SUMMER 2022

RFTA'S INTERNAL NEWSLETTER

Behind The Wheel

RFTA Representatives Visit Washington D.C.

On June 13, RFTA Board Members and Alternates **Art Riddile** (New Castle), **Shelley Kaup** (Glenwood Springs), and **Francie Jacober** (Pitkin County) accompanied RFTA staff, **David Johnson**, Director of Planning, **Nicholas Senn**, Senior Project Manager, **Michael Yang**, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, and **Dan Blankenship**, CEO, on a trip to Washington D.C. to meet with RFTA's Congressional Delegation and their staffs, as well as officials from the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) to provide an overview of RFTA and familiarize them with RFTA's priority capital projects and federal grant applications. On June 14, RFTA Representatives met with Senator Bennet and his staff and also Senator Hickenlooper's staff to express our gratitude for their continued support of RFTA's projects and requested the Senators express their support to USDOT for RFTA's grant application for additional BUILD funds to fill the funding gap on the Regional Transit Facility/ Glenwood Maintenance Facility Expansion Project and renew their support for the CDOT MOVE Western Slope Project (where CDOT, RFTA, and the Cities of Rifle and Grand Junction are partnering in a Mobility Hub application for USDOT RAISE grand funding), which includes funding for a West Glenwood Transit Center and the 27th Street Pedestrian Underpass Project. We also discussed the housing affordability challenges in our region and the need for workforce housing and associated infrastructure improvements. RFTA Representatives also met with officials from the USDOT and discussed housing affordability challenges and their close connection to transit on the Colorado Western Slope and its interest in continuing to engage with USDOT and FTA as programs and policy begin to address the nexus of these critical issues.

BEHIND THE WHEEL

ROARING FORK TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

RFTA BOARD

Pitkin County
Greg Poschman / Francie Jacober

Town of Basalt
Bill Kane / Gary Tennenbaum

City of Aspen
Torre / Ward Hauenstein

Town of Carbondale
Dan Richardson / Ben Bohmfalk

Eagle County
Jeanne McQueeney /
Kathy Chandler-Henry

City of Glenwood Springs
Jonathan Godes / Shelley Kaup

Town of New Castle
Art Riddile / Scott Owens

Town of Snowmass Village
Alyssa Shenk / Bill Madsen

RFTA CEO
Dan Blankenship

RFTA COO
Kurt Ravenschlag

RFTA CFAO
Michael Yang

RFTA Human Resources and Communications

Linda Forgacs
Human Resources Director, 970-384-4952
Maria Vazquez
HR & Risk Mgmt. Analyst, 970-384-4950
Megan Faichney
Benefits Manager, 970-384-4878
Kipling Gomez
HR Generalist, 970-384-4854
Debbie Alcorta
Housing Coordinator, 970-384-4875
Terri Rider
Administrative Assistant, 970-384-4889
Jamie Tatsuno
Communications Manager
970-384-4864

The end of an era and the beginning of a new era

Bob Heier
Retired 4/2005 – 6/2022

Bob Heier began his career with RFTA in 2005. He started out as the Assistant Facility Manager for the department and as the department grew, he took on primary responsibility for managing the lower end of the Roaring Fork Valley. The Facility department went through some major growth and growing pains with the addition of the BRT project and as a result we lost a few key players in the department, the Facility Manager and another Assistant Facility Manager. In 2018, Bob was tasked with management of the entire Facility team while we reimagined how this department should be staffed and how it should function. Bob has had to manage the staff, the small contract vendors, landscaping, snowplowing, HVAC, etc., as well as implement the use of EAM for maintaining our assets. Bob is also the reason that the buses can get around the valley all winter long, because he personally got up all night long, watched the cameras and got the snowplow crews moving before the rest of the valley OR CDOT got out to plow. This department would not have functioned as well as it has without Bob Heier at the helm, and I will be forever grateful for his dedication to RFTA and to this department. RFTA is a better organization because of people like Bob Heier. Thank you for everything you have done for RFTA, now go enjoy that boat of yours.

