

**Something**

**AWESOME**

**is happening!**



**PSTA'S EMPLOYEE  
NEWSLETTER**

**ISSUE 6**

**JULY 2019**

# 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.

**ONE  
TEAM  
ONE  
MISSION**

# 2019 PSTA EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

We encourage everyone to participate in the upcoming anonymous employee survey for a better understanding of engagement in our organization

JULY 29 THROUGH AUGUST 16



Help us

# DRIVE CHANGE

at PSTA



COMPLETE the survey and get a \$5



and you will be entered into drawings for a **DAY OFF!**

1. Check your email or mailbox for your letter from CPS HR.
2. Go online to access the employee survey.
3. Enter the link and password provided to take the survey (10-15 minutes).
4. Print or use your phone to take a picture of the "Thanks for completing the survey" message.
5. Show your proof of completion to a volunteer or HR staff to receive your \$5 Wal-Mart gift card and be entered into the day off drawing.

The **more employees** we have to complete the survey, the **more winners** we have for a free day off!

25% = 2  
winners



50% = 4  
winners



75% = 6  
winners



100% = 8  
winners

**YOUR  
FEEDBACK  
MATTERS!**



## EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT 2018-2019

Based on your feedback from last year's survey, we have implemented all of this and more!

**JULY 2018:** Employee Surveys Administered

**AUGUST:** Survey Results Announced

**SEPTEMBER:** Management Action Planning Workshop 1, Scheduling Listening Session – access to schedules earlier with more input from SEIU

**OCTOBER:** Management Action Planning Workshop 2, Launched Driving to Success Degree Achievement Program

**NOVEMBER:** Women In Operations Breakfast, Hand Sanitizer provided to Bus Operators, Foot padding provided for Customer Service Reps

**DECEMBER:** Launched Performance Innovation Teams, Annual Employee Holiday Breakfast, PSTA University Brochures

**JANUARY:** 14 Employee Engagement Focus Groups, Launched Leadership PSTA Class of 2019, MLK Breakfast & Parade

**FEBRUARY:** Launched Employee Newsletter, Launched PSTA University e-Learning Portal, Increased Refresher Training for Bus Operators

**MARCH:** Bus Rodeo & Family Day Event, Transit Driver Appreciation Day, Focus Group Results Announced

**APRIL:** Transportation Supervisor Leadership Training, Internal Communications Survey, #1 Bus Operator Dedicated Parking Space

**MAY:** Management Action Planning Workshop 3, Public Service Recognition Week Ice Cream Social, Memorial Day Celebration with Veterans Employee Resource Group

**JUNE:** AWESOME Boss Bootcamp Manager Training, Barriers approved for Bus Operator safety, PRIDE Parade, Civility & Respect at Work Training

**2019 EMPLOYEE SURVEYS launch on JULY 29<sup>th</sup>!**

**DRIVE CHANGE at PSTA!**





# Welcome to the **TEAM**



**Liz O'Hara** has joined the Benefits Team as the new **Benefits Manager!** As most of you know, Liz has been working at PSTA since 2011. She started her career as a bus operator, transitioning into the Maintenance Department, followed by Human Resources, and now moving into the Finance Department. Liz's advanced knowledge of the various departments and her rapport with our employees here at PSTA has made her a valuable asset.

Since 2016 Liz has been working very closely with the benefits team and has been continually learning what is needed to help our employees. She's never said "that's not my job" and has gone out of her way to help everyone. As a team member in Leadership PSTA Class of 2018 with her, I was blown away by her ability to direct, multi-task, come up with ideas, and motivate us all. I know she will bring these traits, along with a toolbox of ideas, to the Benefits Manager position I look forward to what she can accomplish for all of us here at PSTA.

*Submitted by Julie Lupis, Director of Accounting*





## 2019-2020 | OPEN ENROLLMENT

Gehring Group and members of your PSTA team will provide a benefits overview of each of the medical and dental plans as well as the vision and life insurance benefits. Gather your questions and bring them to one of the 22 sessions to ensure you make the best selection for yourself and eligible family members for the 2019-2020 benefit year.

Monday, August 12th	4:00am, 5:00am, 6:00am, 7:00am	Safety Training Room, M230
Tuesday, August 13th	1:00pm, 2:00pm, 3:00pm, 4:00pm	Board Meeting Room, A147
Wednesday, August 14th	5:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm	Safety Training Room, M230
Thursday, August 15th	9:00am, 10:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm, 2:00pm, 3:00pm	Board Meeting Room, A147
Friday, August 16th	4:00am, 5:00am, 6:00am, 7:00am	Maintenance Training Classroom, M187

### Online Benefits Enrollment through Bentek Monday, August 19th through Wednesday, August 28th

**Review your current benefit selections**

**Change benefit plans as needed**

**Update covered dependents as needed**

The IT Classroom A244 will be open on the dates and times listed below. PSTA team members will be available to assist with username and password resets as well as answer questions regarding benefit selections.

