



# MTEA NEWS

Newsletter of the Montana Traffic Education Association



VOL. 19, ISSUE 1 – FALL 2013

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*Class A Position Open*

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## President's Message

The school year is well under way and traffic education classes are in full swing around the state. As an instructor for almost 30 years, I am reminded about the great traffic education programs conducted here in the state of Montana, and the dedicated people who make it so.

These dedicated people include: the traffic instructor, whose hours run late into the evenings Monday through Saturday; administrators around the state, working on endless schedules and accommodations for their teachers, so they can teach traffic education; your MTEA Executive Board spending countless hours in meetings, planning forthcoming legislative hearings and MTEA conferences; our friends at the Office of Public Instruction, who send out the latest information on traffic safety education and manage programs which are invaluable to all of our instructors. We are very fortunate to have a Traffic Education Program which is the envy of many states!

This year, it is my goal to increase our membership ten percent and to get our Verizon interactive conference program up and running, whereby younger teachers can get online and work with older, more experienced instructors for questions and answers.

It is indeed a pleasure to serve you as your incoming MTEA President. Feel free to contact me any time. I hope your year is off to a great start and I want to say "thank you" for providing valuable training to our young drivers.

*Mike J. "Mick" Davis, MTEA President*

## **MTEA LAUNCHES MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ... 2014 GOAL: 10% INCREASE!**

Do you know a teacher who might enjoy the benefits of membership in MTEA? Elementary, secondary, and university teachers and administrators involved with traffic safety education (and other interested persons) can join Montana's traffic education professional organization.

Annual membership dues are \$35, payable to MTEA. An active full membership includes:

1. Annual Traffic Education conference that brings 200 teachers together with experts in the field, opportunities for ongoing professional development, and the latest research and resources for traffic educators.
2. Three newsletters per year (Fall, Winter, Spring)
3. \$5,000 AD&D/life insurance policy
4. Voting status (board elections, annual awards)
5. Eligibility for awards
6. A voice in the ongoing improvement of driver education in Montana through policy and legislative actions.

To join or renew, download and complete the membership form available at [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org) and mail with your dues to Jim Carroll, MTEA Executive Secretary, MTEA, P.O. Box 637, Conrad, MT 59425.

## **2014 MTEA CONFERENCE**

MTEA's spring conference will take place in April 2014, but final dates and the site are still being finalized. Visit the MTEA website and OPI Traffic Education site for the latest information. We hope to have an update in the Winter issue of this newsletter.

## **Plan ahead to donate Door Prizes & Silent Auction items for the April 2014 MTEA 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. 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!

MTEA is preparing for another successful **silent auction** to be held during our 2014 conference. It was a huge success at the last conference and those who participated are much appreciated. Some examples of popular auction items include: jewelry, tools, antiques, themed gift baskets, gift certificates, etc. The donor's name will be displayed with each of them. Cash is also accepted to help purchase items. Bring the item to the 2014 conference and/or contact Barb Lockman (e-mail: [blockman@helena.k12.mt.us](mailto:blockman@helena.k12.mt.us)) or Janette Arps (e-mail: [smileyarps@yahoo.com](mailto:smileyarps@yahoo.com)) if you have questions.

## **CONTRIBUTE TO MTEA NEWS**

If you have any items for **MTEA News**, send to:

HAROLD LAIR  
33946 Jims Drive  
POLSON, MT 59860  
Phone: 406-260-6441  
E-mail: [haroldlair@gmail.com](mailto:haroldlair@gmail.com)

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:

FALL: OCTOBER 1  
WINTER: DECEMBER 1  
SPRING: MARCH 1

## **Nominations Sought for President-Elect and Executive Board**

Please consider 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 conference. To learn more about these positions, contact Jim Carroll. **MTEA will continue to be strong only if its members are actively involved!**

## **2013 MTEA Conference Handouts Available**

If you missed the 2013 MTEA Conference or want presentations or handouts from some of the presenters, visit the OPI's Traffic Education web page at <http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd/> and go to the MTEA page.

