



MTEA NEWS



Newsletter for the Montana Traffic Education Association VOL. 18, ISSUE 3 – SPRING 2013

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Steve Morgan (Kalispell, AA)

Past President:

Tom Zuhoski (Belt, C)

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Mick Davis (Great Falls, AA)

Executive Secretary:

Jim Carroll (Conrad, B)

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Class B open position

Diane Prongua (Hot Springs, C)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear MTEA Membership,

Thank you for the support of HB 178 by contacting legislatures, activating parents and students, and prompting individuals from your community to voice their concerns. It is an arduous process seeing a proposed bill become law. Your efforts will help provide for future traffic education students and enhance Montana's horizon. MTEA members will be at the Montana State Capitol rotunda showcasing teen driver safety on March 15.

The MTEA Board, Fran, and Tom have been busy planning the spring conference. Make plans soon to attend the April 28-30 conference in Great Falls. Come immerse yourself in an environment of professional development benefiting both you and ultimately your students. A few Board members and I are scheduled to attend the 2013 Pacific Northwest Driver & Traffic Safety Conference in Portland, Oregon, this March. We expect to hear exceptional presenters in hopes of bringing them to Montana for the 2014 MTEA conference.

Pursuing my Masters this year led me on a journey of discovery in traffic education. The importance of traffic education for adolescents is imperative to reducing crash risk. However, as research shows, we are just the foundational part of a very large structure of a teen's learning experience. Similar to the building of a structure, a teen's post-traffic education behind-the-wheel experience takes a careful set of blueprints (or guided practice), the overseeing a teen's driving with limitations (or building codes), and the developing of a competent driver (or the necessary building materials that will help weather future storms). To prevent a *Titanic Experience*, informing and keeping parents apprised of teen risk, adolescent drivers increase the risk of literally meeting an iceberg.

Parents and teens have a high tendency to become over confident in their teen's driving abilities after passing a traffic education course. Most post-traffic education students behind the wheel later succumb to peer pressure, underestimate the dangers of risky driving behaviors and distracted driving, or escalate risk when driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Knowing these facts has refocused my efforts to develop a more informative and quality parent meeting.

Have a safe year as you guide your students in the classroom and behind the wheel of a motor vehicle.

Steve Morgan, MTEA President

**MTEA/OPI TRAFFIC EDUCATION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
GREAT FALLS -- APRIL 28-30, 2013
*Register by April 18!***

It's time to register for the annual MTEA/OPI spring conference scheduled for April 28-30, at the Best Western Heritage Inn, 1700 Fox Farm Road, in Great Falls. Room rates are \$77 single or \$86 double, plus tax. You are encouraged to make your room reservations early. Call the Heritage Inn at (406) 761-1900 or 1-800-548-8256. Indicate your attendance with the MTEA conference when making reservations to get the group rate. The room block for the negotiated rate will be released after April 13, so it is recommended you reserve your room before then.

See the conference registration form included in this newsletter for other details. Please be prompt with your registration form and payment of \$180. Pre-registration is required. Registration forms and payments are due no later than April 18!

Remember, the costs of attending the conference are considered an allowable expense for school district traffic education program costs under OPI guidelines. If you have any registration questions, call Jim Carroll as soon as possible. The best time to reach him is from 8-11:15 AM at Conrad High School (406) 278-3285 or in the evenings at home (406) 278-7856. Leave a message if you are unable to reach him and he will return your call. You can also contact Jim by e-mail at tjcarrol@rocketmail.com.

The registration form can also be downloaded at MTEAOnline.org.

MTEA SILENT AUCTION

Our first silent auction at last year's conference was a huge success because of the great gifts donated and your generous support. The proceeds raised will help offset the costs of future door prizes and auction items. If you would like to donate something for this year's auction, bring it to the conference. Contact Barb Lockman blockman@helena.k12.mt.us or Janette Arps smileyarps@yahoo.com if you have questions.

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP OFFERED

Middle School: Road Ready – Better Health through Walking and Bicycling is this year's pre-conference workshop led by Roger DiBrito from Journeys from Home. The workshop will be Saturday, April 27 from 12:00-6:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 28 from 8:00-10:00 a.m. The skills and street riding are more advanced than the K-5 course offered last year. Look for more detailed information and registration materials at the OPI/MTEA websites. The workshop fee is sponsored by the Montana Department of Transportation. A limited number of \$150 scholarships for MSU-Northern college credit are available. Details about this pre-conference workshop are available at <http://www.MTEAOnline.org>. Call Roger at (406) 273-6458 for more information.

