

EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT TRANSPORTATION HONORED AT MANCHESTER EVENT

For the first time since Spring 2019, more than 130 members and friends of NHSTA gathered on October 28 to honor the best in NH student transportation during the Safe Driver and Mechanics Recognition and Awards Dinner. The event, which was held at The Derryfield Restaurant recognized both school bus drivers and mechanics nominated from the years of 2020 through 2022 for their years of service.

For school bus drivers nominated, honors were given out in recognition for each five-year increment of driving a school bus without a reportable accident or driving conviction. Awards ranged from those with five years behind the wheel to one person who has been driving a school bus for 50 years.

Mechanics too were recognized for their outstanding efforts to maintain NH school buses in safe working order to ensure the reliability of their fleet's transportation operations.

NSHTA was pleased to be able to finally resume this important annual recognition event which also gave reason for members to gather for networking and social time which was very welcomed by all in attendance.

Mechanics Recognized for Outstanding Service

- Guy Balassone, STA-Londonderry
- Don Ball, STA-Goffstown
- Owen Burke, SAU 46/Merrimack Valley School District
- Eric Chandler, STA-Jaffrey
- Matthew Cheney, Bow School District
- Michael Fahey, STA-Jaffrey
- Jesse Francis, STA-Merrimack
- Scott Huddy, STA-Goffstown
- Don Martin, STA-Peterborough
- Lloyd Noble, SAU 46/Merrimack Valley School District



Drivers Recognized for Five Years of Service

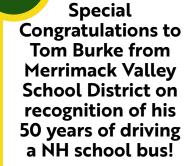
- Michelle Ames, Butler's Bus Service-Milford
- Mary Amirsakis, STA-Peterborough
- Paul Anderson, Dail Transportation/STA-Epsom
- · Abby Andreoli, Butler's Bus Service-Milford
- Charles Berney, Dail Transportation/STA-Epsom
- Gerard Bertrand, Oyster River Cooperative School District
- Timothy Bohmiller, SAU 49/Governor Wentworth Regional School District
- Del Bourque, STA-Candia
- Denise Brand-Arsenault, STA-Peterborough
- Sarah Brooks, Oyster River Cooperative School District
- Jennifer Carter, STA-Peterborough
- Sarah Chatfield-Seaver, STA-Peterborough
- Debbie Clark, STA-Peterborough
- Jeffrey Cox, STA-Merrimack
- Alicia Davis, STA-Londonderry
- Virginia Duhamel, First Student-Weare
- · Jeff Filleul, First Student-Weare
- James Gamelin, STA-Merrimack
- · Gregg Gemmitti, Butler's Bus Service-Milford
- Allison Hackett, Butler's Bus Service-Milford
- Cynthia Harvey, Dail Transportation/STA-Epsom
- James Hathorne, Oyster River Cooperative School District
- Brittany Hilliard, STA-Merrimack
- Sarah Hodgdon, Butler's Bus Service-Center Barnstead
- Kristen Jensen, First Student-Weare
- Debra Julian, STA-Londonderry
- Nancy Kimball, SAU 49/Governor Wentworth Regional School District

- Thomas Knapp, Butler's Bus Service, Center Barnstead
- Christine Lank, Butler's Bus Service, Center Barnstead
- Scott Leathe, Dail Transportation/STA-Epsom
- Doug Lyon, Safewheels LLC
- Meaghan MacKenzie, STA-Peterborough
- Annmarie McNulty, Safewheels LLC
- Judith Meleady, Any Eventz LLC & Transportation
- Dianne Moss, First Student-Weare
- Debra Nelson, SAU 46/Merrimack Valley School District
- Cheryl Noke, STA-Merrimack
- Carli O'Connor, SAU 67/Bow School District
- Carolyn Ohlson-Quimby, SAU 46/Merrimack Valley School District
- Noelle Panagopoulos, SAU 46/ Merrimack Valley School District
- Helen Penney, First Student-Hillsboro
- Julie Petty, First Student-Tilton
- Jessica Pickard, Concord School District Transportation
- Anthony Salvatore, SAU 46/Merrimack MVSD
- Donna Schmidt, STA-Londonderry
- Pauline Shea, First Student-Weare
- Matthew Snow, Safewheels LLC
- Michael Suarez, STA-Merrimack
- Summer Swift, Butler's Bus Service-Milford
- Natural Taveras, STA-Bedford
- Amber Trow, STA-Peterborough
- Jack Warwick, Butlers Bus Service-Milford
- Samantha Alberts, Dail Transportation/STA-Epsom
- Mindy Barnes, STA- Goffstown
- Brenda Becker, Butler's Bus Service-Milford