Dustin Goodman – Facilities Manager

Dustin Goodman has accepted the position of Facility Manager for the Facility and Trails department effective June 5th. Several qualified candidates applied for this role, including some internal candidates. Thank you to each of them for their willingness to take on this incredibly challenging and ever-changing role. It was difficult to settle on a final candidate, but ultimately, Dustin checked all the boxes for where I want to see this department grow, into a professional department able to produce reports, show provable progress and meet all reporting requirements for the agency, state and federal governments, as well as documenting this process and developing written policies for how this department operates. Fortunately for RFTA, Dustin has worked at both the GMF and the AMF and has a good understanding of the complexity of both large facilities. He has also done quite a bit of repair work at the bus stops and the housing complexes, and understands the challenge of working in a department with a very small crew. Dustin will be instrumental in helping us grow in a useful and efficient manner over the next few years. RFTA is lucky to have found such a dedicated, ambitious and industrious new leader for the Facility team.

Employee Happenings

Stephen Mathews and **Dawn Patton** were both promoted to Dispatcher in May.

Marianne Peterson – changed positions from Accounting Tech 1 to Revenue Clerk 1

Vicki Rogers - transferred from 15 years of driving to Customer Service in Glenwood.

Dan Walsh - promoted from Part Time to Full Time Paratransit driver

Salvador Vallejo Malibran – transferred from Vehicle Maintenance to Finance as a Revenue Clerk II

Oscar Diaz - Ponce for passing (4) ASE certifications for Drive Trains, Brakes, HVAC, Suspension + Steering.

Welcome New Hires & Welcome Back Rehires!

Paratransit / Traveler: Cathy Close

Trails: Brian Sasaki

Facilities: Wyatt Benesh Facilities Tech II

Vehicle Maintenance: Arturo Gil (rehire), Andres Ramos (rehire)

Bus Operators: Georgi Apostolov (rehire), Ana Argueta (rehire), Joseph Brothers (rehire), Michael Brueckmann, Teressa Byrd (rehire), Sheila DeLaney, Jayde Doughty, Deadra Hawkins, Onashka Hernandez (rehire), Lori Hubit (rehire), Ben Jaffe (rehire), Noah McCord, Brandon Miller (Rehire), Titus Nelson, Elyse Parker, Deanna Peoples, Derek Pitt (rehire), Johsuah Shelley, Jonathan Todd, Grisel Vasquez (rehire)

Don Slover – Operations Manager
Don started with RFTA in May 2016 as a Seasonal Bus Operator and has continued to work his way up through the ranks of the department. Don brings a calm and steady presence to his work, something which has been invaluable over the last two years. Don will be working the road supervisors at both the GMF and AMF in the coming weeks, so expect to see him at both ends of the Valley.

Trent Smith (Vehicle Maintenance) is the proud father of Lydia RayLynn born 5/23

Retirement is Just a Never-Ending Vacation...

OH, THE PLACES THEY'LL GO!

17 YEARS

Bob Heir

Retired 4/2005 – 6/2022

Read Bob's bio on page 2.

43 YEARS

Susan Furz
Retired 11/1978 - 6/2022

RFTA was formed in 1983, however we have some employees who have been with the organization longer than it has existed. At its inception RFTA was formed by the joining of the City of Aspen and Pitkin County bus system. One of these City of Aspen employees was our own **Sue Furz** who started with them back in 1979. Working for an organization for longer than it has existed is an impressive feat, but driving for RFTA was not what defined the life of Sue Furz.

Throughout her life Sue has had a fierce passion for Art and pursued that throughout her college education earning a degree in Art from Bowling Green University. She has held many exhibitions in the Roaring Fork Valley and throughout the American Southwest. Throughout her artistic career she has worked in many mediums such as oil, but has recently begun using iridescent acrylics for her work.

In a roundabout way her love of art is what brought Sue to Colorado, after graduating Bowling Green State she attended Kent State University where she joined a Ski Club. While traveling with this Ski Club she was introduced to the State of Colorado. Soon after her visit she moved out here full time. Sue plans on staying in Colorado after retiring to enjoy the nature and the wildlife that have kept her company throughout her artistic career.

16 YEARS

Isidoro Anguiano
Retired 12/2005 - 5/2022

After 16 years of working for RFTA as a **CDL Bus Operator**, Isidoro has decided to call it a day and retire from his position with the company. Through the years, he has safely guided his passengers up and down the valley with safety and care that many would be lucky to emulate. Izzy was always quick to help out and when he was sent out you knew that the trip would be done with little fuss and with great care.

