

# PPTA

Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association



## **2018 Summer Meeting and Rodeo**



**2018 PPTA  
BUS ROADEO**



**July 20 to 23, 2018**

**PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**

# Summer Meeting and Rodeo Sponsors

Saturday Evening Major League Baseball



Rodeo Shirts



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Rodeo Awards Lunch



Rodeo Water & Snacks



Sunday Rodeo Breakfast



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July 20, 2018

Welcome to Philadelphia!

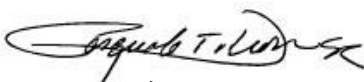
Together with the SEPTA Board and 9400 SEPTA employees, we are proud to host the 2018 PPTA Bus Roadeo and Summer Meeting. We have a wonderful weekend planned for you, featuring the annual competition and celebration of Pennsylvania's best bus and paratransit drivers, plus meetings and events designed to educate and connect transportation advocates and stakeholders.

We hope you'll take time to join us as we showcase some of our favorite spots in Philadelphia and the region, and experience how easy it is to get there on SEPTA! As you travel our system, you'll see that the passage of Pennsylvania Act 89 has made it possible to make needed repairs and advance new initiatives to strengthen our transportation services. Like your own transit system, SEPTA works hard to serve our customers, connect our communities and drive our economy.

SEPTA is proud to be a member of the Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association. We salute the PPTA Board, membership and staff for all they do to support the mission and goals of the organization and our industry. Together, we have a great story to tell, and SEPTA stands with you to communicate, educate and advocate in support of public transportation and the mobility of citizens throughout the Commonwealth.

Again, welcome to southeastern Pennsylvania. Get ready for a wonderful weekend with SEPTA Ambassadors as your guides.

Thanks for coming!



Pasquale T. Deon, Sr.  
Chairman



Jeffrey D. Kneuppel  
General Manager



SEPTA salutes our partners and friends who helped to welcome PPTA and showcase Philadelphia and our region!

Ben Franklin Museum

Brulee Catering

Franklin Institute

Independence Historical Trust

Independence Visitors Center

Loews Philadelphia Hotel

Major League Bocce

Museum of the American Revolution

National Constitution Center

National Liberty Museum

Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau

Philadelphia Phillies

Philadelphia Zoo

SugarHouse Casino

## Key Locations

Shuttles will be provided from the front of SEPTA Headquarters (next to the Loews Hotel) to Rodeo events on Saturday and Sunday. Departure times are noted throughout the schedule. SEPTA is also graciously providing a system-wide Independence Pass, good for travel the entire time, which provides free access to each person attending the Summer Meeting and Rodeo.

### Loews Hotel

**1200 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107**

Located next to SEPTA HQ, the Loews is PPTA's Rodeo and Summer Meeting host hotel.

### SEPTA Headquarters

**1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107**

Registration for PPTA's Summer Meeting will be in the lobby of SEPTA HQ. Monday meetings and sessions will also be held at this facility.

### SEPTA Southern Depot

**1940 Johnston Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145**

Mandatory Saturday events for drivers competing in the Rodeo will be held at SEPTA's Southern Depot. **Parking will be available:** turn down 19th Street and then make the right onto Johnston Street. Designated parking will be marked.

### Citizens Bank Park

**1 Citizens Bank Way, Philadelphia, PA 19148**

Saturday evening's Philadelphia Phillies game will be at Citizens Bank Park, with dinner hosted in the Pavilion. Use your SEPTA Independence Pass to travel there. SEPTA Ambassadors will be available in the Loews Hotel lobby to help attendees find their way.

### Cornwells Heights

**799 Station Avenue, Bensalem, PA 19020**

The site of the 2018 PPTA Rodeo is located about 15 miles from the Loews. **Parking will be available** immediately adjacent to the course lot in Parking Lot #1. The course will be in Parking Lot #2.

### Independence Visitor Center

**599 Market Street One North Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106**

Dinner and Bocce will be held Sunday evening at the Independence Visitor Center, which is walking distance from the Loews Hotel.