Drivers Recognized for Ten Years of Service

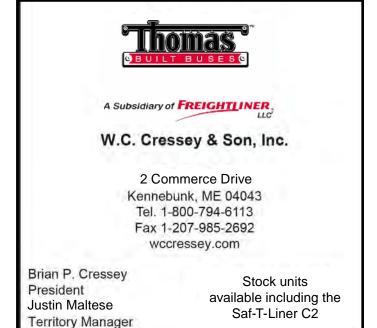
- Roberta Bell, STA-Peterborough
- Sharon Blache, STA-Londonderry
- Jen Braga, First Student-Tilton
- Teresa Buzzell, STA-Bedford
- Paul Cabana, STA-Candia
- David Carbone, Dail Transportation/STA-Epsom
- Paul Clancy, Butler's Bus Service-Milford
- Robert Edsall, STA-Bedford
- Jesse Francis, STA-Merrimack
- Richard Fredette, SAU 46/Merrimack Valley School District
- · William Garron, STA-Candia
- · Kristine Gelinas, STA-Candia
- Kevin Gorman, STA-Peterborough
- · Buffy Grandmaison, Butler's Bus Service-Center Barnstead
- David Hathaway, Concord School District Transportation
- Keli Hill, Butler's Bus Service-Milford
- Danielle Jalbert, Butler's Bus Service-Milford
- Jocelyn Lane, STA-Londonderry
- Douglas MacDonald, SAU 49/Governor Wentworth Regional School District
- James Mackinaw, SAU 46/Merrimack Valley School District
- Kasey Nissen-Dauphinais, STA-Merrimack
- Stacy Orleans-Gates, STA-Goffstown
- Nicole Pelletier, STA-Candia
- Pamela Pierce, SAU 46/Merrimack Valley School District
- Cynthia Pouliot, STA-Merrimack
- David Proulx, SAU 49/Governor Wentworth Regional School District
- Dana Raza, STA-Londonderry
- Erin Smith, SAU 67/Bow School District
- Melanie Stys, SAU 49/Governor Wentworth Regional School District
- Petra Trilling, STA-Bedford
- Ronald Vonkahle, Dail Transportation/STA-Epsom
- Deborah Vonkahle, Dail Transportation/STA-Epsom
- Alan White, STA-Bedford





Drivers Recognized for Fifteen Years of Service

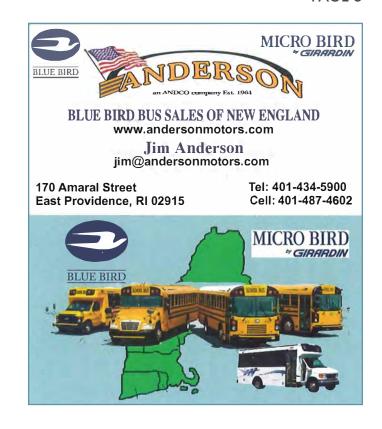
- Deborah Allen, SAU 46/Merrimack Valley School District
- Paula Allison, Butler's Bus Service-Milford
- Laurie Barbieri, STA-Goffstown
- Chris Burke, SAU 46/Merrimack Valley School District
- Mike Cassavaugh, SAU 46/Merrimack Valley School District
- Tina Cavanaugh, STA-Londonderry
- Julie Clark-Bacon, Any Eventz LLC & Transportation
- Diane Cloutier, Butler's Bus Service-Center Barnstead
- Nancy Constantine, Butler's Bus Service-Milford
- Patricia Davila, SAU49/Governor Wentworth Regional School District
- Joanne Ellis-Epstein, Oyster River Cooperative School District
- · James Gagnon, STA-Bedford
- William Harless, Oyster River Cooperative School District
- Lisa Heath-McKenna, STA-Candia
- Jill Howard, STA-Bedford
- Kelly Lacasse, Butler's Bus Service-Milford
- Norman Lacoy, SAU 46/Merrimack Valley School District
- Kj MacDonald, STA-Bedford
- Don Martin, STA-Peterborough
- Carol Merrill, STA-Goffstown
- Amanda Morasse, Butler's Bus Service-Center Barnstead
- Joseph Pauline, Oyster River Cooperative School District
- Donna Piper, Butler's Bus Service-Milford
- Daniel Poudrette, STA-Merrimack
- Marc Raposo, Butler's Bus Service-Milford
- Shardina Sexton, Dail Transportation/STA-Epsom
- Betty Stewart, SAU 46/Merrimack Valley School District
- Marjorie Tucker, SAU 46/Merrimack Valley School District
- Marina Whittemore, SAU 46/Merrimack Valley School District