DOOR PRIZES FOR THE CONFERENCE

Did you know that MTEA budgets money, mostly from the proceeds of our 50/50 drawings, for the purchase of door prizes? We can always use more door prizes though. Consider asking at least one business in your community if they would donate something to the conference. Bring it with you to the conference and turn it in at the registration tables. We will add it to our collection to make the prizes even more appealing!

OUTSTANDING TEACHER AND CONTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Nomination forms for the MTEA Teacher and Contributor of the Year awards can be downloaded from MTEA's new website MTEAOnline.org or the OPI/MTEA web site at <http://www.opi.mt.gov>. Because they are available online, forms will not be mailed out as in the past. The application deadline for all forms is March 15. Please seriously consider nominating a worthy fellow teacher and/or supporter of your program.



President-Elect and Executive Board Nominations

Please give serious consideration on becoming more involved in MTEA by serving on the Executive Board. Since our President-Elect must now be nominated from the existing Board, your involvement is even more important. Each classification should be prepared to submit at least one name from their group at the annual conference. If you are interested in learning more about these positions, contact Jim Carroll. **MTEA will continue to be strong only if its members continue to be actively involved!**

Executive Board Minutes

Here's an overview of the last Executive Board meeting held in January 27, 2013, in Helena:

- Minutes and financial reports were reviewed
- The new MTEA website was discussed
- Discussion on setting up a memorial scholarship on behalf of David Huff took place
- A newsletter update was heard
- A report on MTEA Board appointees was heard
- An OPI update was provided, which included updates to the curriculum, OPI support for increased funding, and program site reviews in the Billings area
- Conference plans were discussed relative to speakers, breakouts, 50/50, door prizes, silent auction, service awards, exhibitors, and registration give-aways
- Discussion of the 2013 Legislative Session took place with lobbyist Jane Hamman in attendance to give overviews. A focus will be on pushing forward a bill to increase state funding to TE programs
- The **MARCH 15 "Teen Safety Day" at the Rotunda** was discussed
- An update on awards was heard
- An update on the selection process for Teacher and Contributor of the Year was heard
- President-Elect nominations were discussed

The next meeting was set for April 29, 2013, at the spring conference in Great Falls. Anyone having items for discussion should contact President Steve Morgan or Executive Secretary Jim Carroll as soon as possible to be included on the agenda.

MTEA & PROFESSIONALISM

Did you know that there are close to 375 teachers around the state approved to teach Traffic education? Of that number, about 190 of them are members of MTEA. Benefits of belonging to MTEA include updated information through conferences, \$5,000 AD&D life insurance coverage, scholarship availability, this newsletter, eligibility for service awards, and the opportunity to share ideas with other professionals. Visit <http://www.MTEAOnline.org> to learn more.



RETIREMENT ON THE HORIZON?

If you retired last spring or have plans to retire from education this year and have been an active member of MTEA, please inform Jim Carroll in writing to the MTEA address. We would like to honor you at the next spring conference.

Remember that we have an application process to recognize years of service and contributions to MTEA. The form will NOT regularly be mailed as in the past, as the form is now available on the new MTEA website at <http://www.MTEAOnline.org> and the MTEA link on the OPI traffic education website at www.opi.mt.gov. All forms are due back to the MTEA office post-marked by March 15, 2013.

DID YOU KNOW THAT IN...

1861... UK: Speed limits of 10mph in the country and 5mph in town imposed on powered vehicles

1925... Chrysler founded

1969... Ferrari joined the Fiat group



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

We have great news! Read the update from MTEA Lobbyist Jane Hamman elsewhere in this newsletter. Several important bills will be decided in the second half of this Session. Please continue to support our causes when e-mailed or called to do so! **YOUR VOICE MATTERS!**

TEEN DRIVER SAFETY DAY CAPITOL ROTUNDA *March 15, 2013 - Helena*

In an effort to make teen driver safety more visible to the Legislature, the MTEA Executive Board is planning on a day in the State Capitol Rotunda on MARCH 15. Planning is still taking place, but an effort to keep traffic education in Montana on the minds of the Legislators is the main goal. If you would like to help out, please contact Jim Carroll at tjcarrol@rocketmail.com as soon as possible.

MTEA NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is published three times yearly: fall, winter, and spring. Normally, this newsletter goes only to MTEA members and active contributors/ sustainers as a benefit of membership. Because we think it is so important, this special issue is being sent to not only MTEA members, but also to all teachers in the state approved to teach Traffic Education. If you like what you see, please consider joining MTEA. That way you'll stay up-to-date on what is happening across the state in regard to Traffic Education. Membership is only \$35 per year. See application in this newsletter.