## Summary of Executive Board Minutes

MTEA's Executive Board met on April 29, 2013 in Great Falls:

- Minutes and financial reports were reviewed
- A review of the 2013 Legislative Session and MTEA conference along with future planning was discussed
- Reports from OPI, insurance program, newsletter, and awards were heard
- Site selection and possible theme for the 2014 conference was discussed
- Appointments to the Board were made
- Classification reports were heard

The next board meeting is tentatively planned for late October or early November. If you have items for discussion, please contact President Mick Davis or Executive Secretary James Carroll to have your item included on the meeting agenda.

### Are you retiring? Please let us know!

If you retired last spring or have plans to retire from teaching 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 (and keep you as a member of MTEA).

### MTEA Recognition: Teacher- and Contributor-of-the-Year Awards

Please consider nominating a worthy fellow teacher and/or supporter of your traffic education program to be recognized for years of service and contributions to MTEA. The Teacher of the Year and Contributor/Sustainer of the Year nomination forms are available on MTEA's website at [MTEAOnline.org](http://www.mtea.org). Return forms to MTEA by March 15, 2014.

*Congratulations to our 2013  
Outstanding Teacher of the Year,  
Thom Barnhart (Sidney)  
and  
2013 Contributor of the Year,  
Tom Taylor, Montana Highway  
Patrol, Retired, Great Falls*

## Teens, Semi-trucks, and the No-Zone

Want your students to see what the No-Zone looks like from a truck driver's point of view? Invite a semi-truck to your next driver education class! Your students can climb into a semi and experience the limited view from the truck's cab. For details, contact Jeff Steeger at 444-4207 or e-mail: [jsteeger@mt.gov](mailto:jsteeger@mt.gov).

### 2014 ADTSEA Summer Conference

The 2014 ADTSEA (American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association) conference will be held July 13-16 at the Hilton DoubleTree Hotel (near the airport) in Wichita, Kansas. Check out the ADTSEA website at <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. If you can't attend, at least consider joining your national organization.

### Videos for your Classroom

**Crash Avoidance Technologies:** The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) has several animated videos regarding crash avoidance technologies in vehicles. Check them out at <http://www.youtube.com/iihs>.

Also from IIHS, *Understanding Car Crashes: When Physics Meets Biology* is a video on crash dynamics by Dr. Griff Jones who was one of MTEA's keynote speakers at the 2013 conference. View it on YouTube searching: "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.org/traffic-safety-information-center/bicycle-and-pedestrian-safety/>

### OPI's Traffic Ed E-News

If you are not receiving OPI's Traffic Ed E-News, sign up at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Subscriptions/>.

## Welcome new Traffic Ed Teachers!

About 23 new teachers were trained in traffic education courses this past summer at MSU-Northern in Havre, which qualified them to begin teaching driver education at Montana schools. These teachers have been invited to join MTEA and attend our next spring conference.

## MONTANA ROAD & WEATHER REPORTS / WEB CAMS



Are you interested in seeing up-to-date road conditions throughout Montana? The Montana Department of Transportation has several roadway cameras placed throughout the state that can be accessed here:

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/weather/rwis.shtml>.

Images are updated every 30 minutes. This site includes a Google map and other camera sites across Montana along with road report data.

For up-to-date road and weather reports, call **1-800-226-7623**, 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.

## OPI's Traffic Education Office offers wealth of information for your program

If you want the latest traffic education resources and research, need to submit required forms to run your Traffic Education Program, or want to renew your approval to teach traffic education in Montana, visit the OPI's Traffic Education web site at:

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd>. You can also download updated curriculum modules, read our Traffic Education Newsletter (or sign up to receive them via e-mail), or review the approved and scheduled TE programs around Montana. You can also learn about the Montana DRIVE Advanced Driver workshops for adults and teens and visit the MTEA/OPI Traffic Education conference archives. New information is added frequently, so be sure to revisit the page if you have not been there in a while.

## OREGON TRAFFIC SAFETY EDUCATION CONFERENCE

For those interested in attending the 2014 Oregon TSE conference, the dates are March 7-9. Our leadership team has travelled to this excellent conference in the past. For more details, visit with Harold Lair or Mick Davis. You can also look for more information in the winter newsletter.