Drivers Recognized for Twenty Years of Service

- Valerie Barton, SAU 46, Merrimack Valley School District
- Jean Brassard, Sau67/Bow School District
- Kim Brownell, SAU 49, Governor Wentworth School District
- Katherine Cass, Butler's Bus Service-Milford
- Susan Dooley, SAU 49/Governor Wentworth Regional School District
- Denise Driscoll, STA-Candia
- Cindy Duncan, Butler's Bus Service-Milford
- Bernadette Feinberg, Dail Transportation/STA-Epsom
- Deb Foley, Butler's Bus Service-Milford
- Paula Glynn, STA-Candia
- Ron Horrocks, STA-Londonderry
- Lisa Ivory, STA-Merrimack
- · Shannon Jennings, STA-Goffstown
- Jodi Lincourt, Oyster River Cooperative School District
- Laurie Makarawicz, Butler's Bus Service-Milford
- Lyn McKenney, Any Eventz LLC & Transportation
- Robert Moholland, SAU 49/Governor Wentworth Regional School District
- Deborah Mullins, STA-Londonderry
- Tracy Myers, First Student-Weare
- Tracy Nash, SAU 49/Governor Wentworth Regional School District
- Tanya Pepin, STA-Candia
- William Toolin, STA-Bedford
- Cindy Turner, First Student-Tilton
- · Glenda Velez-Garcia, STA-Candia
- Heather Wunschel, SAU 46/Merrimack Valley School District





Drivers Recognized for Twenty-Five Years of Service

- Scott Adams, STA-Candia
- Phyllis Brooks, Butler's Bus Service-Center Barnstead
- Gabby Decataur, Any Eventz LLC & Transportation
- Cynthia Gale, Dail Transportation/STA-Epsom
- Eric Gale, Dail Transportation/STA-Epsom
- Kristin Jackson, STA-Peterborough
- Jill Kennard, SAU 49/Governor Wentworth Regional School District

- Jill Lombardo, SAU 49/Governor Wentworth Regional School District
- Lori Myers, Dail Transportation/STA-Epsom
- Meredith Perry, Any Eventz LLC & Transportation
- Adam Riley, SAU 49/Governor Wentworth Regional School District
- Claire Savaria, STA-Bedford



Drivers Recognized for Thirty Years of Service

- Marla Brown, Butler's Bus Service-Center Barnstead
- · Lynn Calvino, First Student-Tilton
- Carol Clark, Oyster River Cooperative School District
- Tammy Cummings, Butler's Bus Service-Center Barnstead
- Jen Davidson, SAU 49/Governor Wentworth Regional School District
- Janet D'Eon, Oyster River Cooperative School District
- Barbara Evans, Oyster River Cooperative School District

- Kevin Gannon, Butler's Bus Service-Center Barnstead
- Lisa Huppe, Oyster River Cooperative School
 District
- Sean O'Sullivan, STA-Merrimack
- Kimberly Peck, STA-Merrimack
- Glenn Richard, SAU 67-Bow School District
- Alan Rioux, STA-Merrimack
- Shana Rousseau, STA-Goffstown
- Sandra Rowe, STA-Goffstown
- Suzanne Spears, STA-Bedford



Drivers Recognized for Thirty-Five Years of Service

- Brian Bedard, STA-Bedford
- Helen Day, SAU 49/Governor Wentworth Regional School District
- Thomas Hopkinson, STA-Goffstown
- Deborah Plessner, STA-Goffstown

Drivers Recognized for Forty Years of Service

- Thomasina Baxter, Oyster River Cooperative School District
- Jean Gallinaro, STA-Londonderry
- Marion Henry, Oyster River Cooperative School District



Drivers Recognized for Forty-Five Years of Service

Laurette Cillo, STA-Merrimack



APRIL 2023 INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM...DO YOU HAVE PEOPLE TO ATTEND? LET US KNOW!

