



MTEA NEWS

Get Ready for the 2020 Montana Traffic Education Conference *Building the Thinking Driver*

By Steffani Grogan— 2018-19 MTEA President

Spring conference is quickly approaching! “Building the Thinking Driver” is jam packed with ways to engage students in the traffic education curriculum. After conference registration Sunday morning, come outside to put on some goggles and drive a golf cart through a special driving course. Three different goggles replicate alcohol, drug, or drowsy impairment.

Once the MTEA conference starts at noon hold on to your hats as ideas and strategies will be shared for instructors to use for their traffic education courses.



The opening keynote with Kansas educator **Will Dunn** will feature the top 20 techniques to activate pupil thinking based on research conducted by Peter Liljedahl in 400 classrooms. This dynamic speaker will also lead a workshop on questioning strategies to help any learner turn on their brain power.

Sunday afternoon also features Great Falls traffic educator **Jennifer Wasson** who will explain how sign language can be used to enhance communication in the classroom and behind the wheel (BTW).

We will then move to four interactive Roundtables and suggest ways to improve the tests in the OPI’s Deadly D’s curriculum sub-modules: 6.1 Distractions, 6.2 Alcohol and Drugs, 6.3 Drowsy Driving, and 6.4 Dangerous Emotions. **Please prepare for this session by reviewing the test questions in one of the sub-modules in Module 6 of the OPI Traffic Education Curriculum.**



Plan on attending the **Awards Banquet** where we will honor and celebrate the 2020 Outstanding Traffic Education Teacher of the Year, Traffic Education Contributor of the Year, and traffic educators who plan to retire. Mick Davis and Jerry Olson always arrange a moving program to recognize the accomplishments of these

members. Join in the fellowship of colleagues and enter for prizes at the dessert reception following the awards presentation.

Monday starts off with **Dr. Griff Jones** sharing new active lessons on the Physics of Car Crashes. It has been seven years since Dr. Jones last visited our conference where he demonstrated several interactive activities to highlight the dangers of distracted driving.

Oregon traffic educator **Tim Beckham** will discuss ways to engage the learner and the **OPI’s Susan Court** will update teachers on the latest findings from the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Rounding out the morning, **Jeff Mead, Warren Clark, Doug Van Zee, and Kim Sorkness-DeCock** will discuss new teacher recruitment and how mentors learn from mentees in the Huff Symposium teacher panel.

After lunch, network with our new fearless leader of OPI Traffic Education, **Tara Ferriter-Smith**. She has hit the ground running, making new contacts, and gathering traffic program ideas from other organizations for us to use.



Continued on page 6

Register now to attend your annual traffic education conference! Bring cohorts and maybe a new recruit to join the ranks of traffic education. Teachers interested in exploring the profession are welcome to attend and get to know other members of the traffic education family. I want to take this opportunity to reiterate that MTEA is a family and it brings me great pleasure to be a part of this caring, sharing and motivating environment. — Steffani Grogan (2018-19 MTEA President and 2020 Conference Planner)

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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**.

MTEA President's Message: Janette Arps



Hello fellow Traffic Ed Instructors,

Spring is fast approaching, and you know what that means – it's time for the 2020 MTEA Conference. This year it will be held at the Heritage Inn, April 26-28 in Great Falls, MT. The board met in January and heard all about the wonderful sessions that Steffani, Patti, and Tara have been working on.

They have a wide variety of topics and activities that will enhance your mind and your program.

This is also a good time to network with your fellow instructors and gain insight on what they are doing in their classrooms, and possibly use it in yours. I always come back with very useful information and tools to enhance my classroom. So, bring your ideas, techniques, and questions to the conference to share.

Whether you are a veteran instructor, a new instructor, or someone who is exploring traffic education as a profession (which I highly encourage you to do), this conference is the place for you. It will be worth every penny. Please register by April 15 and book your room by April 10 for the best rate. Turn to the back page for the registration form or download at <http://mteasonline.org>.

I look forward to seeing you all in Great Falls this April.

Janette Arps, MTEA President (2019-20)

If you are able to arrive at the conference early on Sunday, April 26, you can have as much fun as these traffic education students in Mrs. Grogan's class!