## KEYS Parent/Teen Homework packets now available from MSU-Northern

Hopefully, you are utilizing the "Keep Encouraging Young Driver Safety" (KEYS) materials in your program. KEYS is a great resource and an excellent way to create more parent/student involvement in your program. If you want to obtain copies (printed at cost for \$3.00/packet) to give to parents at your Parent Meeting, download the MSU-N order form here: <http://www.msun.edu/distance/pdfs/traffic/KEYS%20Order%20Form.pdf> or call Randy Bachmeier at (800) 662-6132 x3730 or e-mail: [rbachmeier@msun.edu](mailto:rbachmeier@msun.edu).

### *DID YOU KNOW THAT IN ...*

**1903 - Ford built the Model A**

**1917 - First Oshkosh four-wheel drive truck**

**1948 - Ford released the first F-Series vehicles**

## DOJ/MVD NEWS

**Kristine Thatcher, Bureau Chief  
Motor Vehicle Division**

The Butte driver license office has temporarily relocated to Tamarack Square at 3703 Harrison.

Some law changes but not impacting driver education include:

Beginning October 1, Montana will waive the skills test for military personnel that qualify. Their qualification is determined by their commanding officer and the process should be completed before they discharge from the service. Details are on our website under Commercial Driver Licensing.

Beginning January 1, 2014, Montana veterans will be able to have "Veteran" placed on their driver licenses. Qualification for this designation is determined by the Montana Veterans Administration. All interested veterans must first contact the Montana VA in January.

## LOOK FOR INFO ON THE 2014 MTEA CONFERENCE ON THE MTEA WEBSITE SOON!

<http://www.MTEAOnline.org>

### NHTSA's Driver Education Toolkit

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (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 the 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 [www.nhtsa.gov/DriverEducationProgram](http://www.nhtsa.gov/DriverEducationProgram).

The **New York Times Bucks** blog recently featured a few figures from *Insurance.com*, showing how much your insurance rates will increase on average for different types of violations.

- Reckless driving: 22%
- Driving while under the influence 1<sup>st</sup> off: 19%
- Driving w/o license or permit: 18%
- Careless driving: 16%
- Speeding 30mph over speed limit: 15%
- Failure to stop: 15%
- Improper turn: 14%
- Improper passing: 14%
- Following too close/tailgating: 13%
- Speeding 15-29mph over limit: 12%
- Speeding 1-14mph over limit: 11%
- Failure to yield: 9%
- No car insurance: 6%
- Seat-belt infractions: 3%

(Based on analysis of over 490,000 auto insurance quotes by *Insurance.com*)



### Montana DRIVE Workshop E-News!

If you want to know when registration opens for the summer workshops in 2014,

sign up for an e-mail reminder early next year.

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Subscriptions/>

## New Report from AAA Foundation on Delayed Driver Licensing

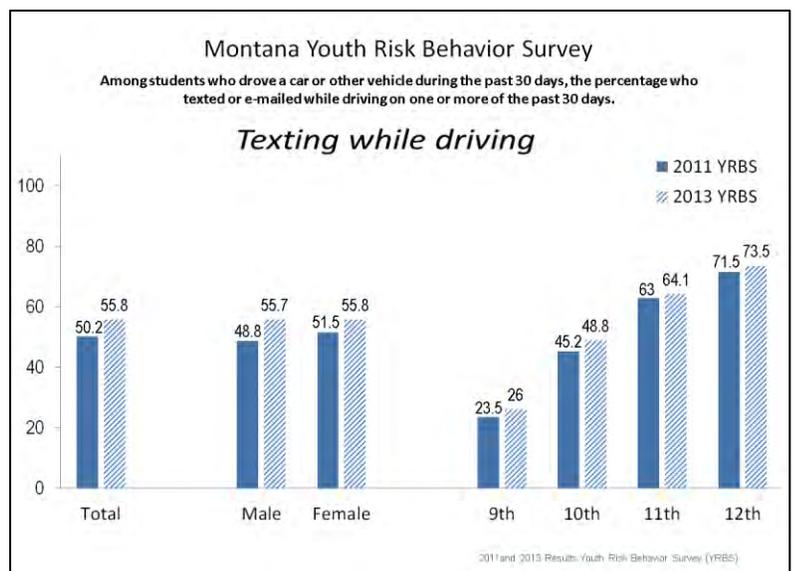
Some driver education teaches have found older teens in their classes. The cost of driving is a factor and Montana teens may have other reasons to delay driver licensing. Recent AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety research gives some insight into self-reported reasons:

- Biggest reasons for delay were not having a car (44%), ability to get around without driving (39%), cost of gas (36%), cost overall (36%), and "just didn't get around to it" (35%)
- Fewer than one in four cited reasons related to GDL and driving restrictions.

