

MTEA NEWS

Spring Conference

Directions, Directions: How We Get from Here to There

By: Denise Bordeleau, Butte

The 2024 Montana Traffic Education Conference titled “Directions, Directions: How We Get from Here to There” is about finding our way. Whether through road construction, new intersection styles, interacting with other roadway users, our students, or managing our own health and the retirement pathway find each of us going different directions. Our conference has something for everyone.

Pre-conference activities include ride-alongs to observe instructors teaching such things as parking, backing into spaces, limitations, and best practices.

Some interesting workshops include “Minimizing the Effects of Windshield Time on the Body” by Aryn Kain, PT, DPT, OCS. She will take us through how to take care of our bodies throughout a day of driving; both in the car and out.

MTEA board members will be sharing instructional strategies, activities, and technology use. Be sure to spend time with Tom Kain (Helena), Steve McCormick (Bozeman), and Steffani Grogan (Forsyth). They will have great information to share.

I am looking forward to “Slow Down! Cone Zone Ahead”, presented by Poteet Construction. There will be a representative from Poteet construction and MDT to share valuable information concerning how construction zones are set up and why.

Roundtables this year will be helping to revamp the curriculum. Don’t miss the ever-popular Huff Symposium teacher panel.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Great Falls April 28-30th. Make your reservations early to get a good rate.



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Silent Auction

By: Janette Arps, Augusta

It is that time of year again; the MTEA Conference and the Silent Auction. It is my favorite conference of the year, and I cannot wait to try and outbid everyone on some very cool auction items.

This year’s theme is **TAILGATING**. You could be tailgating at a football game (Go Griz/Cat), in the mountains, at the lake, or in your own driveway. What are your favorite items? Show us how you tailgate by putting together a basket of your best items, or bring an item that can stand on its own. We can even combine donations to make an auction basket.

We have had Grizzly and Bobcat baskets, firepits, cornhole boards, alcohol baskets, snack baskets, home décor, and resources for the classroom. Use your imagination and have fun!

Part of the money raised in the Silent Auction goes toward the Huff Scholarship (in memory of David Huff, a past Traffic Education director at OPI).

This award then helps three first-time conference attendees offset costs to gain valuable information that comes out of our conference.

Thanks for supporting this auction. It was started over five years ago and has been a fun addition to the conference. I appreciate all who have helped by either donating or helping me set up and organize.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me, Janette Arps – 406-899-4457.

MTEA Executive Board

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Denise Bordeleau (Butte)

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Steve Morgan (White Sulphur, C)

MTEA President's Message

MTEA President: Riley Ramsey (2023-2024)



Greetings and happy Spring to all of you Driver Education instructors. In this issue, I wanted to bring something out that some people, including myself, don't think about or have much knowledge on. Since we live in such a rural state, there are many schools that are in need of Traffic Education instructors for the school year. Yet many times that is only one or two periods in a day or after school. This cuts out some people from being able to take a position there due to not having other teaching openings during the day.

Consider this: some of you may have prior work experience, college experience, or expertise that would earn you some extra teaching credentials to supplement being able to take on a new position at a different school if you are considering a move. Toward the end of last school year, I was talking with a fellow teacher that was in the process of getting a math certification. He had good knowledge of mathematics and had taken what was basically a math praxis exam. He sent in the results to achieve the new math endorsement added to his teaching qualification. Another teacher received from the OPI a Business Marketing credential, as well as Graphic Design and one other Class 4 license item, because of previous experience.

Thinking about all of this, I wondered what it would take for me to be able to add to my license, so I looked into it. I have a background in sales, including having had an insurance producer license. I put together the verification documents and a transcript from a 2-year AAS degree for business management, completed the online application, and within 10 days, the OPI approved my certification in business marketing 5-12. About a year previous to this, I didn't even think about or fully realize this was possible.

Since everyone should already have a teaching degree if they teach driver education, this extra licensure may prove beneficial to those seeking to diversify their teaching experience. If you have previous experience in other careers, you may consider looking into alternative licensing. There are certain requirements that you may not know you are capable of satisfying to earn this.