MTEA Executive Board Meeting Summary—January 26, 2020

Overview of the last Executive Board meeting held January 26, 2020 in Helena:

- Minutes, correspondence, and financial reports were reviewed.
- An OPI report was heard.
- Committee reports on the curriculum were heard.
- A newsletter report was heard.
- Teacher/Contributor of the Year nominations and service awards were discussed.
- President-Elect and Board appointments were approved.
- Future conference sites were discussed.
- Conference giveaways, door prizes, 50/50, and silent auction were discussed.
- Speakers and breakout sessions for the 2020 conference were discussed.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 27 at the conference in Great Falls. Anyone having items for discussion should contact Doug Van Zee, President-Elect, or Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, as soon as possible to be included on the agenda.

MTEA Membership Benefits

Encourage a colleague to join MTEA! Besides friendly colleagues and helpful mentors, there are many benefits of membership in the Montana Traffic Education Association:

- Annual Traffic Education conference every spring (conference fee includes membership fee) that brings 160+ teachers together with experts in the field, college credit or renewal units for professional development, and the latest research and resources for traffic educators.
- Three newsletters per year (Fall, Winter, Spring).
- \$5,000 AD&D/life insurance policy.
- Voting on and eligibility to serve on MTEA board and annual recognition awards.
- A voice in the ongoing improvement of driver education in Montana through policy and legislative actions.

Annual membership dues are \$45, payable to MTEA. Your membership in MTEA is automatically renewed when you attend the annual spring conference.

Learn more about MTEA membership at MTEAOnline.org.



Montana DRIVE One-Day Summer Workshops Register Now!

Teachers, school bus drivers, and teen drivers are invited to attend a one-day advanced driving workshop at the Montana DRIVE track in Lewistown. Taught by your colleagues in traffic education, you can safely learn how to handle the most risky driving situations in Montana.

Traffic education teachers can earn one college credit toward their traffic education endorsement, when they stay an extra day to student teach and write a paper. The MSUN application is provided at the Montana DRIVE facility in Lewistown and the \$150 fee is paid directly to MSUN.) OPI renewal units are also available. The one-day workshop is \$335 (or bid on the donated workshop in MTEA's silent auction at the conference).

This is a tremendous skill-building experience for any driver, but is especially valuable for the traffic educator. As you can imagine, you're able to develop additional skills that not only help you control your vehicle in the event of a risky situation, but enhances your behind-the-wheel instruction techniques. If you've never driven a skid car, now's your chance!



The season starts June 1 and ends August 6, and registration is going strong, with June nearly full.

One-day workshops designed just for teens are scheduled July 20-24 and registration opens in April. Please encourage your students to take this advanced driving workshop—six months of driving experience required. State Farm scholarships bring the cost down from \$300 to \$100 when the teen completes the required OPI application. Visit the Montana DRIVE website to download a **Montana DRIVE Teen Workshop** poster to post at your school.

For more information, videos, and registration, go to: <http://montanadrive.mt.gov> or contact the OPI Traffic Education Office at (406) 444-4432. If you have questions, send an e-mail to: montanadrive@mt.gov.

Thoughts on Reducing Risky Driving: Caring and Connection

Tara Ferriter-Smith, OPI Traffic Education Director



I attended my first Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Annual Transportation Safety Meeting this fall. I look forward to sharing some interesting statewide statistics and information at the upcoming MTEA

conference. One topic of interest was around messaging to reduce risky driving behaviors.

In today's emotionally charged and divisive world, risky behaviors are on the rise. Compounded with the fact that so many individuals are grappling with unhealed trauma, we are seeing an increase in social, psychological, emotional, and even physical, ailments. As a result, school personnel are on the frontlines of needing to recognize, understand, and respond to a more complex mix of student, family, and community needs.

The intentional development of safe, supportive, and welcoming school climates is more important than ever and will go a long way in supporting the reduction of risky behaviors in students. A positive school climate fosters safety while promoting academic rigor by encouraging respectful, trusting, and caring relationships throughout the school community. Taking care of one another, practicing self-care, and focusing on connection with families and students can improve attendance, raise graduation rates, and increase student achievement.