If you have items for the MTEA Newsletter, send to:

HAROLD LAIR
33946 Jims Drive
POLSON, MT 59860
FAX: (406) 883-6345
E-MAIL: haroldlair@gmail.com

THE NEWSLETTER DEADLINES ARE:

- **Fall: OCTOBER 1**
- **Winter: DECEMBER 1**
- **Spring: MARCH 1**

DAVID HUFF MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

In memory of David Huff, former Traffic Education Director at the Montana Office of Public Instruction, a new scholarship award is being developed to help defray the costs of attending the MTEA conference. When ready, details will be posted on the MTEA website at <http://www.MTEAOnline.org>.

MONTANA HIGHWAY WEB-CAMS

Interested in actually seeing up-to-date road conditions throughout Montana? The Montana Department of Transportation has several roadway web-cams placed throughout the state that can be viewed online. Go to www.mdt.state.us/travinfo/weather/camera.shtml for pictures. Pictures are updated every 30 minutes. This site will also link you to other camera sites across Montana and various road reports. The MDT home page will link you to other sites of interest as well.

Remember also that by calling **1-800-226-7623**, you can get statewide road and weather information, again updated every 30 minutes or when major changes occur. Something relatively new is the nationwide travel information network. Although not all states participate, many in our geographic region do. By dialing 511 on your phone and entering the location, you can receive site-specific reports on road and weather conditions in the Mountain West Region.

VIDEOS FOR THE CLASSROOM

Crash Avoidance Technologies: The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) has some new animated videos regarding crash avoidance technologies in vehicles. Check out what they have at http://www.iihs.org/crash_avoidance.

Also from IIHS, *Understanding Car Crashes: When Physics Meets Biology* is a great video on crash dynamics presented by Griff Jones who will be one of MTEA's keynote speakers at the spring conference. View it on YouTube searching with: "When Physics Meets Biology."

Bicycles in Traffic: If you are looking for a good video for teens that addresses bicycles in traffic, scroll down to *Video #4: Sharing the Road* at the Pennsylvania DOT web site: <http://www.justdrivepa.com/Traffic-Safety-Information-Center/Bicycle-And-Pedestrian-Safety/>.

MSU-N Expands Online Courses for Traffic Education Minor

Traffic education courses for aspiring traffic education teachers and teachers working toward a traffic ed minor are offered every summer through Montana State University-Northern (MSU-N) in Havre, MT. Online course offerings this year include two of the required courses for teachers earning their initial eight credits to teach traffic education: Methods of Traffic Safety Education, Motor Vehicle Law & Enforcement, and Methods of Behind-the-Wheel Instruction that is both online and face-to-face in Havre.

The 2013 summer course schedule is posted at <http://www.msun.edu/distance/traffic.html>. Download the TE Course Schedule to see all the available online and on-site traffic education courses offered by MSU-N.

As you know, until you've earned your Traffic Education Minor and received a "99" endorsement on your Montana educator's license, you need to complete 4 credits every five years of your approval period. Your approval to teach traffic education usually expires the same year your educator license expires. For more information, call the Traffic Education office at (406) 444-4432 or e-mail pborneman@mt.gov. Visit the Montana Office of Public Instruction web site (<http://opi.mt.gov>) for more information on teaching traffic education in Montana, and a Jobs for Teachers board where schools advertise open teaching positions.



2013 American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association Conference

The 2013 ADTSEA conference will be held July 14-17 at the Hilton DoubleTree Hotel in Portland, Maine. Check out the ADTSEA website, <http://www.adtsea.org>, for more details about registration, room rates, and tentative agenda. If you can attend, 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 \$300 per person to offset conference costs.

NHTSA's Driver Education Toolkit

NHTSA has a hefty collection of more than 30 fact sheets, report summaries, and curricula descriptions and guidelines, all focused on driver education, including the recent development of national administrative standards. The collection was put together by NHTSA with assistance of the national driver education community of experts and practitioners. Taken together with proven safety legislation, active law enforcement and the positive engagement of parents, schools and community members, this impressive collection of information and guidelines will give States their best chance to produce safe young drivers. Download the toolkit at <http://www.nhtsa.gov/DriverEducationProgram>.

Bring a Semi to School!

If you would like to have a semi-truck visit your driver education class, contact Jeff Steeger at MDT (406) 444-4207 or jsteeger@mt.gov. Teens can climb into a semi and experience the limited view from the truck's cab.

