

The Official Publication of the California Association of School Transportation Officials



CASTOways

August 2019



www.CASTOways.org



Safety is our Business

Welcome back CASTOways! We are excited about the return of the newsletter. Any news you have to share with all the members of CASTO will be appreciated. Our goals are also to include a driver Q & A (remember Ask the Bus Lady?), Letters to the Editor, recent graduates from the Instructor Training program, and a mechanic's corner, just to name a few. But, we can't do this without your assistance. We need you to send articles, pictures, etc. We can help you with wording. Thank you!

To submit an article for the northern and central areas of the State, please email Kristy Fletcher at kfletcher@vUSD.org and for the southern area, please email Ted Saltzstein at saltzsteint@cajonvalley.net - We look forward to hearing from you and welcome suggestions.

To start off this inaugural issue, following are co-editors' introductions:



Kristy Fletcher

I am truly excited to be working with Ted to bring back CASTOways as co-editors. Let me tell you a little about myself:

I have been involved in the transportation industry for the past 6 years. The first class I stepped into I knew that I had found my true passion. I began the process to become a bus driver though there were many bumps in the road including a family tragedy; it took me 3 years to obtain my certificate. In 2016, I took a leap of faith. I left everything I knew and three jobs to begin my career with Visalia Unified School District. Transportation became my world, I craved to know more about the industry. I frequently attended original and renewal classes. Then I was introduced to CASTO and became Chapter 14's secretary. Through CASTO I have learned so much, met many amazing leaders from all over the state, and I continue to grow.

I want to be able to give back to our CASTO members providing not only the latest and greatest information but the history of the organization and industry.

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Ted Saltzstein

Welcome back to CASTOways and allowing me the opportunity to be your co-editor. I look forward to working with Kristy to bring our members a top-notch newsletter. A little about me:

I've been a member of CASTO since 1993 and always looked forward to CASTOways and reading about the events of our industry. Being a co-editor is a way I can give back to CASTO which gives so much to the industry. I am excited to be able to share news with our members. My career has been with Cajon Valley Union School District (San Diego County), and I've

been a school bus driver for over 31 years. As a driver, the work schedule was advantageous for college, and I was able to receive my bachelor's degree from National University while still driving. I then became a State Certified Instructor and have been an Instructor for over 25 years.

Looking back at my career, I remember with fond memories the Crown school bus. There was nothing like it, and those of you who've had the opportunity to drive a Crown most likely know what I mean. Remember the double clutching, matching road speed to engine speed, throttle control, monitoring the students, and don't stall the bus? Most of us probably have those kinds of stories to tell and we do so with enthusiasm. Some still have the "0" restriction DL-45, and we have pride in saying that. I am a member of the School Pupil Transportation Advisory Committee and have had the opportunity to attend classes held at the Office of School Transportation. These have helped improve my teaching skills. One class in particular was the inaugural Instructor Refresher Course. I encourage Instructors to attend this class and others; you won't be disappointed!

Most importantly my greatest pleasure is being behind the wheel of that big yellow bus filled with energetic children to provide a safe ride for our students and help start their school days by being a caring person who helps them succeed and ending their school days in the same caring, happy, and positive manner. I'm sure we all have the same feelings.

Kristy and I thank you and look forward to hearing from you.