

#### The Newsletter of the Montana Traffic Education Association

# MTEA NEWS

Volume 28, Issue 3

Spring 2023

#### MTEA Annual Conference - Billings, MT ~ April 23-25

#### **Teaching for Tomorrow: Technology Meets Safety**

by LeAnn Haas, 2022-23 past president and conference planner

Planning this year's conference has been challenging. Doug Van Zee has put together some amazing conference presentations these past few years and the board members are always hard at work to make the conference great. My goal and vision for this year's

conference is to take a closer look at how technology and safety are changing on the roads and in the classroom.

The first day will be filled with local professionals from Montana organizations such as Vision Zero, with Steve Schmidt and Montana Highway Patrol, with Seargent Lacie Wickum. They will be speaking on topics that directly impact all roadway users. This will be followed by our Roundtable Discussions and the annual Awards Banquet.

Day two opens with Dr. Rick Chromey speaking on GenTech: how technology has changed and molded students in the past years. His workshop focuses on motivating students without gimmicks. To offset his workshop, OPI will be giving an overview and refresher of new and existing information from TEDRS and the MVD. Afternoon presentations focus on Motorcycle Safety on the roadways and new Autonomous, Electric, and Safety Features in vehicles. The day rounds out with Classification Meetings followed by a Student/Teacher Panel: Technology & Traffic; the good, the bad, and the ugly. Have questions ready!

Day three kicks off with some educational entertainment from **The Magic of Keith Raymond**. He will also be presenting a workshop as the **Rosebud County Disaster and Emergency Services** director. **Workshops** will also be offered from MTEA board members Susan Carney and Steffani Grogan.

Grogan's "Who Would Have Thunk It?: Take Two" will take some of the module components that

are harder to create hands-on activities for. Engaging learners and implementing techniques to stretch student thinking will be demonstrated in the curriculum areas of drugs/alcohol, intersections and more.

#### **ENFORCEMENT STOPS**

by Scott Brown, Hot Springs

Listening to President Biden's latest State of the Union speech inspired me to think about my lesson on what a driver should do during a law enforcement stop.

I explain the proper procedures:

- 1. Acknowledge the officer's presence by turning on your right turn signal.
- 2. Move your vehicle to the right side of the roadway or to a wide spot as soon as it is safe to do so. Turn on four-way flashers.
- 3. Do not use your cell phone.
- 4. Remain inside your vehicle, unless instructed otherwise by the officer/trooper.
- 5. If the stop is in the evening or at night, turn on the interior light so the officer/trooper can more easily see the occupants.
- 6. Put your hands on the top of the steering wheel where they are visible to the officer/trooper. Instruct your passengers to keep their hands where they are also visible to the officer/trooper.

These simple procedures are clearly outlined in the *Montana Driver Manual*, but the manual does not do enough to explain how to act or treat the officer/trooper.

When interacting with an officer/trooper, be (continued to p. 3)

### MTEA Executive Board

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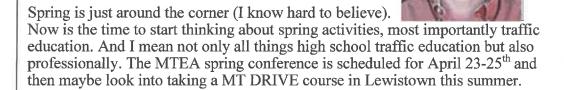
Steve Morgan (White Sulphur, C)

MTEA News is published by the Montana Traffic Education Association in the fall, winter, and spring. MTEA, PO Box 637, Conrad, MT 59425. Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, (406) 278-7856. MTEA News is mailed to members and published at MTEAOnline.org. Submissions can be emailed to: sgrogan@forsyth.k12.mt.us. Articles are due 10/1; 12/1; 3/1.

#### MTEA President's Message

Denise Bordeleau (2022-2023, President)

Traffic Education Instructors,



This year the conference theme is "Teaching for Tomorrow: Technology Meets Safety". There are sections devoted to new in-car technologies, MHP and EMT perspectives as well as the popular roundtables and the Huff symposium. This is the best conference you can attend! It keeps you up-to-date with new methods and innovative teaching strategies as they relate to in-car, in-classroom, passenger, driver, teacher, and safety performance in the driving environment.

This is also a great place to reconnect with old friends and make new ones as we participate in meals, 50/50, door prizes, and other activities. The presenters are knowledgeable, informative, and fun to be around. Everyone that attends has a fine time. Consider joining us and becoming part of the best traffic education association in the nation!