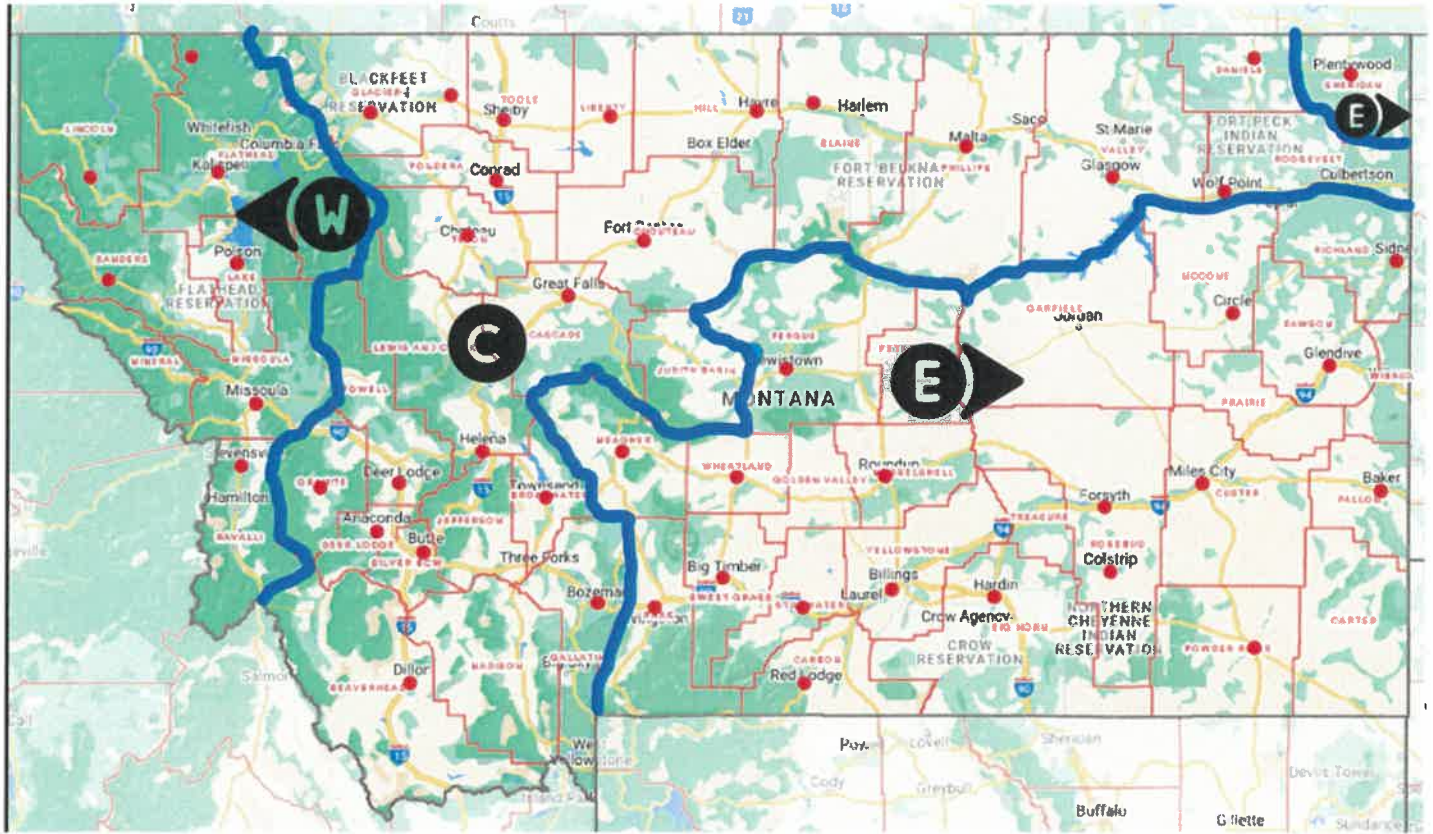
Please remember to start planning to attend our conference coming up April 28th-30th in Great Falls. I am confident you will find it very helpful for keeping up-to-date with the latest changes and best practices in our field. Hope to see you all there!

Riley Ramsey

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. The spring issue is mailed to all traffic educators in Montana as an invitation to the annual traffic education conference. Submissions can be emailed to: sgrogan@forsyth.k12.mt.us. Articles are due 10/1; 12/1; 3/1.