Recently, NHSTA sent an email poll to all NHSTA member and currently certified instructor trainers about the possibility that the association might offer another Instructor Development Training Program in April 2023.

In 2022, NHSTA held a successful (and full) program. Following tradition, the association usually only offers the program every other year. Due to the ongoing shortage of drivers and other key professionals, including trainers, we have had some ask us to consider hosting a class again in 2023.

This is something NHSTA is taking under serious consideration; however, due to the significant investment of time involved for our volunteer instructors and we cannot begin to move forward with such a training without knowing now how much interest or need there is out in the industry. We must meet a minimum of 20 participants to make the program viable from both a cost and volunteer instructor time perspective.

If your fleet or SAU has not yet responded to our email poll, please provide your answers to the following questions in an email sent to info@nhsta. org as soon as possible.

- 1. If NHSTA hosts the instructor development training course April 25-28, 2023 in Nashua (Tues-Thurs) with Friday at MTA in Manchester, do you have people who would like to enroll?
- 2. If yes, how many would you estimate would enroll?

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR JANUARY 21 INSTRUCTOR IN-SERVICE

Certified NH school bus instructors are invited to register now for a four-hour in-service training program that will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2023 at Merrimack Valley High School. The program will run from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Winter weather note: Please also hold the date of Saturday, January 28 open as that will be out snow date if needed.

The program is expected to offer an update from Trooper Greg Hildreth and Rebecca Kelsea before those attending will be split out into a series of smaller concurrent breakout sessions which will be repeated so that all will have a chance to attend them. The specific topics or focus is under development. NHSTA will provide an update via email and on the website once session speakers and topics are confirmed.

To register, go to nhsta.org and click on the Events link on the righthand side of the homepage.

OUT-OF-STATE LICENSES AND LEGAL NAMES ONLY

The following reminder was provided by Rebecca Kelsea from Pupil Transportation.

For any fleets or districts with potential school bus drivers who hold an out-of-state driver's license, a copy of their out-of-state license must be included with any roster they appear on that shows at least a two-year driving history. Also, the prospective driver's full legal name should be placed in the appropriate column of last name and first name. Nicknames are not to be used when rostering drivers.

THE USE OF STROBE LIGHTS: REQUIRED OR NOT?

During a recent NHSTA board meeting the topic of strobe lights on yellow school buses was mentioned.

Though strobe lights are referenced in NH RSA 266, the requirement for their use by bus drivers was stricken some years ago from the current Saf-C 1300 student transportation rules. Per the Office of Pupil Transportation, strobe lights are not required to be used, but their use is left up to the policy of the company or district operating the vehicles. In all cases, for any vehicles equipped with strobe lights, they must be able to be turned on or off by the driver.

WELCOME NEW NHSTA MEMBERS!

We'd like to take a moment to thank all of our members for their support, but it's also great to welcome the following new member providers to the association.

Any Eventz LLC & Transportation, Rochester, NH. Our primary member contact is Lyn McKenney. The provider may be reached at 603-350-4140 or via email at: lmckenney@aetransportation. onmicrosoft.com

Notchview Transportation, Franconia, NH. Our primary member contact is Dan Walker, President. The provider may be reached at 603-616-5555 or via email: dan@notchviewtransport.com

2023 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE!

Applications may now be submitted for NHSTA's \$500 scholarship, which will be awarded to any high school senior of an NHSTA member (regardless of position held within a fleet or SAU's transportation operation). Students planning to attend any form of post-secondary education leading to a degree, professional license, or certification (technical schools) area eligible to apply. The scholarship will be paid directly to the student's school for the 2023-2024 academic year. The deadline to apply is Friday, May 5, 2023. Applications may be submitted along with required supplemental documents via email scan to info@nhsta.org or mailed to the address provided on the application.

Visit the homepage of nhsta.org to view and download the 2023 scholarship requirements and application.

NASDPTS COMMENTS ON STATE OF THE INDUSTRY...



McManamon

Simmons

Outgoing President Patrick McManamon of Vermont and incoming President Mike Simmons of Arkansas share their thoughts on the future.