The other item on the list is Montana DRIVE. This one-day course is offered Monday through Friday or Tuesday through Saturday throughout the summer. If you need renewal units, spend a day driving the course. Then for college credit, stay another day and student teach a section of the course. This class improves and reinforces skills and confidence as a driver in most situations. Some things will be new to you; others will be a refresher. Where else can you practice emergency driving techniques without damaging personal property or earning a ticket? As TE instructors we owe it to our families and students to be the best we can be in the vehicle and on the roads. MT DRIVE also has one week dedicated to our new teen drivers (1 yr. minimum experience). OPI opened registration on February 1<sup>st</sup> this year for adults and will open March 1 for teens. Improve your skills on sketchy roads or encourage your teen drivers to expand personal driving skills by attending. Check out the course webpage at opi.mt.gov (scroll down to the MT DRIVE button) for more details.

See you at Conference!

(enforcement stops, from p. 1)...

respectful and compliant. Officers/troopers are people just like you and me; they do not like being disrespected or belittled by a smart aaaaaalick. If the officer behaves a little short with you, realize that maybe they had an argument that morning with their spouse, or their child got in trouble at school, or their last stop was a real jerk. Do what is asked of you and be compliant.

I explain to my students that police officers and state troopers are people just like us. That means they are cautious when approaching a vehicle for their own safety, as well as the safety of others. If you are doing anything that is suspicious, you may look out your window into a gun barrel. They all want to go home to their families each night just like we do.

#### The Need for Montana DRIVE

by Yvette Jordan

There I was, driving through the prairies of Montana to Lewistown on a beautiful sunny morning. I had a motel for the night (highly recommended!) and had signed up for Montana DRIVE. I had no idea what I was in for, but I had a good reason for the trip... my sister said so.

8:00 am and I was sitting in class with a group of instructors who clearly loved what they were doing as they set the tone for the course. Before I knew it, I was steering a bus down a route of cones and stop lights. The next station, the Monster Car, was a blast. "Target! Target!" as the instructor taught us how to steer out of a skid. "When in doubt, feet go out!" In the Off Road Recovery Station, I learned to trust the vehicle. "Steer where you want to go!" I even took a 25 mile an hour corner at 45 mph! Wa Hooo!! Driving a bus on the skid path was the best. Who knew I would have so much fun and gain so much in 8 hours, but then....my sister said so.

When I returned home, I encouraged everyone to take this course. The skills I learned gave me confidence negotiating Montana roads. I still hear the voice of the instructor as I find myself locating a target around the corners in Wolf Creek Canyon and Glacier Park. The class was invaluable to my driving, just like my sister said.

Before she knew it, my daughter found herself driving to Lewistown. Her aunt told her so. What the instructors didn't know was she had been in seven accidents. All that trauma came out right in the bus and Monster Car. In tears, she declared she quit! The lead instructor took her under her wing for the rest of the day. My daughter drove home the next day as a confident driver because of an instructor who was willing to go the extra mile. Montana DRIVE is like that. My sister said so.

It wasn't long before my daughter found herself on black ice on a 10th Ave South ramp with a car in the other lane heading towards her and a car spun out in front of her. She drove through the cars because of the skills she learned in Montana DRIVE.

This winter she again found herself on black ice at a stop sign. She doesie-doed around the other car, up the curb, steered away from a house. and nestled the car between the tree and the porch. When the law enforcement official commented on her driving skills, she proudly stated, "I've taken Montana DRIVE....because my aunt told me to!"

Every driver, (including our new teenage drivers!), Driver's Ed instructors, bus drivers and professional drivers should be required to take the Montana DRIVE class. This course is saving lives. The skills taught are invaluable. Old and young will benefit and so will you.... because, I said so.

#### Legislative Update

by Charlie Brown, Fairfield

## #1-I saw that Rep Ed Stafman out of Bozeman was thinking of drafting a bill for private driving schools.

We talked for quite a while just before the legislative session started, and he gave me some of his reasons for wanting to create private driving schools.

- Stafman said he was not going to change anything about TE, he just wanted to create private driving schools.
- It was concerning the backlog of students in the Bozeman area not getting into TE. I told him for the most part that it was a Bozeman issue.
   Billings schools put through 1200 kids in TE;
   Bozeman barely put through 400 kids.
- Another reason for the private driving schools was that teachers didn't want to go to Havre for the 2-3 weeks to get trained. He didn't know much about licensure of teachers in general, getting paid, etc. I told him if he wanted the straight story on TE he needed to contact Dwight or me.