When you have a few minutes, log on to the *I Love Public Schools* website to listen to Sydney Jensen, Nebraska's 2019 Teacher of the Year, discuss the importance of supporting the emotional well-being of teachers. Visit <http://iloveps.org> and search for "Sydney Jensen."

Another great resource is the book, *Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While Caring for Others*. It may help teachers who are sometimes overwhelmed with the emotional needs of their students.

There is hope and it starts with you! It is important to be honest with your colleagues and acknowledge when you are struggling and need help to find collaborative solutions. Focus on building lasting connections with coworkers, students, and families, and make time to care for yourself.

Remember, you must put your own oxygen mask on first before you can help others. Your power is in showing up ready to connect and ready to be a meaningful influence and an inspiration to students.

A respectful and healthy school culture focused on connection can positively influence good driving habits, while potentially reduce risky behaviors, including those behind the wheel of a vehicle.

With gratitude for all you do,



Contact Tara Ferriter-Smith (tferriter@mt.gov) and Patti Borneman (pborneman@mt.gov) by email or call the OPI Traffic Education Office at (406) 444-4432 with any questions about Teen Driver Education in Montana. Visit <http://www.opi.mt.gov/DriverEd> for resources and information.

Take the Online CDTP Refresher Course and Earn an OPI Renewal Unit

Is it okay to reprint a learner license for a student who lost their first one? How many times can I give the knowledge exam? When does the six months of GDL practice begin—with the TEP or Learner License date? These questions and many more are asked by teachers who call the OPI Traffic Education Office for answers. But our free, online Hub course is available to answer these questions 24/7! If you haven't taken the **CDTP Refresher Course** yet, please consider spending an hour to refresh your CDTP chops. **One renewal unit can be earned upon course completion.**



This course will update instructors on staying CDTP certified, students' eligibility to participate, what to do when you have a special ed or disabled student wanting to take driver education, Driver License application completion, and how to properly administer and record CDTP knowledge and road tests. It includes helpful resources to manage the CDTP part of driver education, with TEDRS tips, too.

Visit the OPI Teacher Learning Hub at <https://learninghub.mrooms.net/>, log in or create a new account, and use "CDTP" as the Enrollment Key.

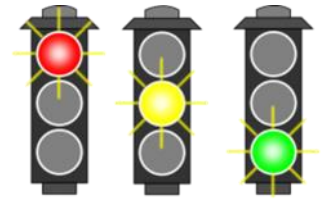
If you have any questions or feedback about the course, send an email to Patti Borneman at pborneman@mt.gov.

Traffic Education Teacher Recruitment Guide

We know only too well our pressing need for Driver Education teachers in Montana. To help school districts maintain a viable driver education program, OPI's Traffic Education office compiled a packet of FAQs, educational requirements, and professional resources that can steer teachers in the right direction so they can fill some of the driver education gaps across the state.

Please share this guide with your school administration and with colleagues who are interested in exploring the field of traffic education. Not only do traffic education teachers teach teens to drive; they show them how to drive safely and make the roads safer for everyone.

Download the new recruitment guide at <http://opi.mt.gov/driver-educators>. As new information becomes available (such as the MSU-Northern summer schedule of Traffic Education courses), it will be added to the guide.



By the Numbers: Montana's Traffic Education Teacher Shortage

- Of the 307 approved traffic education instructors in Montana, only 263 are actively teaching traffic education for 143 school districts.
- Of the 117 teachers who entered the profession in 2015 through 2019, 104 are actively teaching. A handful of teachers received the initial training to become approved traffic educators, but have not yet taught a traffic education course. Several others have left traffic education, but could return in the future, and others are planning to retire soon.
- About 7 school districts are currently without traffic education teachers and some are actively recruiting.
- In school year 2019, of the 178 school districts that were eligible to offer traffic education, 133 districts did operate a traffic education program.
- Of the 12,257 high school students who were eligible for traffic education last year, 8,546 students were able to take traffic education (78 in private schools).