Last month marked three years since the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) last met for its Annual Conference. In the chronology of things, this year should have been the 56th such event in the association's storied existence. But COVID-19 had other plans.

After settling for a virtual meeting in 2020 during the pandemic and canceling outright last fall, the NASDPTS Annual Conference returned last month for the 54th time. It was also the last for Patrick McManamon, a lieutenant and training officer with the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicle's enforcement and safety division, at least as NASDPTS president. Maybe. That is because he was succeeded by Mike Simmons, who also served as president in 2011 and 2012. Simmons agreed to once again lead the organization after

previous president-elect Pat Schofill announced his resignation from the Georgia Department of Education in June.

As McManamon prepared to pass the torch back to Simmons, School Transportation News asked both industry professionals to look back over the past two years plagued by COVID-19 and historic school bus driver shortages as well as to look forward to what lies ahead for NASDPTS and the entire industry.

STN: Based on NASDPTS' own word of "epidemic," published in the recently released 2022 National School Bus Illegal Passing Survey, technology doesn't seem to be working in reducing these dangerous motorist behaviors, and neither is public outreach. So, what in your estimation can be done?

Patrick McManamon: This problem really comes down to motorist behavior. We must continue to educate drivers as to the laws as well as to their responsibilities. Drivers are more distracted now than ever before and work as an industry on this issue is simply not done.

STN: Mike, this is your second go-round as NASDPTS president. One of the changes in the last 10 years since your served has been to diesel school buses and mandates to reduce engine emissions. Those levels have continued to drop over the past decade to the point that, along with mandates for zero-emissions, indicate diesel's days are coming to an end. What specific steps is NASDPTS taking along with its members to address the needs of many school districts nationwide that will continue their need to operate diesel over the coming decades, either because they don't have the funds despite grants to purchase alt fuel/energy buses or the geography/infrastructure needed to support them?

Mike Simmons: At NASDPTS we focus on education state directors and meeting states wherever they are in their electrification journey. State directors come at this from a variety of different angles, and it is important for NASDPTS to support whichever path a state or school district decides to take.

STN: Regarding inflation, we are hearing that all new school bus prices – no matter the "fuel" type – are set to increase by as much as \$75,000 in the coming months. How can school districts bear this?

Mike Simmons: We are seeing increased prices in many areas of school transportation. Times when we have to "tighten our belts" naturally cause us to proceed with caution on any new expenditure. Districts and states will undoubtedly have to make choices.

States like mine do not mandate school transportation, nor do they provide state level

categorical funding for transportation. Therefore, when the cost of providing that transportation for students outweighs the ability to pay for it, I am afraid many will put that burden back on the parents of the students we are trying to educate. Many Arkansas school districts are keeping buses in their fleet longer than they would like simply because they can't afford to replace them. The influx of federal ESSER money has help[ed] many of them be able to replace buses that they normally wouldn't be able to.

STN: What are your other priorities for your presidency over the next two years?

Mike Simmons: There has been a large turnover in state directors over the last 10 years. I want to make it a priority to get those new directors involved in the industry and especially our association. I want them to know that this association is an invaluable resource for them to take advantage of.

STN: Anything you'd like to add?

Mike Simmons: I know that there are many changes that will be coming, not just in transportation, but in education in general. I hope that we can be flexible in our outlook and be open to new ideas in our industry. I know that change comes hard to the transportation industry, but we are going to have to embrace change if we are going to continue providing the services that we do without sacrificing the safety of our students.

Written by Ryan Gray (<u>stnonline.com</u>). Mike Dennehy, NHSTA, contributed to this report.

SUICIDE AND BULLYING SESSION PRESENTATION SLIDES NOW AVAILABLE

On November 5, 2022 NHSTA held an in-service program which offered an extensive program on bullying and suicide awareness conducted by Michelle Halligan-Foley, M.ED and Gail Corey from the Rochester School District. They have provided a copy of their presentation slides to share with you.

The presentation file is currently available on the Homepage of nhsta.org as well as also under the Resources tab on the website.

Michelle and Gail have committed to presenting for us again in 2023 as there is a requirement for annual training on these two important topics.