# Roadeo and Summer Meeting Agenda

## FRIDAY, JULY 20

- 9:30 AM** Shuttle Departs for Course Set-Up  
[In Front of SEPTA Headquarters]
- 3:00 PM TO 7:00 PM** Driver & Summer Meeting  
Attendee Registration  
Will also be available for drivers Saturday 8-9 AM  
at Southern Depot [Lobby, SEPTA HQ]
- 3:30 PM TO 5:30 PM** Driver Passenger Assistance & Securement  
Training Option #1  
[Concourse, SEPTA HQ]
- 5:30 PM TO 8:00 PM** Private, Behind the Scenes Tour of Historic  
Philadelphia Security screening required. Please bring  
limited belongings; no large bags allowed  
[Lobby, Loews Hotel]

## SATURDAY, JULY 21

- 6:45 AM** Judges' Shuttle Departs for Southern Depot  
[In Front of SEPTA HQ]
- 7:30 AM** Contestants' Shuttle Departs for Practical  
Assessments at Southern Depot  
[In Front of SEPTA HQ]  
Parking is available for those who prefer to drive
- 8:00 AM TO 9:00 AM** Driver Registration and Breakfast  
[Southern Depot]
- 8:00 AM TO 9:00 AM** Driver Passenger Assistance & Securement  
Training Option #2  
[Southern Depot]
- 9:00 AM TO 9:30 AM** Mandatory Driver Meeting  
[Southern Depot]
- 9:30 AM** Competition Rotations  
*Written Test (Paratransit only)*  
*Pre-Trip Inspection*  
*Wheelchair Securement*  
[Southern Depot]

## SATURDAY, JULY 21 (CONTINUED)

- 9:30 AM TO 4:30 PM** Attendee Registration  
[Lobby, SEPTA HQ]
- 11:30 AM TO 1:00 PM** Shuttle Returns to SEPTA HQ  
(OR UPON COMPLETION) [Southern Depot]
- 12:00 PM TO 4:00 PM** Lunch on Your Own / See the City
- 3:30 PM TO 4:00 PM** Mandatory Judges Meeting  
Please arrive 20 minutes early for security processing.  
Photo ID is required. [3rd Floor Auditorium, SEPTA HQ]
- 4:30 PM** Depart for Phillies Game at Citizens Bank Park  
[Lobby, Loews Hotel]
- 5:00 PM TO 6:15 PM** Dinner at Ballpark  
[Pavilion at Citizens Bank Park]
- 7:05 PM** Philadelphia Phillies vs. San Diego Padres  
Return to hotel via SEPTA at your leisure  
[Citizens Bank Park]

## SUNDAY, JULY 22

- 6:00 AM** Shuttle Departs for Course Set-Up  
[In Front of SEPTA HQ]
- 6:30 AM** Shuttle Departs for Rodeo Contestants,  
Judges, & Spectators  
[In Front of SEPTA HQ]  
Parking is available for those who prefer to drive
- 7:15 AM TO 8:45 AM** Breakfast  
[Cornwells Heights]
- 7:30 AM** Mandatory Check-In for Drivers and Judges  
[Cornwells Heights]
- 7:30 AM** Last Shuttle Departs for Rodeo Spectators  
[In Front of SEPTA HQ]  
Parking is available for those who prefer to drive
- 8:00 AM** Driver Walk-thru  
[Cornwells Heights]



<b>8:30 AM</b>	Rodeo Begins [Cornwells Heights]
<b>UPON CONCLUSION OF COMPETITION</b>	Awards Luncheon [Cornwells Heights] Buses will return to SEPTA HQ following luncheon
<b>2:00 PM TO 6:00 PM</b>	Registration for Summer Meeting Attendees [Lobby, SEPTA HQ]
<b>2:00 PM TO 5:00 PM</b>	FREE TIME for Summer Meeting Attendees
<b>6:00 PM</b>	Dinner & Bocce [Independence Visitor Center]

## MONDAY, JULY 23

**Photo ID is required to access the upper floors of SEPTA HQ for Monday events.**

**Please arrive 15 minutes early for security processing.**

<b>8:30 AM TO 9:30 AM</b>	Membership Breakfast and Government Relations Update [3rd Floor, SEPTA HQ]
<b>9:30 AM TO 10:15 AM</b>	Remarks- Deputy Secretary Jennie Granger PennDOT Update- Danielle Spila [3rd Floor, SEPTA HQ]
<b>10:00 AM TO 11:30 AM</b>	Rotating Tours, SEPTA Operations Center Each tour will last 30 minutes. Tours depart at 10 AM, 10:30 AM, and 11 AM. [Lobby, SEPTA HQ]
<b>10:30 AM TO 11:30 AM</b>	Legal Update [3rd Floor, SEPTA HQ]
<b>11:30 AM</b>	Adjourn
<b>11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM</b>	PPTA Board Meeting [Mezzanine, Board Room, SEPTA HQ]