(continued to p. 4)

(legislative report, from p. 3)

# #2-I had two kids drop TE because of the Student Driver Relief Program (kids by-passing TE and getting trained by their parents, then working on the GDL requirements).

I called DOJ to get clarification, thinking it was for hardship only and they couldn't get into a TE class. Well come to find out, we as TE teachers are just considered volunteers and lay-people teaching TE! I then put in a request to visit with the Attorney General concerning this perception of TE teachers.

#3-Meeting with Rebeca Connors, Friday Feb 3, 2023. I did have a meeting with Rebecca Connors and Laurie Bakri. It went okay. Ms. Bakri kept telling me it was parents' choice to do the Student Relief Driver Program. They are just following the laws passed by the Legislature. DOJ calls it the Student Relief Driver Program. Good to know, but that part of the law sunsets in June of this year, so it will be interesting to see if that program goes away.

I talked about a better partnership between MTEA and DOJ and they agreed. I said it was a bit upsetting that DOJ was thinking of going outside the state to develop an online program when they have one of the strongest state organizations in the nation. They said that they would work on having better communication between the two organizations.

**#4-Any bills concerning Drivers Ed.** None at this time. Lots of bills concerning education. Hopefully you are on some websites that follow the Legislature and Education Bills. One good website I follow is MREA-MT (Montana Rural Education Association).

Website to find bills and proposed bills and the progress they are in during the legislative process:

http://laws.leg.mt.gov/legprd/law0203w\$.startup? P SESS=20231

Website to find a legislator and a means of contacting them:

https://leg.mt.gov/legislator-information/

Website to find Committees and members of those committees:

https://leg.mt.gov/audio-video/

### Teaching Driver's Education is NOT for Everyone

By Jerry Olson, Great Falls

I remember contemplating whether or not to dive into Driver's Education. I remember asking myself and anyone who would listen, "Who in their right mind would want to do that?"

That being said, I have been teaching two to three sessions every year for the past 18 years. I would be lying if I said it was easy. It is not! Is it rewarding? Is it fun? Is it scary? It is all of these and more.

The memories acquired in the car are the most cherished.

- I have had a girl shake her fist and cuss out a helicopter doing patrol work from Malmstrom Air Force Base. She was upset because she thought the helicopter was following her.
- I had another student ask me, "What type of birds are those in the river?" (They were all Canadian geese.)
   She then asked, "Are they getting ready to swim south for the winter?"
   I replied, "No....they will probably fly."
- I once had boy who was not very talkative and me, thinking I was funny, asked him a question. "You know what they say about kids who don't talk much? They might be serial killers."

  He looked at me, and replied, "I don't eat much cereal!"

Teaching kids to drive is very rewarding. I love the driving (once we get the first two lessons out of the way) but sometimes class is a struggle. Students are in school 6 hours or more and then we ask them to focus another hour and a half to learn how to drive safely.

One thing I've started doing is having the students do a Driver's Ed related PSA with their driving groups. They get the freedom to choose what content they want to work with. Some do distracted driving, some show how to properly change a tire, some do driving impaired PSA's. On the last day of class, we show all the PSA's to the class and it is a great way to end the course. Kids are very creative and once I show some of my past PSA's they try to better them. If you want more information, please visit with me at the conference. Take care, be safe, and have fun.

### MTEA Executive Board Meeting January 29, 2023 (google meet format)

- •Minutes, financial reports, correspondence, and various board reports were reviewed.
- •President-Elect candidates were finalized.
- •The newsletter and webpage were discussed.
- •A Legislative report was provided.
- •An OPI report was provided.
- •Discussion of the 2023 conference took place with sessions, speakers, and assignments.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 24th at the spring conference in Billings. Anyone having items for discussion should contact Riley Ramsey, President-Elect, or Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary.

### Traffic Educator and Contributor of the Year Awards

MTEA honors exceptional Traffic Educators and Contributors to local TE programs at the spring conference. Any active teacher who has devoted a good part of their teaching career to traffic education is eligible to apply.

In addition, MTEA recognizes companies, organizations, and individuals who make generous contributions of time, energy, equipment and/or expertise to support local programs.