May his time in retirement be productive and satisfying for the family that he cares so greatly about. He was an asset to us during his tenure here. May he continue to be an asset to those around him in his future days.

33 YEARS

Phil Schultz
Retired 11/1989 – 6/2022

On June 3, 2022, RFTA said good-bye to long time **Director of IT, Phil Schultz**. After 33 years of dedicated service Phil and his wife Joan will be taking some long-deserved time for themselves and their family. Phil started with RFTA as a driver in 1989, before RFTA even existed as we know it today. At that time, he was also designing websites in his spare time. This led to Dan Blankenship asking Phil to form RFTA's IT team. Over the next 20+ years, the team expanded from just Phil to the 13 IT staff we have today. During that time Phil ushered in Clever Devices vehicle tracking, on-board WiFi, Ticket Vending Machines and many other facility and fleet IT modernization initiatives.

You can still listen to Phil and his wife Joan on their weekly radio show on Thursday mornings on KDNK.

Happy Retirement

15 YEARS

Lance Hubp
Retired 11/2008 - 6/2022

Lance Hubp has been with RFTA for 15 years. He started as a **Non-CDL Driver** and moved into the position of night **Rubey Park Clerk** a few years later. He is retiring after a long term of fielding a million complaints, answering a million phone calls, and providing over a million pieces of information during his tenure here.

Lance enjoys hiking and writing screenplays. We wish him the best of luck as he continues into his retirement years.

RFTA Company Picnic – Glenwood Caverns

A good time was had by all.

For those who were not able to attend the event, or reserved tickets for a different date; when you are at the ticket office, inform the attendant you are with RFTA and Mike in group sales has your name on a list. You will then receive your wrist band for cave tours and unlimited rides for the day.

SPRING Pillars Amongst Us - RFTA's Monthly Employee Spotlight

April 2022

Cory Ice - Information Technology

Cory Ice has been with RFTA for almost 12 years, initially hiring on as a non-CDL Bus operator and transferring May 2018 to IT as a Farebox, TVM and AVL Technician. Tim Madden his manager, Angel Avila and Matt Laufer, his co-workers want to recognize Cory for his dedicated efforts.

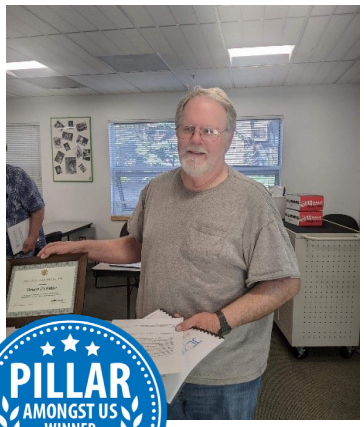
Cory has been training our newest IT staff, Matt Laufer and Angel Avila, offering them guidance and sharing experience so they are able to work alone on the different IT equipment across RFTA's fleet, facilities and BRT stations. The training Cory provided allows IT to provide 7 day per week coverage, which helps keep the fleet running and staff working. His development as a leader and management skills are on point especially with his driven attitude to meet deadlines.

Cory has spent endless hours sifting through video requests from multiple police departments to help solve various crimes, anywhere from minor thefts to sexual assaults. IT will frequently receive requests for video footage from an entire day, and he diligently whittles down those requests to a manageable time frame and extracts the best footage available to assist the requesting agency.

Cory is always conscientious of how his work impacts RFTA staff and passengers. He works extremely hard to minimize the time that buses, staff vehicles, TVMs and other equipment are out of service. He has volunteered to work extra time, coming in as early as 3am and then working 12-hour days, to install new equipment on buses before they pulled out for the day. He became the ad-hoc team leader with several Vehicle Maintenance staff to diagnose and repair multiple, complex issues with the newest MCI buses to prepare them for service. He also identified the problem with "the TCH hum" issue that has plagued buses across the fleet from multiple manufacturers. His explanation and confidence in his suggested repair path were used as justification to convince Clever Devices to replace more than 20 TCHs at no cost to RFTA and solving a longstanding complaint from the drivers. He always looks for ways to minimize expenses and reduce time delay on any of the hardware we work on in IT. He being alone in different areas of performance has shown he can make things happen.