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# 2018 Paratransit Drivers

## **Allen C. Armstrong**

### **Rover Community Transportation**

Allen, "Rover Man" Armstrong is from Kennett Square, PA and has been an operator for 3 years. He currently operates a 23' Ford Champion. His favorite thing about working in transit is all the great people he meets and can help. Allen says, "Last year was my first roadeo. I liked meeting drivers from all over the state. It was tougher than I thought but was a lot of fun. Came in 10th, need to win this year."

## **Denise Babbitt**

### **Easton Coach Company/TransNet**

Denise is from Norristown, PA and has been an operator for 3 years. She currently operates a body on chassis. This is her second PPTA Roadeo. Her favorite thing about working in transit is meeting new people and going to new places. She has been honored with the TransNet Employee Excellence Award. Denise loves meeting people and helping others. She enjoys driving as well, so paratransit fits her perfectly. In her down time, she reads and does arts and crafts.

## **James Downam**

### **Easton Coach Company/TransNet**

James is from Norristown, PA. A retired Marine, he has been driving for 9 years. He currently operates a body on chassis. This is his 8th PPTA Roadeo, and he has competed in 4 National Roadeos. He received the PPTA Outstanding Public Transportation Department Employee Award in 2015, has placed in the top 3 at multiple PPTA Roadeos, and has received the TransNet Outstanding Employee Award. Helping others less fortunate brings him the greatest joy. He has been married for 20+ years to Karen with one son, Christopher.

## **Andy Kirka**

### **TransNet/Valley Transit**

Andy is from East Greenville, PA and has been an operator for 3.5 years. He currently operates a 25' Cutaway. This is his second PPTA Roadeo. He loves transporting all clients and seeing the smiles on their faces. He was honored with the 2017 TransNet/Valley Award. Andy says, "I am happily married to my wife of 2 years, also have a stepson Jeremy who is 13, and 2 dogs, Alex and Molly. I love competing in the Roadeo. I try and be the best I can be. Every day on the road is an interesting experience. I always make my company and clients feel they are safe with me behind the wheel."

## **Joseph McDaniel**

### **MV Transit, Inc./SEPTA**

Joey is from Philadelphia and has been an operator for 21 years. He currently operates a 15' Ford E-350 Cutaway Paratransit Vehicle. This is his third PPTA Roadeo. His favorite thing about working in transit is interacting with his patrons. He says, "It gives me great joy in providing service to all passengers, such as door to door service." He was named driver of the year in 2015 and has received multiple awards from SEPTA. Joey says, "It is an honor to compete in roadeos. I get to compete with other paratransit operators from other venues. I get to meet new people, and fellow friends."

## **James Perkins**

### **Rover Community Transportation**

James "J-Dub" Perkins is from Morgantown and has been an operator for 5 years. He currently operates a 23' Champion. This is his second PPTA Roadeo. His favorite thing about working in transit is being an integral part of the community, and the gratification that comes with serving that community. J-Dub says, "I love driving for Rover Transportation, the best paratransit provider in Pennsylvania! Every day is an interesting experience! I am motivated by my friends, family and colleagues to compete in this competition and represent the greatest people of Chester (and Berks!) County!"

## **Monica Pope**

### **TransNet**

Monica is from Pottstown, PA and has been an operator for five years and nine months. She currently operates a 14-passenger wheelchair bus. This is her second PPTA Roadeo. Her favorite thing about working in transit is meeting so many different and very nice people. She received Employee of the Month twice, in both 2016 and 2017. Monica says, "I am the type of person who likes to keep things simple. I never sweat the small stuff and I try to help anybody in any way I can. I care very much about family and friends, my job and the clients that I transport. I like the roadeos because I want to see how I measure-up against others in other companies. Mostly it's a lot of fun! There have been many interesting times I've experienced, quite a few interesting clients and these are the main reasons I love my job!"

