: Free Sugar Sand Sculpting Classes allow our guests a chance to create their own sand masterpiece. Workshops will be held beachside daily and carving tools will be supplied.

Speed Sand Demonstrations: Saturdays & Sundays at 4PM: Watch the Pros compete against one another, in this free, fast paced, interactive live show!

The Giant Sandbox: One of the most popular free attractions for kids and families! Parents can relax underneath an umbrella while the children dig, climb, and play on mounds of Sugar Sand Piles!

Master Sand Sculpting Competition: The Master Sand Sculpting Competition takes place inside the Sugar Sand Walk Exhibit. Seven master sculptors will create their own artistic piece in addition to the main sculptures. This is a rare chance for visitors to watch the art of sand sculpting in action!

Photo Opportunity: Each adult and senior Sugar Sand Walk Exhibit ticket includes a complimentary photo! Visit the College Wall Art Photo Stop to pick up your complimentary photo and purchase the 2019 Sugar Sand Festival personalized photo book or personalized photo canvas. Enjoy our gallery of Clearwater Beach wall art and College Wall Art licensed photo canvas, photo wood and dimensional wall art products.

Movies on the Beach: Join us for Sunset Cinema our FREE outdoor movie theater under the stars. Sunset Cinema is great for family outings, date night, or just to get together with friends! Bring a blanket or low lying lawn chair! Popcorn and concessions available on-site. Movies begin at dusk.

WE HAVE NEW LX SIGNS!



**No more slowing down to look for
the stops**

Let us know what you think!

Do they work for you?

**Would you change anything about
them?**

Email Nicole or Juan your thoughts!

Ndufva@psta.net

Jluvian@psta.net



DISCOVER THE HEALTHY DIFFERENCE

2019 EMPLOYEE HEALTH SCREENINGS

DATES	TIMES
May 7th	7am – 11am
May 8th	3pm – 7pm
May 9th	1pm – 5pm

LOCATION

Board Room –
1st Floor Admin Lobby



Each employee that completes a screening and fills out their online health assessment can receive a maximum of \$40 in gift cards.

Interactive Health will be providing the on-site screenings for blood pressure, BMI, glucose and cholesterol. It is recommended that fasting occur two hours prior to screenings, however it is not mandatory. Drinking water is allowed.

To make an appointment:

Email: benefits@psta.net
Or call: (727) 540-1987

Computers will be set up in the computer lab for online completion of the Health Risk Assessment.

For more information, please contact The Benefits Team at (727) 540-1987.

PSTA IS LOOKING FORWARD TO A HEALTHY 2019!

Your results are 100% confidential—they will not be shared with anyone at PSTA.

Please bring your Cigna insurance card or have it available on the app for registration.



Benefits of Gardening

Source: www.sound-mind.org

Gardening reduces stress through exposure to nature. Exposure to sunlight has been shown to increase serotonin in the brain. Serotonin is responsible for keeping our brain balanced and us feeling good. Not only does sunlight increase serotonin but it also increases melatonin, which is the chemical in our brains responsible for inducing sleep.

Fresh air is full of oxygen and it provides health to the cells in our bodies. Fresh air can help us feel more energized and even help us sleep better at night. Being outside in the fresh air promotes a sense of well-being and good mental focus.

Nature sounds like birds singing, waterfalls, bubbling brooks, rustling trees blowing in the wind all help to bring us into balance. The sounds found in nature help us to get outside of our heads and appreciate the earth and all it has to offer. These sounds help bring us into the present moment of the here and now.

Gardening reduces stress through mental focus & meditation. Through deliberate mental focus and meditating on the actions of gardening, you are taking time to set aside your problems for a while. We all know it's healthy to take a break from our stressors and gardening provides that outlet for a lot of people.

Gardening reduces stress through personal creativity. When we are creative in gardening, we reap the benefits of the end result. Depending on what you are gardening will determine your reward. For example, a vegetable garden rewards us with vegetables...a flower garden rewards us with flowers...an herb garden rewards us with herbs. Whatever you sow, you will reap. This is an exciting and rewarding stress management activity.

Pictured here:
beautiful flowers
from Planning
Administrative
Assistant, Maryanne
Sobocinski's, garden!



Call for Newsletter Submissions...



Please send us your stories!!!

SOMETHING AWESOME IS HAPPENING AT PSTA - PLEASE TELL US ALL ABOUT IT! ☺

- 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.



Thank You