MTEAOnline.org launched in January

Visit: <http://www.MTEAOnline.org>

Have you visited MTEA's new web site? In addition to a page on OPI's website devoted to MTEA, your association now has its own site with detailed information on membership benefits, the annual conference, organizational structure and history, legislative information and updates, traffic education events and continuing education opportunities, and teacher-to-teacher networking and resources.

Visit YOUR web site today where you can easily participate in legislative actions that support traffic education in Montana, register for a conference, upload a photo to be posted on the home page, ask a question in the TE Forum, get more involved in MTEA, and learn more about MTEA's history. Ideas and suggestions are welcome! Send us a note via the Contact page.



Fran's Findings



The roads were snowy and windy when I travelled to Laurel, Billings, Shepherd, Huntley and Reed Point for some January on-site reviews. I followed the driver education teacher's suggestion to drive slowly through the legendary crosswinds around Livingston. I am impressed with the experienced and dedicated traffic education teachers and staff who work with our teens to develop safe driving skills. Teachers incorporated best practices which include evaluation and assessment with:

- Student homework projects collecting Montana crash stories with analysis of cause and prevention.
- Student Driver Evaluation forms with lesson objectives for each drive sent home and signed by parents.
- Student 10-minute presentations on traffic safety and risk management topics.
- Student BTW Instructor Evaluation form used by one teacher to gather student insight and feedback. We included an updated version in the BTW section of our OPI Montana Teen Driver Curriculum online at <http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd>.

TEP and TELL Permits

OPI worked with the DOJ's Motor Vehicle Division to update the Traffic Education Permit (TEP). The TEP now includes the balanced hand positions of "9 and 3" or "8 and 4" -- positions that provide better handling of smaller steering wheels with power steering, and protects the driver's arms if the steering-wheel airbag is deployed. The new TEP also includes vision and scanning, judgment at intersections, and controlling zones on the BTW: Driver Evaluation Record.

The TELL permits you can print from the Traffic Education Data & Reporting System (TEDRS) now include the date students can apply for their GDL restricted licenses in this note: "Traffic Education Learner's License: Good for the operation of a Class D vehicle only when accompanied by a licensed parent or driver education instructor occupying the seat beside the driver. Six months and 50 hours of supervised driving practice are required with 10 hours at night. After (TEP +six months), you may apply for a First Year Restricted License at a driver exam station."

Traffic Ed district applications (TE01) are due for spring and summer programs

If you are planning to offer your first traffic education class of the current school year and have not yet submitted your TE01 District Application, please do so as soon as possible. The TE01 MUST be approved before your traffic education program begins. If you're not sure, check your school in the School Program Schedule on the OPI Traffic Education webpage to see if your program is listed with the approved TE programs. Submit your TE01 form, via the Traffic Education Data & Reporting System (TEDRS) or print out and send in the TE01 form available on the Traffic Education Forms page.

I look forward to seeing you in Great Falls at the MTEA Conference this spring.

Thank you for your dedication and service to Montana families and communities.

Fran Penner-Ray

Director, Traffic Education Programs
Montana Office of Public Instruction

Montana DRIVE Summer One-Day Workshops
On Track in Lewistown
 Spend a fun day learning skid control, evasive steering, controlled braking, and off-road recovery
REGISTER NOW!
 All drivers are welcome - June through August
 Auto insurance discounts may be available
<http://www.montanadrive.mt.gov>
 (406) 444-4432

2013 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Reported by Jane Hamman, MTEA Lobbyist

CELEBRATE!!! The traffic education funding bill HB 178 passed the House 58 – 39 February 27 on 3rd reading and is on its way to the Senate! THANKS to Jim, Steve, Cindy, Charlie, and all the MTEA members who participated in achieving this goal and making the first half of the 63rd Legislative Assembly such a success! **Rep. Jean Price** (D-Great Falls) sponsored the bill and deserves much credit for obtaining additional sponsors and presenting the bill three times: House Education Committee, House Floor on 2nd reading, and House Appropriations Committee. She was an enthusiastic and committed sponsor on behalf of MTEA.

If you want to read the latest version of the bill, go to: <http://leg.mt.gov/css/sessions/63rd/default.asp>. Click on the LAWS database and you can search for HB 178.