## **Sean M. Tompkins**

### **COLTS**

Sean T. is from Ransom, PA and has been an operator for 21 years. He currently operates a 24' F450 passenger bus. This is his third PPTA Roadeo. Sean takes pride in transporting his passengers safely to the correct destination consistently. He has placed 3rd in the PPTA Roadeo and was honored by the Lackawanna County Board of Commissioners for saving a young boy while on his morning route. Sean is a client-centered driver. He feels enthusiastic to show his driving knowledge and technical ability behind the wheel. His success in placing 16th overall out of a field of 69 other drivers in the CTAA National Roadeo this year was a shining moment in his career in transit.

# 2018 Fixed Route Participants

## Joe Beach

### AMTRAN

Joe is from Altoona, PA and has been an operator for 1 year. He currently operates 35' Gilligs. His favorite thing about working in transit is interacting and talking with people that he transports. Joe says, "I'm excited to be a part of the Roadeo because it gives me a chance to meet other drivers from across the state. It gives me a chance to learn new things and improve my driving skills."

## Ricardo Cancel

### rabbitransit

Ricardo is from San Juan, Puerto Rico and has been an operator for 31 years, 8 of those years with Rabbit. He currently operates 30-35' buses. This is his fifth PPTA Roadeo, and he has competed in two national roadeos as well. His favorite thing about working in transit is providing excellent and safe transportation. Ricardo says, "Roadeos give me the opportunity to know new drivers and shape my skills at the same time."

## Joe Granahan

### Luzerne County Transportation Authority

Joe is from Hunlock Creek, PA and has been an operator for 7 years. He currently operates a Gillig Transit Bus. This is his third PPTA Roadeo. His favorite thing about working in transit is being able to help the passenger get to where they need to go. Joe says, "I love the chance to compete among my peers and to represent my company. I enjoy dealing with and helping passengers with their everyday challenges."

## Coleen Horst

### Luzerne County Transportation Authority

Coleen is from Forty Fort, PA and has been an operator for 29 years. She currently operates a Gillig Transit Bus. This is her third PPTA Roadeo. Her favorite thing about working in transit is working with people and helping passengers. Coleen says, "I grew up watching my dad compete and win in these competitions. When I became a driver, I wanted to do the same and represent my company to the best of my ability. I enjoy meeting new people from other companies."

## Angela Kanj

### EMTA, The "e"

Angela is from Erie, PA and has been an operator for 7 years. She currently operates a 40' bus. Her favorite thing about working in transit is her passengers. She says, "Every day is an opportunity to meet someone new and learn about them. It's always a new adventure. This will be my second time participating in the Roadeo. I had such a great time at my first one. I'm very grateful to be given a second chance to compete. Sometimes as a transit driver, you feel like you're going through the motions and can lose sight of just how important your job is to the cities we work in. During record-breaking snowfall this year, Erie operators were reminded just how important we are. Cars were buried in over 4 feet of snow and most of the roads were closed. It was public transportation that our city counted on and we did not let them down. I would like to thank the EMTA for giving me this opportunity to represent our city in this competition. I would also like to thank my husband and children for always believing in me."

## **Stan Karge**

### **Luzerne County Transportation Authority**

Stan "Zippy" Karge is from Nanticoke, PA and has been an operator for 10 years. He currently operates a Gillig Transit Bus. This is his third PPTA Rodeo. His favorite thing about working in transit is being able to communicate with, interact with, and help passengers. Zippy says, "I enjoy interacting with other people within my profession. I'm grateful to be given the opportunity to represent my company and to compete against my peers."

## **Phoebe McIlvain**

### **LANTA**

Phoebe has been an operator for 6 years and currently operates a 40' Flyer. This is her first PPTA Rodeo, but she says she was the only person in years to land her inside rear tire on a \$20 bill attached to the track at a school bus rodeo. She says, "I've driven since I was 13 with a track in our apple orchard. I enjoy doing things with a vehicle that most won't do, like tight spots and difficult turns. I think rodeos are fun."