DRIVER SERVICES BUREAU DRIVER LICENSE SECTION REGION MAP



The Montana MVD is in the process of updating and restructuring its regions. Click the link in the February OPI Compass email to view these changes.

In the map above, the MVD Driver Testing Stations are shown as little dots. The dark lines indicate the boundaries of the West, Central, and Eastern regions.

Traffic Education students should not use MVD Express locations as they are actually outside third-party stations providing Montana MVD services and as such, they do not have access to our Traffic Education Data & Reporting System (TEDRS).

MTEA Executive Board Meeting **January 28, 2024 (google meet format)**

- Minutes, correspondence, financial, and board reports were reviewed.
- The newsletter was discussed with ideas for articles and conference information provided.
- An OPI report was heard which included updates to curriculum, MVD changes, new laws, and website changes.
- A discussion on moving future conference registration to an on-line format took place.
- Continued planning for the 2024 conference took place, which included speakers/sessions, auction, door prizes, giveaways, and service awards.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 29th at the spring conference. Anyone having items for discussion, should contact Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary.



*** Nelson's News ***

Dwight Nelson MSEd/MT Class III Admin Lic

Traffic Education Director Montana DRIVE Supervisor

(406) 422-3944 OPI Website: <http://opi.mt.gov>

Montana Traffic Education Community, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering commitment to enhancing road safety in Montana. Your efforts in the field of traffic education do not go unnoticed, and I commend your dedication.

I am eagerly anticipating the upcoming 2024 Montana Traffic Education Conference in April, where I hope to connect with many of you. This event provides a valuable opportunity for educators to attend, with the chance to earn 15 renewable units *or* one college credit through MSUN for a \$150 fee. For more details, please visit www.mteaonline.org.

As we approach the 45th consecutive year of Montana DRIVE this summer, registration for the adult one-day workshops has officially opened as of February 1, 2024. These workshops are scheduled to run from June 4 to August 9, 2024. All teachers, school bus drivers, first responders, firefighters, and drivers of all kinds are welcome to register for a one-day summer workshop. Please help spread the word among those who may benefit from attending to improve their driving skills.

Participation in Montana DRIVE offers Montana's

educators two distinct professional development options, with only one choice available each year. For those wanting to Participation in Montana DRIVE offers Montana's educators two distinct professional development options, with only one choice available each year. For those wanting to earn one college credit, attendance at the workshop, an additional day of instructing, and a fee to MSUN are required.

Alternatively, educators can opt for the second professional development option, earning nine renewal units by attending a Montana DRIVE one-day workshop. School bus drivers are also eligible to earn nine training hours through workshop attendance. Teen Week is scheduled for July 18-20, 2024, and registration opens on March 1, 2024. After financial assistance from State Farm, the out-of-pocket cost for teens will be \$200. For registration and additional information for adult or teen workshops, please visit motanadrive.mt.gov.

Thanks again for your dedication to making Montana's roads safer!

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 in mind, contact Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, *asap* at 406-289-0208.

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 spring conference. In order to be recognized, please contact Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, *asap* at 406-289-0208 so you can get your application form in immediately.

President-Elect & Executive Board

The President-Elect must be a current board member. Our candidate this year is David Murray (Havre). His platform statement 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.

Motorcycles

Did you know a motorcycle one block away looks about as big as a full-sized pickup a quarter mile away? Motorcycles are small; they move faster than your eyes tell your brain they are. Motorcyclists don't have crumple zones, or seatbelts, and very few have airbags. That one extra look could mean life or death for a motorcyclist. Getting the next generation of motorists accustomed to interacting with motorcyclists is important. Some things to things about:

Give motorcyclists the same amount of room that a mid-size pickup occupies.

Lane filtering is legal in Montana.

Motorcyclists can stop really fast! So give them space.