Nomination deadlines for both awards was March 1st. If you still have someone, contact Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, *asap* at 406-278-7856.

#### **Membership Reminder**

At the 2022 spring conference business meeting, the membership voted to discontinue the AD&D insurance program due to rising costs. This is no longer a part of our membership benefits. Contact Executive Secretary Jim Carroll with any questions.

#### **Retiring from teaching TE?**

If you are retiring from education / TE and have been an active MTEA member, we would like to honor you at the upcoming spring conference. In order to be recognized, please contact Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, <u>asap</u> at 406-278-7856 so you can get your application form in immediately.

#### \*\*\*Nelson's News\*\*\*

I would like to clarify a couple of things brought to my attention recently by instructors, parents, and the MTEA. Online traffic education courses and privately -run traffic education schools are <u>not</u> approved by the Office of Public Instruction's Traffic Education Department or recognized by the Montana Motor Vehicle Division. This is because they don't meet the minimum standards and requirements. Two popular websites / companies offering these types of course are <u>www.dmvedu.org</u> and <u>www.driversed.com</u> based out of California and Texas.

I want to be very clear in case there is confusion on how I feel about various paths of traffic education for Montana's youth. I truly believe the best path for Montana's youth learning how to drive is in a state approved traffic education course run by a state approved traffic education instructor.

Lastly, the Hearing Test on the Class D Driver License Application <u>does</u> need to be done by the traffic education instructor. I was told by the MVD if instructors can have a normal conversation with the TE student without having to repeat words or raise their voice, that is sufficient to "Pass". If not, it would be a "Fail". Please note, with a "Pass" or "Fail", if there are any external or implanted devices to aid the student in hearing in any way, the box "Check if wearing hearing aid" will need to be marked on the application.

Thanks for all that you do to make the roads of Montana safe!

OPI Website: <a href="http://opi.mt.gov">http://opi.mt.gov</a>



**Dwight Nelson** MSEd/MT Class III Admin Lic *Traffic Education Direc*tor & *Montana DRIVE Supervisor* (406) 422-3944

#### President-Elect & Executive Board

The President-Elect must be a current board member. Our candidates this year are Steffani Grogan (Forsyth) and David Murray (Havre). Platform statements will be included in the conference packets. Voting will take place at the annual business meeting.

In addition, some director positions still need to be filled. Consider becoming more involved in the leadership of your Association! Nominations will be taken at the upcoming conference.



## CDTP QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

P.O. Box 201430 Helena, MT 59620 -1430 Phone (406) 444-1772 Fax (406) 444-2086 mvd@mt.gov

#### **Become Certified for CDTP**

- 1. Must be an OPI-approved Traffic Education Instructor
- 2. Successfully complete CDTP Certification Training from DOJ
- 3. Submit original signed certification forms to DOJ (available on TEDRS)
  - School District Intent to Participate, form 26-0100
  - CDTP Instructor Compliance Affidavit, form 26-0200
     DOJ will verify eligibility and update TEDRS with certification
- 4. CDTP Instructor will receive certification letter and test overlays from DOJ
- 5. CDTP Instructor contacts local driver exam station to pick up supplies such as:
  - Driver license manuals
  - TEP (Traffic Education Permit)
  - Driver license applications
  - Knowledge tests
  - Driving test forms
  - Optional: Learner License can also be printed via the OPI's TEDRS

NOTE: Please call your local exam station to arrange a pick up time and introduce yourself

#### **Next Steps for Class**

- 1. Students complete the driver license application in blue or black ink
  - Parent must sign in front of CDTP instructor or have their signature notarized
- 2. Instructor reviews application for signatures and completeness
  - Student, parent & instructor signatures (cannot test without all signatures)
  - Student presents birth certificate or U.S. passport
    - Instructor must compare name on the birth certificate to the name on DL application (names must match unless legally changed)
    - Photo copy is acceptable for instructor; however student will need a certified birth certificate when appearing at the exam station.
  - Instructor records on the application that they have seen the birth certificate and returns
    the birth certificate to the student
- Vision screening All students MUST be screened for vision prior to issuance of a learner license
  - Record vision results on the application
  - Record whether student completed screening with/without corrective lens
- 4. Instructor administers the written CDTP Montana Operator Test
  - Collect and score the test
  - Student may review the test but cannot keep it
  - Record the test score on application
  - Instructor/School must store written test results for at least five years.
- 5. Instructor completes the Notice of Participation on the OPI Certification form (TE03, must be signed) and Student List (TE04)
  - Instructor marks an "X" in the appropriate column those students who were successful and are waived from taking the written test at the driver exam station