Legislators will be leaving for transmittal break March 1-4, many of them returning home. When they return, HB 178 will be assigned to a Senate Committee for hearing—hopefully to Senate Education Committee. It will be a tough committee. Here are the members in case you know, may see, or have an opportunity to talk with them over the break:

Member	Assignment
<u>Jim Peterson</u>	Chair (R-Buffalo, SD 15) rancher, 2011 Senate President; United Methodist C.
<u>Llew Jones</u>	Vice Chair (R-Conrad, SD 14) rancher & small business owner; councilman
<u>Elsie Arntzen</u>	Member (R-Billings, SD 27) retired elemen. teacher; self-employed
<u>Taylor Brown</u>	Member (R-Huntley, SD 22) broadcaster
<u>Robyn Driscoll</u>	Member (D-Billings, SD 26) Community Ed Coordinator, Billings Sch. Dist.
<u>Tom Facey</u>	Member (D-Missoula, SD 48) teacher
<u>Dave Lewis</u>	Member (R-Helena, SD 42) retired state budget and agency director
<u>Frederick (Eric) Moore</u>	Member (R-Miles City, SD 20) feedlot owner/operator
<u>Sharon Stewart-Peregoy</u>	Member (D-Crow Agency, SD 21) Little Bighorn College faculty
<u>Jonathan Windy Boy</u>	Member (D-Box Elder, SD 16) Chippewa-Cree Tribal Councilman
<u>Padraic McCracken</u>	Legislative Branch Staffer
<u>Elizabeth Whiting</u>	Secretary

IN ADDITION, it is very important to THANK members of the House who voted for HB 178 and to talk ONE MORE TIME with any who voted no whom you know, see or are represented by. The FINAL steps in this long process may include one or several more JOINT HOUSE-SENATE Committees and some of these no voting Representatives may become critically important to ultimate success at the end of April.

Our Goal should be to inform EVERY MEMBER of the Assembly so that they will support funding for Traffic Education by session end. KEEP TALKING! KEEP WRITING!

The 3rd Reading House Vote is on the next page.

MONTANA HOUSE VOTE TABULATION FOR THE TRAFFIC EDUCATION FUNDING BILL

DATE: February 27, 2013 SEQ. NO: 731

TIME: 08:02 AM BILL NO: HB 178

Agenda--Third Reading SPONSOR: Price, Jean

Do Pass

YEAS	NAYS	EXCUSED	ABSENT
58	39	2	1
Y Ankney, Duane	N Fitzpatrick, Steve	N Lang, Mike	N Randall, Lee
N Ballance, Nancy	N Flynn, Kelly	N Laszloffy, Sarah	N Redfield, Alan
Y Bangerter, Liz	N Galt, Wylie	Y Lavin, Steve	N Regier, Keith
N Bennett, Gerald (Jerry)	N Gibson, Steve	N Lenz, Dennis	N Reichner, Scott
Y Bennett, Bryce	N Glimm, Carl	Y Lieser, Ed	Y Salomon, Daniel
Y Berry, Tom	N Greef, Edward	Y Lynch, Ryan	Y Schreiner, Casey
N Blasdel, Mark	Y Gursky, Jenifer	Y MacDonald, Margaret (Margie)	N Schwaderer, Nicholas
Y Blyton, Joanne	N Hagan, Roger	Y McCarthy, Kelly	A Shaw, Ray
Y Boland, Carlie	Y Hagstrom, Dave	Y McChesney, Bill	N Smith, Cary
Y Brockie, Clarena	N Halvorson, David	Y McClafferty, Edith (Edie)	Y Smith, Bridget
N Brodehl, Randy	Y Hansen, Kris	Y McNally, Mary	E Squires, Carolyn
Y Calf Boss Ribs, Forrestina (Frosty)	N Harris, Bill	N McNiven, Jonathan	Y Steenberg, Tom
Y Clark, Christy	Y Hertz, Greg	Y Mehlhoff, Robert (Bob)	Y Swanson, Kathy
Y Coffin, Douglas	Y Hill, Ellie Boldman	N Miller, Mike	N Vance, Gordon
Y Connell, Pat	Y Hollandsworth, Roy	Y Moore, David (Doc)	Y Wagoner, Kirk
Y Cook, Rob	Y Hollenbaugh, Galen	Y Neill, Reilly	E Warburton, Wendy
Y Court, Virginia	Y Hoven, Brian	Y Noonan, Pat	Y Washburn, Ted
N Cuffe, Mike	Y Howard, David	Y O'Hara, Jesse	N Welborn, Jeffrey
Y Curtis, Amanda	Y Hunter, Chuck	N O'Neil, Jerry	N White, Kerry
N Doane, Alan	Y Ingraham, Pat	N Osmundson, Ryan	Y Whitford, Lea
Y Dudik, Kimberly	Y Jacobson, Tom	Y Pease-Lopez, Carolyn	Y Williams, Kathleen
Y Eck, Jennifer	N Jones, Donald	Y Peppers, Rae	Y Wilmer, Franke
N Edmunds, Champ	N Kary, Doug	Y Pierson, Gordon	Y Wilson, Nancy
N Ehli, Ron	N Kerns, Krayton	Y Pomnichowski, JP	Y Woods, Tom
N Fiscus, Clayton	N Knudsen, Austin	Y Price, Jean	N Zolnikov, Daniel