Data provided by the Montana Office of Public Instruction, Traffic education Office—March 9, 2020



<http://opi.mt.gov/Educators/Teaching-Learning/Jobs-for-Teachers>

Are you a school district looking for a Traffic Education teacher? Or a Traffic Education teacher looking for work in Montana? The OPI's Jobs for Teachers website is the place to connect. Districts can post job openings and teachers can post resumes and their availability to teach in this high-demand area.

Currently, Drummond, East Helena, and Three Forks are advertising for traffic education teachers. Joliet is also searching for a traffic education teacher. If you have a current or upcoming vacancy in this area, please consider using this valuable service.



Farewell Tammy Stefanik and Welcome Tyson Miller!

We want to extend our gratitude to former MVD Deputy Bureau Chief **Tammy Stefanik**, who worked closely with the OPI over the years and who attended several Montana Traffic Education conferences to update the traffic education community on changes with the Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP). At the end of 2019, she left her MVD post to join a family business and **Tyson Miller** became the new MVD Deputy Bureau Chief.

Tyson can be reached at (406) 606-2637, or send an email to: tyson.miller@mt.gov.

However, before calling Tyson with questions, quandaries, or requests for materials, please call your regional manager, listed at right ...

- **Eastern Region, Billings (406) 896-4335**
Susan Kyriss, Interim Regional Manager
- **Central Region, Bozeman (406) 594-8115**
Josh Bennett, Regional Manager
- **Northern Region, Great Falls (406) 727-2569**
Ken McGuire, Regional Manager
- **Western Region, Kalispell (406) 257-2148**
Terry Davis, Regional Manager

Outstanding Traffic Education Teacher of the Year Award

Do you know a traffic education teacher who has taught driver education in Montana for many years, has volunteered for MTEA in one or more capacities, and has shared their knowledge, time and ideas to increase traffic safety in their community? You might know (or be) the ideal candidate for MTEA's annual Outstanding Traffic Education Teacher of the Year (TOY) award.

Since 1988, the Montana Traffic Education Association has honored an Outstanding Traffic Education teacher with an annual teacher of the year (TOY) award presented at MTEA's spring conference. Any active teacher who has devoted a good part of their teaching career to traffic education is eligible to apply. Teachers can self-nominate or be nominated by someone who is familiar with their traffic education work.

Download the two-page nomination form from the website at MTEAOnline.org (which includes a section that is completed by the candidate). A TOY committee member will review the application to ensure that all required information and documentation is complete. If the nomination is eligible for consideration, the candidate will receive a letter notifying them of the nomination.

If you have any questions, contact MTEA TOY Committee Chair, Mick Davis at (406) 761-0400.

Contributor of the Year Award

MTEA recognizes companies, organizations, and individuals who make generous contributions of time, energy, equipment and/or expertise to support and sustain the mission of the Montana Traffic Education Association.

To nominate a person or business for this honor, download the COY nomination form at MTEAOnline.org. The Outstanding Contributor/Sustainer of the Year will be recognized at MTEA's spring conference in April.

Door Prizes and Silent Auction!

MTEA buys door prizes with the proceeds from our 50/50 drawings, but we can always use more items. Consider asking at least one business in your community to donate a door prize or silent auction item. Bring your prizes and auction items with you when you arrive at the conference.

Our silent auctions are a huge success because of the great gifts donated and your generous bidding on them. The proceeds raised will help fund the David Huff Scholarship and conference prizes and giveaways.

Conference Overview: Continued from page 1

Sergeant Doug Samuelson, with the Montana Highway Patrol, will lead a workshop on identifying impaired drivers. How can we as educators know if a student seems impaired and shouldn't participate in the daily drive?

Charlie Brown from Fairfield will do a technology presentation on using Google Classroom to enhance traffic courses around the state. If you are planning to attend this workshop, Charlie asks that you please come prepared:

- First, bring your own (school) laptop.
- Second, create a personal gmail account that is totally separate from your school account (if you have one).
- Third, download the free Google Classroom from your app store. If you get all this done before the conference go to "Join Class" (look for a plus sign at the top of the page). Use the code **yga3ps** to join class-**DE Test 101**.