NHSTA AT THE TABLE WITH DOS/DMV ON SAF-C 1300 RULES REVIEW

Members of the NHSTSA Rules and Safety Committee have recently completed a series of working meetings with Trooper Greg Hildreth, Rebecca Kelsea, Asst. DMV Director, Mike Todd and members of the CDL team, including Sergeant Atherton and others to review and provide comment on the current Saf-C 1300 Student Transportation administrative rules. The rules are up for re-adoption in October 2023.

Next, the Department will be working with its legal unit on an initial draft of proposed rules which will formally be engaged with the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) at a date and time to be announced later in 2023.

NHSTA's representatives made a number of suggested changes, refinements and suggested deletions to the current rules. Once an initial proposal is released, we will share it with our members.

DMV DIRECTOR JOHN MARASCO DEMONSTRATES HIS COMMITMENT TO OUR INDUSTRY

True to his words spoken at his first meeting with NHSTA leadership at the association's June 2022 annual meeting, DMV Director John Marasco has been very proactive in fostering a very high level of cooperation and communication with the school bus industry in NH.

A small delegation of NHSTA board members and staff is now meeting monthly with the Director Marasco to discuss openly on various issues and ideas on how the agency can better support our industry.

Director Marasco brings to his position an abundance of positive energy and a spirit of working together with us as we seek to resolve such matters as new driver testing, including the possible waiving of the tenday waiting period for those who fail a written or road test, and the possibility of allowing for stand-by driver testing. Given that nearly 40% of those who schedule a road test do not show, it is hoped that we may be able to return to the option of stand-by testing. The Director has also shown interest in helping us overcome the statewide driver shortage.

As always, when and if anything of significance evolves from the meetings with the Director, NHSTA will report back to the membership as appropriate.





DMV Director John Marasco (left) addressed the crowd assembled for the October 28 NHSTA Safe Driver & Mechanics Recognition Dinner.

Joining the Director at the event was Rebecca Kelsea (right) from the Office of Pupil Transportation. She is for many of our members their primary contact for all things related to school bus driver licensing and credentialing and she is always eager to help.

MAKE THE RIDE TO COLLEGE A LITTLE EASIER.

The New Hampshire School Transportation Association plans to present a \$500 scholarship to at least one graduating senior who plans to pursue post-high school education.

For complete details and scholarship application, visit NHSTA.ORG





NEW HAMPSHIRE
SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION
ASSOCIATION



FACEBOOK



SCAN

2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

President:

Cynthia Fournier First Student, Inc., Salem (603) 682-4243

Vice President:

Karen Holden Manchester Transit Authority,

Manchester

(603) 623-8801, x5156

Secretary-Treasurer:

Emo Chynoweth Butler's Bus Service, Woodstock, VT

(802) 332-6171

Immediate Past President:

Timothy Eldridge

Eldridge Transportation/Madison School District, Effingham

(603) 387-9452

Executive Director:

Mike Dennehy (603) 228-1231

Directors:

Howard Anderson, Jr. (Advisory Director) Student Transportation Consulting of

N.E., Hooksett (603) 661-7801

Maryann Belanger

Governor Wentworth Regional School District, Wolfeboro

(603) 569-2684

Su Brobst

Governor Wentworth Regional School District, Wolfeboro

(603) 569-2684

Terry Crotty

Concord School District, Concord

(603) 225-0849

Winfried Feneberg

Kearsarge Regional School District,

New London (603) 526-2051, x8

Marc Raposo

Butler's Bus Service, Milford

(603) 325-2019

Ryan Renauls Smith

Manchester Transit Authority

Manchester

(603) 623-8801, X 5152

Sandra Rowe STA, Goffstown (603) 318-6053

Tom Sutton

Berlin School District, Berlin

(603) 752-6500

Joanne Waterhouse First Student, Inc., Salem (603) 893-5722, ext. 200

Laurie Young

Durham School Services, Brentwood

(603) 580-9099

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 10, 2023 NHSTA Board Meeting on Zoom. Contact NHSTA in advance for login information.

January 21, 2023 In-Service Training - Topics to Be Announced. Pre-Registration Required. Go to <a href="https://newsrapes.com/n



PRINT

NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED FOR MEMBERS FOUR TIMES PER YEAR **MEDIA**



EVENTS

IN-SERVICE TRAINING
INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
DRIVER & MECHANIC RECOGNITION