In other news, I supported the last several weeks HB 355, sponsored by Representative Christy Clark (R-Choteau), by request of the Attorney General, that would eliminate the 5-year look back for certain alcohol and drug driving offenses and provide that prior convictions are counted for 3rd and prior DUI convictions. The bill was heard in House Transportation and passed 11 – 1 Feb. 20, passed 2nd reading 78 – 21 Feb. 22, was re-

referred to House Appropriations and heard Feb. 26 where I testified for MTEA, passed 12 – 9 later the same day, and passed 3rd reading in the House 78 – 20 Feb. 27 and transmitted to the Senate.

HB 55, sponsored by Rep. David (Doc) Moore (R-Missoula) revises school bus safety laws by increasing from 15' to 30' to stop before reaching a bus, passed the House on 3rd reading 78 – 21 Jan. 23, passed the Senate on 3rd reading 32 – 15 Feb. 18, was signed by the Speaker and President and transmitted to the Governor Feb. 21.

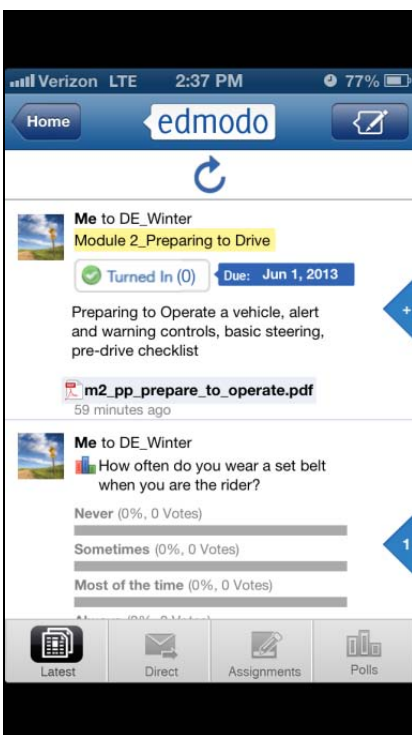
HB 168, sponsored by Rep. David (Doc) Moore (R-Missoula) revises DUI laws to provide a legal limit for DELTA-9-TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL while driving. The bill passed House Judiciary 14 – 6 Jan. 24 as amended, was reheard in House Appropriations, passed 3rd reading 81 – 17 Feb. 27 and transmitted to the Senate.

HB 233, sponsored by Rep. Steve Lavin (R-Kalispell) to revise 24/7 sobriety program by expanding it to include other crimes in which the abuse of alcohol or dangerous drugs was a contributing factor in the commission of the crime; expanding to additional local law enforcement agencies, and authorizing any court to utilize the program was heard in House Transportation Feb. 8 and passed 11 – 1, amended on the House Floor and passed 2nd reading 96 – 4 Feb. 12, passed 3rd reading 94 – 4 Feb. 13 and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee Feb. 26.

SB 186, sponsored by Senator Bradley Hamlett (D-Cascade) to provide for a primary seat belt law was heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee and tabled in late January, with a motion to try to blast to the floor failing 30 – 20.

Two-thirds of the bills we started out tracking as legislative draft requests never got introduced. Most of the focus this session is on what legislators consider to be the major issues.

Making the Drivers Education Curriculum Mobile with Edmodo



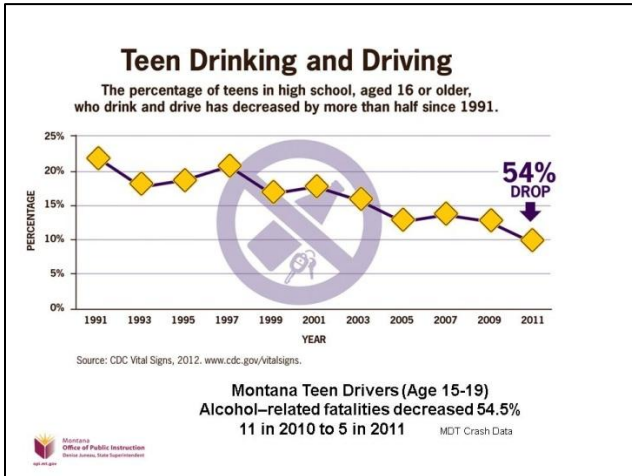
Doug Van Zee, Traffic Education instructor from Billings, will present a workshop at the 2013 MTEA conference on **Edmodo.com** and its mobile device version. It provides a FREE platform to post notes and assignments, set alerts, and take quizzes and polls. Edmodo is considered a safe, educationally secure Facebook-like platform but without the negatives often associated with Facebook. Along with the mobile version available for smartphones, it can be a valuable resource for teachers and students. This format allows much more control on who has access and to what, as well as some moderating options to ensure discussions are educationally sound.