Some of the items Charlie will cover are: setting up a class, adding students, grades, Google forms, setting up assignments, and anything else as time allows. Google Classroom is a great tool to use with students.

Monday will conclude with classification meetings followed by dinner on your own.

Tuesday morning, attend a workshop on how to teach Generation X by **Doug Van Zee** from Billings and using car cameras by **Scott Brown** and **Gena Ferlan** from Plains.

Please note that the agenda has slightly changed from prior years. Normally, a 30-minute break for check out was scheduled from 10:00-10:30 a.m. We are trying a new format that eliminates the break and the conference will proceed directly into the closing keynote on *Creating Growth Mindset* with **Darrell Grogan**. He will discuss how to frame our feedback so a driver can better their skills, instead of focusing on a "I'm good/bad at this" belief. As educators we want students to keep trying and learning from mistakes to become a true learner in life.

At 11:00 a.m. attendees can check out, if they haven't already done so. Lunch will be served at 11:10 a.m. so we can get people on the road right after lunch. Don't forget to pick up your renewal units certificate. **See you in April!**

David Huff Memorial Scholarship for First-time Attendees!

First-time attendees to the conference can participate in a drawing for one of three \$150 David Huff Memorial Scholarships. Winners are asked to submit an article to MTEA News and lead a workshop at a future Montana Traffic Education Conference.



MONTANA TRAFFIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Building the Thinking Driver

Great Falls, Montana ~ April 26-28, 2020



*The Montana Traffic Education Association and Montana Office of Public Instruction invite you to the
2020 Montana Traffic Education Conference!*

Teaching teens how to drive is a big part of what we do, but we also want to cultivate good judgment and get teens thinking about their decisions behind the wheel. The 2020 conference will focus on the “thinking classroom” and active learning, and much more.

PRE-REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE: All attendees **must pre-register with MTEA by Monday, April 15, 2020.** The registration fee is \$205 and includes five meals. Tear off the registration form below, complete, and mail to MTEA with a check for \$205. **Walk-in registrations are strongly discouraged. Cancellation policy:** Upon written notice of cancellation, \$135 of the \$205 registration fee is refundable.

BOOK YOUR HOTEL: The conference takes place at the **Heritage Inn**, 1700 Fox Farm Road, in Great Falls. Room rate is \$96.00 (plus tax) for a single or double room. Attendees will be asked for a credit card to secure a room.

Call the **Heritage Inn** at **(406) 761-1900.** Mention the group name (Montana Traffic Education) to get the special rate. Cut-off for the group rate is **April 10**, so reserve your room early.

COLLEGE CREDIT OR RENEWAL UNITS: Register for one semester credit through MSUN at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 26. 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 26. The first general session will begin at noon. The conference ends at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday April 28. **Conference agenda, speaker bios and other updates are posted at MTEAOnline.org.**

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

You must pre-register to attend.
PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 15, 2020
Bring an item to give as a door prize!

2020 Montana Traffic Education Conference Registration

HERITAGE INN & CONVENTION CENTER
April 26-28, 2020 – 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 _____

_____ I would like to register for the MTEA conference and renew my membership in MTEA. Enclosed is a check to **MTEA** for **\$205**. * 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 **\$45**.

MTEA USE ONLY

Date _____

Check No. _____

Received check from _____

Amount \$ _____

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 MSUN at the conference.



Montana Traffic Education Association
PO Box 637
Conrad, MT 59425

Return Service Requested



Building the Thinking Driver
2020 Montana Traffic Education Conference
April 26-28, 2020—Heritage Inn, Great Falls

CONFERENCE REMINDERS:

- **Book your room by April 10**
- **Register by April 15—See registration form and details in this issue!**
- **Gather up your silent auction items and door prizes, bring with you!**
- **Prepare for the Roundtable discussion and Google Workshop ahead of time.**
- **Travel safely to Great Falls. We'll see you soon!**



The 2020 ADTSEA conference will be held July 19-22, 2020 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. If you can't attend, at least consider joining your national organization. Conference details: <https://www.adtsea.org/driver-ed-events.phtml>.