Are you interested in having a Montana Motorcycle Rider Safety Instructor speak to your driver's education class? For more information, contact Casey Redder, Director of Montana Motorcycle Rider Safety Program.

p: 406.447.6383 | e: casey.redder@helenacollege.edu



2024 Montana Traffic Education Conference

Directions, Directions: How We Get from Here to There

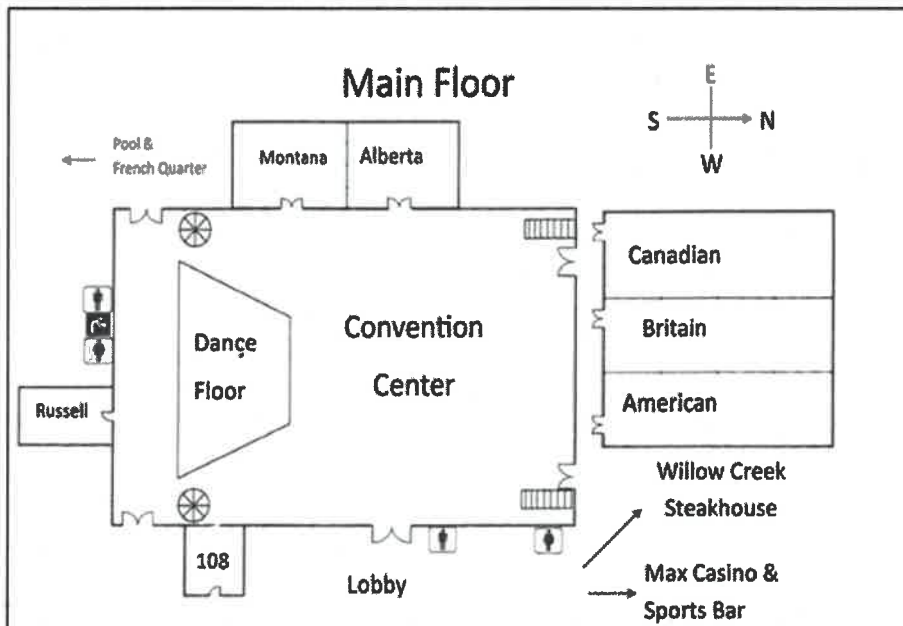


Great Falls, MT – April 28-30, 2024

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

TENTATIVE AGENDA

10:00 am – noon	<i>Lunch on your own</i>	Registration in Convention Center Register for one MSUN semester credit or up to 15 OPI renewal units.	
10:00 am – Noon	Pre-Conference How-to		
Noon – 12:15 pm Convention Center	Welcome and Introductions Riley Ramsey, MTEA President (2024)		
12:15 pm – 12:30 pm	Conference Overview: Denise Bordeleau, MTEA Past President (2023)		
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm General Session	Opening Keynote: Ed Hirsch: Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, Attorney General's Office		
1:40 pm – 2:30 pm 1 st Workshop Session	Sheila Cozzie Transportation Planner State Highway Traffic Safety Section	Minimizing the Effects of Windshield Time on the Body Arynn Darfler Kain, PT, DPT, OCS	
2:40 pm – 3:30 pm 2 nd Workshop Session	Sheila Cozzie Transportation Planner State Highway Traffic Safety Section	Minimizing the Effects of Windshield Time on the Body Arynn Darfler Kain, PT, DPT, OCS	
3:40 pm – 4:30 pm 3 rd Workshop Session	Roundtables: Curriculum Share/Ideas	Roundtables: Curriculum Share/Ideas	Roundtables: Curriculum Share/Ideas
6:00 pm Convention Center	MTEA Awards Banquet: <i>Teacher of the Year and Contributor of the Year (TOY/COY)</i> Presiding: Jim Carroll & Jerry Olson		
7:30 pm Montana/Alberta Room	MTEA Dessert Reception for TOY/COY Award Recipients		



Heritage Inn

1700 Fox Farm Road
Great Falls, Montana
(406) 761-1900

All general sessions and meals are in the Convention Center.

Five meals are included with the conference registration.

