

## **Kobussen Trailways driver earns Trailways Driver of the Year award**

Quick thinking in developing alternative travel plans during a snowstorm earned Kobussen Trailways driver Jonathan Wilson the 2011 Trailways Driver of the Year award.

Wilson successfully handled the daunting challenge during a charter in which he drove the Sun Prairie High School cheerleading team to the local airport during a February snowstorm. The team had an airline flight booked to Florida where they were scheduled to perform in a national competition.

Upon arrival at the airport, the team discovered that their flight had been cancelled and there were no other flights scheduled to or near their destination.

Wilson immediately arranged for the group to travel via Kobussen Trailways coach the entire distance to Florida. He coordinated with other drivers to drive the early stages of the trip so that he could travel ahead of the team in time to meet the group in Georgia. From there, he drove the team to the hotel in Florida and also transported the group between the hotel and the competitions.

Not only did the team arrive in Florida on time, their performance garnered the competition championship.

Simon Gillham, the manager of the Kobussen Trailways terminal in Sun Prairie, wrote in his letter of recommendation for Wilson, "Without Mr. Wilson's immediate action they would not have even made it to Florida."

He further wrote, "Our Company never fails to receive a letter of commendation following a tour for which Jonathan has driven."

Kobussen Trailways President Joe Kobussen said, "In an age in which service appears to be slipping in all areas of business, Jonathan has never lost sight of what makes our company successful -- customer service."

Wilson is a 13-year veteran driver in the charter and tour coach industry and has been employed by Kobussen Trailways since August 2006.

He was the sole recipient of the prestigious national award, presented at the Trailways Stockholders Annual Conference in Feb. 2011 in Florida. His company flew him to attend the meeting and Trailways hosted his accommodations.

Celebrating its 75th anniversary, Kobussen Buses got its start in 1938 when the current owner's dairy-farmer grandfather, Elwood "Goldie" Kobussen, began transporting students to and from Kaukauna High School. The company, then known as Kaukauna Bus Service, started serving schools in other communities as well, finally changing its name to Kobussen in 1976. In 1983, the company expanded into luxury motor coach charters.

Today, the company, a Trailways member, serves a wide variety of charter clients, continues to serve schools, runs a paratransit service, maintains a scheduled service route and moves troops for the Department of Defense. Employing some 700 people, it has five locations and adheres to the motto, "Family Pride in Every Ride." Its website is [www.kobussen.com](http://www.kobussen.com).