Bruce Parlette - Operations

Bruce Parlette has been with RFTA for 31 years, in the capacity of Road Supervisor.



Ian Adams, his director and Nancy Hostetler his colleague, want to recognize Bruce for his dedicated efforts.

Throughout Bruce's extensive RFTA career he has proved to be a calm, consistent and dedicated presence. Without having to raise his voice, Bruce is able to manage some of the most chaotic events including Winter X-games and Maroon Lake at rush hour.

Bruce's diligence in his work is evident in his commitment to the Maroon Bell's shuttle system. Every Spring and Summer Bruce is instrumental in the training of Bell's drivers and the daily operation of the bus system that transports thousands of visitors to Maroon Lake. His passion and devotion for this service is evident and it has helped shape and grow this service into the tremendous success that it is today.

Bruce also sets the Gold Standard for accident and incident investigations! He is greatly appreciated with his thorough, detailed, and timely investigation and reporting skills. His Road Supervisor documents provide the Accident Review Committee with the necessary relevant facts.

Linda Sepulveda - Vehicle Maintenance

Linda Sepulveda has been with RFTA for six months, in the capacity of non-CDL Bus Cleaner.

Stewart Clark, her supervisor, wants to recognize Linda for her dedicated efforts.

Linda assists with language barrier issues. Linda has worked on her English language communication skills since joining RFTA and regularly volunteers to assist when needed. Linda has an infectious happy attitude which helps drive a positive atmosphere within Vehicle Maintenance. She proves the theory that a joyful attitude can cheer up others by simply being happy yourself. Sometimes it is not the word but the demeanor which makes the difference.

May 2022

Oscar Diaz - Vehicle Maintenance

Oscar Diaz has been with RFTA for since November, in the capacity of Transit Service Technician. Mathew Davis his supervisor, wants to recognize Oscar for his dedicated efforts.

Oscar has been a great addition to the vehicle Maintenance department at RFTA. He has a great attitude and work ethic. Oscar is also hungry for knowledge, and is excited to take on new and challenging tasks. He is fun to work with, and a solid team player. I expect to see great things coming from him in the future.

Lou Gregorich - Operations

Lou Gregorich has been with RFTA for 19 years, in the capacity of Operations Manager.

Rebecca Borges his subordinate, wants to recognize Lou for his dedicated efforts.

As an operations manager, Lou has contributed ideas, improvements, and resolutions to the operations team and consistently betters our work because of it! By ensuring our drivers have everything they need to do their job efficiently, he is affecting the lives of our patrons on a regular basis. By assisting in the management of operations, he is a key factor in RFTA's success, thus bettering our community as a whole. Despite tight staffing and difficult scheduling, Lou consistently goes above and beyond. He does his best to create each employee's dream schedule and approve vacations to be sure drivers can have family and rest time. Lou has a kind heart, immense intellect, and is an indescribable force within RFTA. He deserves recognition for his incredible work.

Linda Kasden - Finance

Linda Kasden has been with RFTA for 16 years, in the capacity of Accounting Technician II. Paul Hamilton her director, wants to recognize Linda for her dedicated efforts.

Linda consistently is assisting her coworkers and team members.

Linda Kasden has worked at RFTA for many years now and I believe she is currently the longest tenured member of the Finance Team at RFTA. She consistently goes above and beyond, working tirelessly behind the scenes, month after month. She assists with reconciling RFTA's books and records, prepares numerous financial reports, reconciles any number of financial accounts, works with other departments, and takes on any special project that she is asked for assistance with (and the list could go on and on and on). Her attention to detail is a tremendous asset and it comes shining through with her final work product. Linda, your contributions and dedication to both the Finance Team and RFTA are very much appreciated - a big thank you to ALL you do!

June 2022

James Holmbeck - Facilities

James Holmbeck has been with RFTA for six years, in the capacity of Facilities Tech II.

Dustin Goodman his supervisor, wants to recognize James for his dedicated efforts. James completed his UST training last May 2021. James has really stepped up his communication the last few months. While I was on vacation James kept the department informed and up to date on the happenings at the AMF. James saw the need and filled the void.

Kip Hubbard - Operations

Kip Hubbard has been with RFTA since December 2020, in the capacity of CDL Bus Operator.

Rebecca Borges, the Ops Admin wants to recognize Kip for his dedicated efforts.