MONDAY, APRIL 29

6:00 am – 7:50 am	Breakfast			
8:00 am – 8:50 am General Session	Keynote: <i>The "D" Driver</i> Jerry Prete, Regional Training Manager, MSU Fire Services Training School			
9:00 am – 9:50 am 4th Workshop Session	Workshop Jerry Prete	Instructional Strategies Tom Kain	TRS: New Teachers Retirement 101	
10:00 am – 10:50 am 5th Workshop Session	Workshop Jerry Prete	Instructional Strategies Tom Kain	TRS: New Teachers Retirement 101	
11:00 am – 11:50am 6th Workshop Session	Huff Symposium Teacher Panel			
Noon – 1:15 pm	Lunch and Annual Business Meeting Presiding: Riley Ramsey MTEA President (2023-24)			
1:25 pm – 2:25 pm General Session	MVD Working Together Bryan Durgan, MVD Driver Services			
2:35 pm – 3:25pm 7th Workshop Session	TRS: Nearing Retirement Jhonnelle Sedlock 2 Hour Class		G-Suite Technology Steve McCormick	Round and Round we Go Steffani Grogan
3:35 pm – 4:25 pm 8th Workshop Session			G-Suite Technology Steve McCormick	Round and Round we Go Steffani Grogan
4:30 pm – 5:20 pm 9th Workshop Session	"AA" Classification Meeting	"A" Classification Meeting	"B" Classification Meeting	"C" Classification Meeting
5:30 pm	Dinner on Your Own			

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

6:00 am – 7:50 am	Breakfast			
8:00 am – 8:50 am	Slow Down! Cone Zone Ahead Poteet Construction			
9:00 am – 9:50 am	Developing Cognitive Mental Skills During BTW Lessons Tim Beckham, Project Manager ADTSEA	Improving Driver Performances Jim Wingerter, <i>Great Falls District Administrator</i> Montana Department of Transportation		
10:00 am – 10:50 am	Developing Cognitive Mental Skills During BTW Lessons Tim Beckham, Project Manager ADTSEA	Improving Driver Performances Jim Wingerter, <i>Great Falls District Administrator</i> Montana Department of Transportation		
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Closing Keynote: Learning Style Myths Tim Beckham, Project Manager ADTSEA			
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch and Closing Activities			

Have a safe trip home!



MONTANA TRAFFIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Directions, Directions: How We Get from Here to There

Great Falls, Montana ~ April 28-30, 2024



*The Montana Traffic Education Association and Montana Office of Public Instruction invite you to the
2024 Montana Traffic Education Conference*

The traffic environment is constantly changing! The 2024 conference will focus on teaching TE concepts for both today and into the future. Workshops on legal issues, highway safety planning, instructor health, roundtable curriculum discussions, defensive driving, instructional strategies, teacher retirement, Huff Symposium teacher panel, MVD updates, OPI updates, classroom technology platforms, driving and traffic strategies, classification meetings, student learning styles, developing BTW cognitive mental skills, improving driver performance, and more!

PRE-REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE: All attendees must pre-register with MTEA by **Monday, April 15, 2024**. 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 (*sorry, no credit card option*). **Walk-in registrations are not allowed.** Cancellation policy: 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 **Heritage Inn**, 1700 Fox Farm Road, in Great Falls. Rates are \$104.00 (plus tax) for a single or double room, based on availability. Attendees will need a credit card to secure a room. Call the **Heritage Inn at (406) 761-1900** and mention the group name (Montana Traffic Education 2024) to get the special rate. Cut-off for the group rate is April 15, so reserve early!

COLLEGE CREDIT OR RENEWAL UNITS: Register for one semester credit through MSU-N beginning at 10:00 am on Sunday, April 28. 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 28. The first general session will begin at noon. The conference ends at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, April 30. **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.



2024 Montana Traffic Education Conference Registration

HERITAGE INN

April 28-30, 2024 – Great Falls, Montana

Name (for name badge) _____

Home Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

E-mail _____

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

School(s) where you teach _____

_____ I would like to register for the MTEA conference and join/renew my membership in MTEA. Enclosed is a check to **MTEA** for **\$215**.

_____ 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)

You must pre-register to attend.

MUST PRE-REGISTER BY APRIL 15, 2024

Please bring an item to give as a door prize!

MTEA USE ONLY

Date _____

Check No. _____

Received check from: _____

Amount \$ _____

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



2024 Montana Traffic Education Conference

April 28-30 - Great Falls Heritage Inn

Look for additional conference information on the MTEA website at www.mteaonline.org.

The 2024 ADTSEA conference will be held July 21-24 in Albany, New York. 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 member to offset

ADTSEA

American Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association

conference costs. Even if you can't attend, at least consider joining your national organization. For more information, check it out at

www.adtsea.org.