

# Connecting

FEBRUARY 2020

NEWS FOR MANAGERS & MECHANICS

## What's Your Next Step in a Bus Accident?

Due to changing weather conditions our company has seen a rise in school bus accidents. Thankfully, bus accidents are usually an uncommon occurrence and because they are, we don't get a lot of practice in dealing with them. Here are a couple of reminders when one of your drivers is involved in an accident;

When notified by your driver that they have been involved in an accident, depending on the severity, you will want to do some or all of the following:

- Take your "Accident and Go" bag and head to the accident location.
- Call the General Manager to let them know there has been an accident and that you will call them after arriving if you need them to respond. (Someone in Management may happen to be in the vicinity and could assist quickly if needed).
- When you arrive, find out who is in charge. If the location is in town, it will usually be a Police Officer. If it's out in the country, it will usually be a Deputy. Give them your contact information and inform them that you are the point of contact for the bus company.
- Keep the General Manager informed. If you have time to give them basic information, they may be able to call the Superintendent for you.
- Insure you have the other driver's information. Get the name of the other driver's insurance company, policy number and name and telephone number of their agent (usually a local number).
- Take photographs. Include areas of damage on both vehicles along with undamaged areas near the contact site. Take pictures of the accident location. Photographs should include approaches to intersections (are there sight obstructions?). There is no such thing as taking too many pictures.
- Call your School Administration (if not already done by Bill, Bob or Dan) to let them know there has been an accident involving a school bus. Even if there are no students on the bus, there may only be slight damage and no vehicles towed, you will want to keep your School informed. You don't want them to hear about it second hand or long after the accident. Call the parents of any students on the bus. You definitely do not want the parents to hear about it for the first time when their student arrives home.



## Celebrate 760,000 Reasons on School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

In the state of Minnesota over 760,000 students every day are transported to and from school and the people who do that are unsung heroes. For the fourth year in a row, Governor Tim Walz, has declared February 26th as School Bus Driver Appreciation Day.

The day serves as a reminder of all the hard work that bus drivers perform every day. A majority of mainstream news stories reflect something negative about school buses and drivers, but this day serves as a positive reminder to appreciate everything they do.

Taking the time to express how much you appreciate your employees is one of the keys to success. **What do you have planned? Here are some ideas:**

- Contact your school officials and have students make cards or a sign as a way of acknowledging the drivers hard work. Place a sign in a place that the community can see.
- Wash their car while they are on route.
- Recruit your mechanic as a helper and make breakfast! Who doesn't enjoy a good breakfast.
- How about a chili feed for lunch? Invite them to come in 45 minutes early for afternoon route and have lunch.
- Cookies, candy bars, snacks in a basket if you have employees that only have a few minutes before leaving.
- Scratch off lottery tickets with a message "We are lucky to have you on our team! I hope your lucky **too.**"

Leave everyone and everything better than we found them—Mike Hennek



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## Winter Sports State Tournament Dates

*Dance Team February 14-15*  
*Girls Hockey February 19- 22*  
*Wrestling February 27-29*  
*Boys Hockey March 4-7*  
*Girls Basketball March 11-14*  
*Boys Basketball March 18-21*

## IMPORTANT

### MANDATORY SAFETY MEETINGS—BARB MYERS

⇒ 3RD meeting role call & agenda due by **FEB 17th**



**IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN  
 BUYING 4.0 GEAR**  
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**HOWARD LAKE**



Meet the  
 New  
 Manager  
 in the  
 4.0  
 Family!

*Nicole McKee*

## BIRTHDAYS

### FEBRUARY

16th—Tom Swore  
 16th—Tim Siedlecki  
 22nd—Brian Mattocks

### MARCH

9th—Russ Bode  
 13th—Mike Hennek  
 24th—Terry Becker  
 29th—Don Geretschlaeger

Is It  
 Spring Yet?



If you're done with Payroll...



Have you checked your Slip & Fall List?

## DATES TO KNOW

- FEBRUARY 17TH—3RD TRAINING ROLE CALL & AGENDA DUE
- FEBRUARY 26TH—MINNESOTA BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY
- MARCH 8TH—DAYLIGHT SAVINGS \* SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD

Santa in Chisago!



**WATCH OUT FOR FALLING ICE**

2019 Mechanics Christmas Party



The Frozen North Christmas Party