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- 6. Instructor issues learner license to students that passed CDTP Montana Operator Test
  - Students must be at least 14½ years old
- 7. Instructor mails or delivers all driver license applications to the appropriate driver exam station within 3 days of learner license issuance.
  - Refer to CDTP training manual instructions if you want to administer the knowledge test again

#### **Steps for Class Completion**

- 1. Instructor administers the DOJ road test to all students
- 2. Instructor completes the Notice of Completion on the TE03 Certification and TE04 Student List
  - CDTP instructor mails or delivers the road test form, 21-1800 CDTP Test Results, to the driver exam station for those that are waived from taking the road test
  - CDTP instructor/school retains the road test results for at least five years

#### Additional Items

- 1. Student must successfully complete CDTP course, hold their permit for 6 months and be 15 years of age or older, to obtain a Montana driver license.
- 2. When student goes to the local driver exam station they will need:
  - Certified birth certificate and/or valid passport (plus INS documents for foreign nationals)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> form of identification (see list on MVD website)
  - Provide their social security number
  - Provide proof of residential address
  - Parent/legal guardian certification
  - Vision screening will be done again
  - Students who had the road test certified to be waived may still be chosen at random to take the DOJ road test
    - (Note: Unless there is an ADA accommodation request, passengers other than the student and examiner will not be permitted on the DOJ road test.)
  - Students who did not have any test certified to be waived must take the related DOJ tests
  - Student pays the driver license fee
  - Student's license is processed with restriction "First year restricted GDL" and student is given temporary license

If you have not had the opportunity to meet the driver examiner and or regional manager in your area, please do so . . . They greatly appreciate hearing from you!

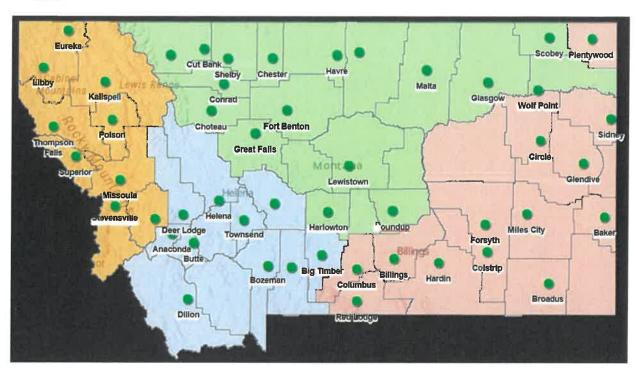
For assistance from the Driver Services Bureau, please contact your local driver license examiner, regional manager, or Tyson Miller, <u>Tyson.Miller@mt.gov</u>.

For more information on the OPI's Traffic Education Data & Reporting System (TEDRS), contact the Traffic Education Program at (406) 444-4432

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## DRIVER SERVICES BUREAU, DRIVER LICENSING REGIONAL MANAGERS & REGION MAP 2022



Eastern Region - Billings
SANDY STANLEY, Regional Manager
Office: 406-896-4335 Cell: 406-606-2429
Sandy.Stanley@mt.gov

- Billings Columbus, Hardin, Red Lodge
- Glendive Baker, Circle
- Miles City Broadus, Colstrip, Forsyth
- Sidney Plentywood

Northern Region - Great Falls
KEN MCGUIRE, Regional Manager
Office: 406-727-2569 Cell: 406-788-1994
Kenneth.McGuire@mt.gov

- Cut Bank Conrad, Shelby
- Great Falls Fort Benton, Choteau
- Havre Chester, Chinook, Malta
- Glasgow Wolf Point, Scobey
- Lewistown Roundup, Harlowton

Central Region - Bozeman VANESSA CARRILLO, Regional Manager Office: 406-586-5560 Cell: 406-224-5446 vanessa.carrillo@mt.gov

- Bozeman
- Butte Deer Lodge
- Dillon Virginia City
- Helena Townsend
- Livingston Big Timber, White Sulphur Springs

Western Region - Butte
BRITTANY MCGINNIS, Regional Manager
Office: 406-533-6611 Cell: 406-465-3244
bmcginnis@mt.gov