Kip is an employee who provides a happy and friendly work environment. He is always checking in with folks, greeting people, and making work a more enjoyable environment. Kip is an endlessly caring and helpful driver. Tourists and locals alike benefit from his kindness.

Kip is currently working to make a change within RFTA by developing new ideas and ways for us to be a more inclusive company. He is passionate about ending discrimination, promoting kindness and bringing folks together.

Kip has been a delight from the start. His willingness to help and passion for people make him an incredible asset to this company. We wouldn't be the same without him!

Casey Iverson - Vehicle Maintenance

Casey Iverson has been with RFTA for six years in the capacity of Non-CDL Service Worker and was just recently promoted to CDL Service Worker. Jeff Close and Mckenzie Covington his colleagues, want to recognize Casey for his dedicated efforts.

Casey is a very hard worker, never complains about anything and rarely asks for help on his shift which is one of the busiest. Casey works extremely hard during his shifts. He never complains and is an excellent team player. He keeps our hostling at bay and also assists the mechanics with keeping things in order. Casey is always pleasant to talk to and work with even when they took away his hostling helper. He keeps a solid head on his shoulders and does not become flustered when his workload is big.

CONGRATULATIONS SPRING Pillars Amongst Us!

FULL RFTA GYM MEMBERSHIP DETAILS ARE LOCATED ON THE HUB AT:

https://hub.rfta.com/content/2073/2022-gym-membership-program

2022 WILL BE WHAT YOU MAKE IT, AND HOPEFULLY YOU MAKE IT GREAT!

RFTA is continuing its Gym Membership Program in 2022. This year RFTA will continue to offer a 50% reimbursement for any gym membership you decide to purchase but will be raising the maximum amount reimbursed to $40.00 a month! We do not process monthly dues anymore. We only process quarterly or yearly reimbursements.

50% Reimbursement of Membership Cost – Up to $40 a Month

RFTA is increasing its reimbursement to 50% of Costs for a membership in 2022 (up to $40 per month)!

Here is what you need to do:

1. Select the gym that is the right fit for you and your budget
2. Purchase and pay for your own gym membership
3. Submit the invoice and complete the form to HR at the Bunker (Carbondale Bank Building) via interoffice envelope; or email wellbeing@rfta.com;
4. RFTA will reimburse 50% of the monthly cost of that membership, up to $40 per month. RFTA's reimbursement will be bi-weekly during the course of your membership in 2022 only.
5. Questions? Call Kip at 970-384-4854 or email wellbeing@rfta.com.

Smiles are free so share them

Bike to Work Day - June 22, 2022

This year's Colorado Bike To Work Day, locally branded as BikeThere Garfield County, was held on June 22, 2022. A special thanks given to Zuleika Pevec with CLEER/Garfield Clean Energy (GCE) for coordinating with Glenwood Springs and RFTA on the event. Breakfast and re-fueling stations were held in Glenwood Springs and Carbondale. Bikers were encouraged to visit stations for free food, coffee, SWAG and to sign up for a big giveaway - a Magnum Cosmo S e-bike ($2,000 value), courtesy of Colorado E-Bikes of Glenwood Springs. Additional prizes include a half-day raft trip with Defiance Rafting and a gift certificate from Defiance Cyclery.

Thanks to Jamie Tatsuno (RFTA Communications), Jason White (RFTA Planning), Brett Meredith, Jud Lang and Brian Sasaki (RFTA Trails) for helping host the Carbondale station at DeRail Park along the Rio Grande Trail (across HWY 82 from the Carbondale Park & Ride). The trail crew took time out of their busy field schedules to bike haul the gear for the event!

We had about 60 total bikers visit!

We may be biased, but we think the Rio Grande Railroad Corridor/Rio Grande Trail is one of the best public assets in Colorado!!!

And the winner of the E-bike was....

RFTASTRONG
DRIVING GOOD HEALTH

RFTA BIKE-A-THON

7/1 - 8/31

From July 1st until August 31st, track your mileage or minutes spent cycling and rack up points for this challenge! Track your distance/time travelled in the Good Life portal. Earn additional points by completing RFTA routes. Winner gets a $250 prize!

wellnessportal.online/login/rfta

If not yet already enrolled, the program code is **rftawellness**