Tuesday, August 20th	4:00am - 9:00am
Wednesday, August 21st	12:00pm - 7:00pm
Thursday, August 22nd	9:00am - 2:00pm
Saturday, August 24th	10:00am - 1:00pm
Monday, August 26th	4:00am - 9:00am
Wednesday, August 28th	9:00am - 2:00pm

**HEALTH INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT** Starts **Aug 12<sup>th</sup>** and ends promptly at 5PM on **Aug 28<sup>th</sup>**.

Reps from Cigna and other providers will be there to answer questions. Come to a session and learn more about your insurance options!

Any questions, you can always contact the Benefits Department at ext. 1987!



*july*

**BUS OPERATOR COMMENDATIONS**

**DRONDRE BASS**

**HIVES BEDWARD**

**ABDUL BENTARGHI**

**KURT CHADWICK**

**SONNY CHENG**

**JOSE COLINDRES**

**MICHAEL DESSINGUE**

**VALERIE GRAINS**

**ALBERT GREEN**

**KIM GROOMS**

**JOHNNY HUGGINS**

**CHRISTOPHER KENNEDY**

**EDGAR LAMAY**

**GERALD MOLARO**

**MAXIMO NUNEZ**

**GREG RANDLE**

**DEBRA RICHARDSON**

**MARIE SAYCE**

**MANPREET SINGH**





OPERATOR NAME	DATE EARNED	NUMBER OF YEARS AWARDED	TYPE OF AWARD
John Williams	6/25/2019	29	Pin
Paul Kirkland	6/16/2019	27	Pin
James Davis	6/16/2019	26	Pin
Marcus Kincade	6/12/2019	24	Pin
Angela Baker	6/18/2019	17	Pin
Jemmott "Mark" Prophet	6/29/2019	12	Pin
Thomas I Maghran	6/25/2019	11	Pin
Drondre Bass	6/27/2019	8	Pin
Ronald M. Sherback	6/23/2019	6	Pin
Debra Erwin	6/25/2019	6	Pin
Virgil L Lambert	6/8/2019	6	Pin
Nabil M Ibrahim	6/27/2019	5	Pin, Certificate, Shoulder Patch
Johnny Daniels	6/8/2019	4	Pin
Terall Beery	6/8/2019	4	Pin
Hector Diaz	6/8/2019	4	Pin
Guy Helm	6/17/2019	3	Pin
Jonathan Frias	6/13/2019	3	Pin
Robert Black	6/9/2019	2	Pin
Sonny Cheng	6/17/2019	2	Pin





# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



June 2019 Transit Leadership Development

Job well done to **Gabrielle Donaldson**  
and **Mandee Steele** for graduating  
from the FPTA/ FDOT Leadership  
Development Program!

CONGRATULATIONS



# INTELLIGENT MOBILITY

Transforming the Future of Transportation



July 12 - 16

**2019**

**Tampa, FL**

48th National Meeting & Training Conference



**Congratulations James Bradford and the Central Florida Chapter of COMTO (Conference of Minority Transportation Officials) for an excellent Meeting & Training Conference!**

**Special thanks to all the speakers, volunteers, and attendees!**



# WELCOME TO COMTE

48th National Meeting & Training Conference

Moving the Nation





















# LEADERS SERVE FIRST

CONGRATULATIONS  
LEADERSHIP PSTA AND THANK  
YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS  
WHO HELPED MAKE THE MOBILE  
PANTRY EVENT A SUCCESS!!!



BECAUSE NO ONE SHOULD GO HUNGRY!









# NEXT STOP: PSTA

*SHORT STORY BY:  
X'ZABIAN GWYN,  
PLANNING INTERN*

It was mid-January, the sky was a light blue and the breeze was strong. My light brown sweater was whipping around me while doing a poor job of keeping me warm. I found myself waiting at the St. Petersburg College Seminole Campus bus loop waiting for route 58 to take me to Seminole City Center. It was my first time taking the public transit system never the less doing it alone, and I was uneasy. I was not sure of what to expect, what the people were like, or how to pull that yellow mysterious cord to signal the driver. As the bus turned off of 113<sup>th</sup> and came into the parking lot I was not sure whether I should board the bus or run and beg my parents to leave work and pick me up from school. Though at the time I was 16 years old and I knew how imperative it was for me to get more independence- so I knew I was in it alone.

When the bus slowed down to a halt and dipped down to let me board, I tentatively showed my school ID and the driver nodded his head letting me pass. The entire time I looked out the huge square windows anticipating when I would have to get off. But then to my horror, the driver went past the mall! "Oh my goodness," I thought, the driver missed my stop. My hands were shaking, and I started working up a sweat and I wasn't sure of what to do next. However, to my relief the driver went to the next light at the corner of Aldi and turned around coming back towards the mall. "I made it!" I was so proud of myself. When route 18 St. Pete arrived I boarded the bus like a champ and ever since I've overcome my public transit fear.