## **Bill Neumann**

### **Centre Area Transportation Authority**

Bill is from State College, PA and has been an operator for 4 years. He currently operates an Xcelsior. This is Bill's first rodeo. His favorite thing about working in transit is working with and being able to help people. Bill says, "I'm excited to try my first rodeo, while my most interesting driving experience happened while serving in the Army. I find transit driving to be enjoyable! I was most motivated about competing when I learned the Rodeo was going to be in Philadelphia. As a Delco kid, I'm looking forward to getting an awesome cheesesteak and soft pretzel!"

## **Randall Norris**

### **rabbittransit**

Randy is from York and has been an operator for 38 years. He currently operates a fixed route bus and has competed in 28+ PPTA Rodeos and 2 National Rodeos. His favorite things about working in transit are the people and the driving. He has been a driver of the year and received several safety awards. Randy says, "I reside in York with my wife Esther. I have 3 children and 1 grandchild. It is a great privilege and honor to be away from my daily routine and be with drivers from different places to compete in the Rodeo. To compete is a challenge and very exciting experience. Win or lose, victory is always in my heart as I do my best."

## **David Palukonis**

### **COLTS**

David is from the Scranton area and has been an operator for 10 years. He currently operates a Gillig Hybrid CNG, Phantom. This is his first PPTA Rodeo. David says, "I haven't had the privilege of competing in the past but I'm looking forward to the experience. I approach my job as all other aspects of my life, giving 100% to the task at hand, always trying to do the right thing with a positive attitude."



# 2018 Fixed Route Participants (continued)

## David Pricher

### River Valley Transit

David "Black Socks" Pricher was born and raised in Williamsport, PA and has been an operator for 3.5 years. He currently operates a Gillig and has competed in one PPTA Roadeo before this year. His favorite things about working in transit are meeting passengers from different parts of the world and working with Little League World Series Baseball. He has been awarded for safe driving for last 3 years. David served in the United States Air Force from 1989-1993. He says, "I enjoy competing against other professional drivers. Driving fixed route and keeping time points is interesting and challenging."

## Zenon John Rinylo

### SEPTA

John is from Turnersville, NJ and has been an operator for 40 years. He currently operates a 40' New Flyer. His favorite things about working in transit are the challenges of dealing with delivery trucks and construction in the middle of the street while trying to get people to work on time. He has competed in 24 PPTA Roadeos and 24 national roadeos, twice winning 1st place in the 40' bus at the APTA International Roadeo. He was also the Overall APTA Grand Champ 3 times; placed 3rd at APTA 4 times; placed 1st at PPTA 18 times; and 1st at SEPTA 24 times. John says, "The Roadeo challenges me to be a good driver all year long. I like roadeos because I like to meet and talk with drivers from all over the country and share tips on how to navigate the course. One of my most interesting experiences is taking an 80-year-old woman to the gym at 5:30 AM so that she can later take 2 other buses to get to her job."

## Victor Tarver

### SEPTA

Vic is from Philadelphia and has been an operator for 36 years. He currently operates a New Flyer. He has competed in the PPTA Roadeo 15 times and national roadeos twice. His favorite thing about working in transit is meeting new people. He has received several safety and customer service awards. Vic says, "I find the job a daily challenge, yet enjoyable. I love the professionalism demonstrated in each roadeo."

## Rick Wanamaker

### River Valley Transit

Rick, 40 years old, is from South Williamsport and just joined the mass transit family 1 year ago. He currently operates a 35'-40' Gillig. This is his first roadeo. His favorite thing about working in transit is the stories he goes home with. Rick says, "I drove a tractor trailer for 2 years before becoming a bus driver. I'm very excited to compete in my first roadeo. To me, every day is the most interesting. I'm motivated to take the award back to River Valley Transit."



# SAVE THE DATE!

for the

## 2018 PPTA Fall Conference

November 13 – 15

Pittsburgh, PA

Registration opens after Labor Day.  
Please watch for additional details at

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# 2018 Rodeo Committee

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**Mike Devaney**, CSSO, rabbittransit

**Randy Flyte**, LANTA

**Don Gallice**, AMTRAN

**Ray Kennedy**, AMTRAN

**Tim Miller**, RVT

**Bill Motyka**, RVT

**Bob Schurer**, RVT

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**Joy Watson**, SEPTA

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**Gretchen Wintermantel**, COLTS

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**A BIG thank you to the team at SEPTA  
for hosting the 2018 Rodeo**



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