- Kalispell
- Polson
- Libby Eureka
- Missoula Philipsburg
- Thompson Falls Superior
- Stevensville



# MONTANA TRAFFIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE Teaching for Tomorrow: Technology Meets Safety Billings, Montana ~ April 23-25, 2023



The Montana Traffic Education Association and Montana Office of Public Instruction invite you to the **2023 Montana Traffic Education Conference!** 

The Traffic Education environment is constantly changing. The 2023 conference will focus on teaching not just for today, but for tomorrow as well. Workshops on New Car Technology, "Knuckles for Buckles", Vision Zero, MHP & Driving Sobriety Issues, Roundtable Discussions on "how I teach", iTech Rising, Motivating Students, TEDRS, CDTP, MT DRIVE, Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan, Motorcycle Safety, Autonomous Vehicle Features & Safety, Huff Symposium, Student Panel, EMT Observations, Curriculum - "take two", and more!

PRE-REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE: All attendees <u>must pre-register</u> with MTEA by Saturday, April 15, 2023. The registration fee is \$215 and includes five meals. Complete the registration form below, detach, and mail to MTEA along with a check for \$215. Walk-in registrations are not allowed. <u>Cancellation policy</u>: Upon prior written notice of cancellation before the conference, \$135 of the \$215 registration fee is refundable.

**BOOK YOUR HOTEL:** The conference takes place at the **Billings Hotel & Convention Center**, 1223 Mullowney Lane, in Billings. Room rate is \$97.00 (plus tax) for a single or double room. Attendees will be asked for a credit card to secure a room. Call the **Billings Hotel & Convention Center** at **(406) 248-7151**. Mention the group name (Montana Traffic Education Association) to get the special rate. Cut-off for the group rate is **April 8**, based on availability, so reserve your room early!

**COLLEGE CREDIT OR RENEWAL UNITS:** Register for one semester credit through MSU-N beginning at 10:00 am on Sunday, April 23. The cost is \$150. You can alternatively choose to earn up to 15 renewal units which can be used toward your Montana educator license renewal. **You may register for college credit OR renewal units, but NOT both.** 

**SCHEDULE/AGENDA:** Complete registration packets will be available beginning at 10:00 am on Sunday, April 23. The first general session will begin at noon. The conference ends at 12:00 pm on Tuesday, April 25. **Conference agenda, speaker bios and other updates will be posted at MTEAOnline.org.** 

Please write clearly on the form below and send with payment to MTEA.



# 2023 Montana Traffic Education Conference Registration BILLINGS HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER April 23-25, 2023 - Billings, Montana

### You must pre-register to attend.

MUST PRE-REGISTER BY APRIL 15, 2023

Please bring an item to give as a door prize!

Name			
Home Mailing Address			MTEA USE ONLY
City	State	ZIP Code	Date
-mail			Check No.
elephone (Work)	(Home)	(Cell)	Received check from:
chool(s) where you teach			
I would like to register for t	he MTEA conference and joir	n/renew my membership in MTEA. End	closed Amount \$

\_\_\_\_\_ I am unable to attend this year's conference, but I want to join/renew my MTEA membership and receive MTEA's newsletter. Enclosed is a check to MTEA for \$45.

- MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: MONTANA TRAFFIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION or MTEA
- MAIL TO: MTEA, PO Box 637, Conrad, MT 59425
- QUESTIONS? Call Jim Carroll at (406) 278-3285 (days) or (406) 278-7856 (evenings)

The conference registration fee does not include the college credit fee.
The cost for the one semester hour of credit is \$150 and must be paid to MSU-N at the conference.



## Montana Traffic Education Association PO Box 637 Conrad, MT 59425

#### Return Service Requested



### 2023 Montana Traffic Education Conference April 23-24-25, 2023—Billings Hotel & Convention Center

Look for more detailed conference information in this spring newsletter and on the MTEA website at www.mteaonline.org.

The 2023 ADTSEA conference will be held July 16-19 in Wichita, Kansas. The conference will provide you with a wealth of information and an opportunity to network with other professionals from across the United States. Remember, MTEA has a scholarship program that will provide up to \$500 per person to offset



conference costs. Even if you can't attend, at least consider joining your national organization. For more information, check it out at <a href="https://www.adtsea.org">www.adtsea.org</a>.