# NEXT STOP: PSTA

*SHORT STORY BY: X'ZABIAN GWYN, PLANNING INTERN*

*continued...*

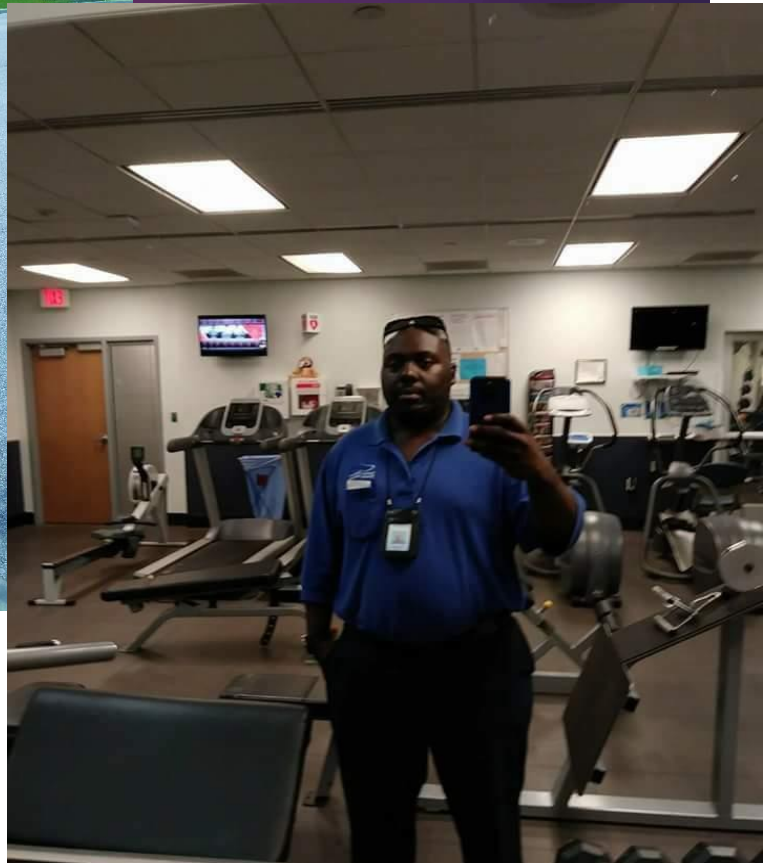
Moreover, after going through all that, who would have imagined that less than 6 months later I would be interning with the very same public transit agency? Through the Boley Youth Summer Internship Program I was blessed to have an opportunity to work alongside some amazing individuals as well as seeing firsthand how the faculty of PSTA cares about their community. Already in the first month of being here I was given the opportunity to do outreach with Nicole and Juan in the Planning Department. Doing Looper surveys in Downtown St. Petersburg to teaching other Boley Youth Interns how to ride the bus and taking them to Countryside Mall. From spending many days in and out of BRT, COMTO and Public Engagement meetings to calling users of the Healthy Hop Program with Juan.

The experiences and relationships that I have been able to receive here have been beyond amazing, it has also been really cool to see both my aunt Betty Shapell and my cousin Terry White who are both operators here at work. I thank Boley and PSTA for allotting me the opportunity to be here one in which I'll remember for the rest of my life. Gooooooooooooo transit!!!

thank you



**My aunt Betty (bus operator) and I**



**My cousin Terry (bus operator) in the PSTA gym**



**Juan, Nicole, and I doing PSTA Community Outreach**





Looper Surveys w/  
Nicole & Juan



Volunteering with Leadership PSTA and Feeding Tampa Bay at Mobile Food Pantry

**I**  **MY JOB**



# Fourth of July Fun Facts



We celebrate on the Fourth of July in honor of the nation's birthday, July 4, 1776. This date marks when 56 of our founding father's signed the Declaration of Independence.



The Fourth of July is also known as Independence Day

Almost **65%** of Americans plan to have a BBQ or picnic on July 4th



**150M** hot dogs are consumed on the holiday



Fourth of July is America's #1 drinking holiday



**190M** pounds of beef are bought in preparation to celebrate

A total of...

**\$6.77 Billion**

is spent on food just for our nation's birthday!

Although the Fourth of July has been celebrated for many years, it was not declared a Federal holiday until 1870



Ever wondered how many Americans watch fireworks on July 4th? About

**43%**



There have been 27 different official U.S. flags throughout history



**Happy Birthday**



**July Babies!**



*Call for Newsletter Submissions...*



*Please send us your stories!!!*

- Cool ideas for the newsletter? Please contact Tamika White, 540-1850 or [twhite@psta.net](mailto:twhite@psta.net).
- Newsletter Committee members include: Juan Luvian, Nicole Dufva, and Shelbie Harris.