This screen shot shows the simple interface and options available using the free smartphone app. The teacher's connection with students is done by posting notes (i.e. status updates). It can be used on computers, smartphones or tablets and for off-campus review as a virtual handbook.

If you want to review a sample class, go to <http://www.edmodo.com>, create a free account, and join a group using this class code: nvbomo. This is not an active class so feel free to add comments and click on resources to get a feel for it. Then, be sure to check out Doug's workshop at the Great Falls conference.

CDC study shows 54 per cent decrease in teen drinking and driving since 1991

Nearly one million high school teens still drink and drive each year



The percentage of teens in high school (aged 16 and older) who drove when they had been drinking alcohol decreased by 54 percent between 1991 and 2011, according to a Vital Signs study released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nine out of 10 high school teens (aged 16 and older) did not drink and drive during 2011. CDC has put together a digital press kit full of helpful resources on teenage drinking and driving. The kit includes key messages, photos, multimedia, related links, and a quote from CDC director Dr. Thomas Frieden.

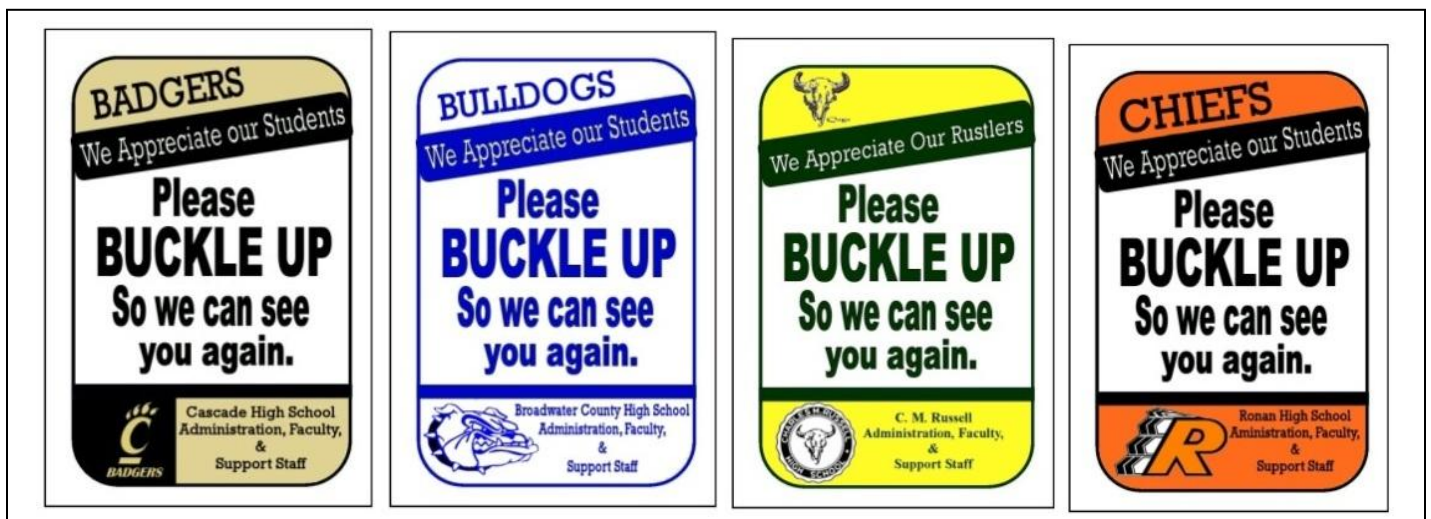
<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2012/dpk-teen-drinking-driving.html>

MDT and OPI working together to spread Buckle Up message to young Montana drivers

“Buckle Up, so we can see you again” is the message on the large metal Buckle Up signs funded by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) for a new seat belt awareness campaign. In January, OPI contacted all Montana high schools offering Buckle Up signs for exits at their school and sports field parking lots. The signs are customized with the school’s colors and mascot logos (see samples below). In early March, 103 schools had signed up to participate in the Buckle Up Signs for Montana Schools campaign.

The idea and design originated in Great Falls with artist, coach, and driver education teacher, Jerry Olson, who is MTEA’s 2012 Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Participating schools are also asked to coordinate with their local MDT Buckle Up Coordinator or a student group to conduct seat belt surveys in March and April, and then in September when the signs have been up for a few months. Signs will be delivered to schools or picked up in Helena when they are ready in late March or early April. Visit the Traffic Education page on OPI’s web site and scroll down to the middle of the page to read more about the campaign and to download an order form (there’s still a little time left to order signs if you have not done so). You can also download seat belt survey forms for the spring Buckle Up count!

For more information, contact Patti Borneman, Traffic Education Program Specialist, at (406) 444-4432 or email: pborneman@mt.gov.





MONTANA TRAFFIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
Montana Office of Public Instruction
MTEA/OPI Traffic Education Conference
Great Falls, Montana ~ April 28-30, 2013



The **2013 Montana Traffic Education Association Conference** will feature outstanding workshops and general sessions for anyone interested in traffic education in Montana. National experts will present topics ranging from crash dynamics, distracted driving awareness, to teen peer-to-peer safe driving campaigns. OPI will update on the Teen Driver curriculum 2.0 revisions, common core standards, and how to use the Traffic Education Data & Reporting System. Our friends at the Department of Justice will report on the GDL and Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP), and provide the initial/refresher six-hour CDTP training. And back by popular demand are Roundtable Discussions on the most interesting and important topics in traffic ed.

Conference Hotel Reservation: The 2013 conference takes place at the **Best Western Heritage Inn**, 1700 Fox Farm Road, in Great Falls. Room rates are \$77 single or \$86 double, plus tax. You are encouraged to make room reservations early. Call the Heritage Inn at (406) 761-1900 or 1-800-548-8256. Indicate your attendance with the MTEA conference when making reservations to get the group rate. The room block for the negotiated rate will be released after **April 13**, so it is recommended you reserve a room before then.

Workshop/Conference Registration: All attendees **must pre-register with MTEA by April 18, 2012**. The registration fee is \$180 and includes five meals. Tear off the registration form below, complete, and mail to MTEA with a check for \$180. **Walk-in registrations are strongly discouraged.** **Cancellation policy:** Upon written notice of cancellation, \$120 of the \$180 registration is refundable.

College Credit or Renewal Units: Registration for one semester credit through MSU-N will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 28. The cost is \$150. OPI will make available, at no additional cost, up to 15 renewal units which can only be used with your Montana educator license renewal. You may register for college credit OR renewal units, but NOT BOTH.

Schedule/Agenda: Registration packets will be available beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 28. The first general session will begin at noon. The conference will conclude at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday April 30, 2013. Up-to-date conference info at MTEAOnline.org.

Please Complete Form Legibly

You must pre-register to attend
Deadline: April 18, 2013
 Please bring an item for a Door Prize!

2013 MTEA/OPI Conference Registration
 April 28-30 ~ Great Falls, Montana



**MTEA, PO Box 637
 Conrad, MT 59425**

Name _____

E-mail _____ Birth date* _____

Telephone (Work) _____ (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Home Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

School(s) where you teach _____

MTEA USE ONLY

Date _____

Check No. _____

Received CK from _____

Amount \$ _____

____ Please register me for the MTEA conference and renew my membership in MTEA. Enclosed is a check to MTEA for \$180. * Birth date is required for MTEA Membership AD&D/Life Insurance

____ I am unable to attend this year's conference, but I want to be a member of MTEA and receive MTEA's newsletter. Enclosed is a check for \$35.

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 COST OF COLLEGE CREDIT.
 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 59425-0637**

MTEA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS

Enclosed are my dues of \$35. I understand that my membership expires on May 1 of each year. Information on this form is only used for mailings from MTEA and for publication in the annual membership directory. The directory is made available to members only and is never sold or distributed. Birthdates are required only for the AD&D/Life Insurance policy and are confidential. Please check below which phone number can be included in the membership directory.

Name _____ Date _____

Home Mailing Address _____ Birth Date _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

School/Institution/Organization _____

Phone (H) _____ Phone (W) _____ Cell _____

Include in directory

Include in directory

Include in directory

Make your check or money order payable to MTEA or Montana Traffic Education Association
and mail your completed application and payment (no cash, please) to:

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