"Most young people do not obtain a driver's license as soon as they are eligible to do so; fewer than half are licensed within one year of reaching their state's minimum age for licensure, and barely more than half are licensed before they turn 18 years old. There was little evidence that those who delayed licensure did so for the purpose of avoiding the requirements of their state's GDL system."

Download the *Timing of Driver's License Acquisition and Reasons for Delay among Young People in the United States, 2012* report, fact sheet and presentation of this study here:

<https://www.aaafoundation.org/timing-driver%E2%80%99s-license-acquisition-and-reasons-delay-among-young-people-united-states-2012>



### Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey – 2013

<http://opi.mt.gov/Reports&Data/YRBS.html>



## FRAN'S FINDINGS

News from the  
Traffic Education  
Office, OPI



**TEDRS** – The  
online Traffic  
Education and

Data Reporting System (TEDRS) is being used by more than 90% of schools to enter Student Lists and print TELL permits and completion certificates. We made a recent change so teachers can edit student names to match the full legal name on a student's birth certificate. If you find a correction is needed on the AIM student list, please notify the district clerk at your school so they can also correct the student's legal name.

Driver examiners use TEDRS to look up driver education records statewide, so they can help students who take driver's ed in one town and then apply for a first-year restricted license in another. We met with them in September and they appreciate that CDTP teachers test students' vision, knowledge and skills and fill out and return the driver licensing forms carefully and completely. Driver examiners told us some families allow teens to drive unsupervised with their TELL even though teachers explain the GDL and permit restrictions.

**Traffic Education Best Practices** – Parent meetings are required in order to integrate parental involvement in Driver Education. Deer Lodge encourages students to complete 20 hours of practice driving with parents while in their semester-long driver ed class. Practice makes a significant difference in skill development



and this option is explained at their parent meetings. Students can use their documented 20 practice driving hours to skip the final exam or trade for a better test grade.

**Townsend Tragedy** – I was quite disheartened by the recent pickup truck rollover in daylight on a Townsend dirt road with two unbuckled boys in the truck bed. One of those boys was killed. The driver was age 15. We never expect to crash and we don't expect choices and mistakes to become fatal errors. The impact on families and communities is hard to face and harder to measure.

Across Montana we have lost 218 teens in crashes in a ten-year period (2001–2010). Our risk assessment is usually: "It won't happen today," even though we drive fast and take lots of chances. Deer and elk are wandering and the speed limit is 70 mph on our rural highways. We need to continue our work to develop driving skills and experience, safe habits and responsible choices to reduce crashes. We aim to reach one million crash-free miles.

*It is an honor to work with the thoughtful and talented traffic educators around the great state of Montana. Thank you for your dedication and service to Montana families and communities.*

*Fran Penner-Ray,  
OPI Traffic Education  
Director*

**How did you celebrate Montana Teen Driver Safety Day?** – Let us know how your school community encourages teens and parents to always wear a seat belt, be alert, and pay attention while driving. I recently heard about a buckle up sign placed on a remote control car at a basketball game. While the car roamed the floor during timeouts, the announcer shared safety messages along with the scores.

**Buckle Up, So We Can See You Again** signs with school colors and logos are now installed at more than 120 schools throughout the state. Jerry Olson of Great Falls designed the signs to encourage students to make safe choices and wear their seat belts.

This project would not have been possible without MDT's funding, seat-belt survey assistance from Buckle Up Montana coordinators, and project coordination by Patti Borneman. Buckle Up surveys have been received from many schools and we have more work ahead to reach the *buckle up every trip, every time* goal.

The 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) reports only 51.2% of Montana high school students always wore a seat belt when driving and only 47.8% when riding as a passenger in a car.

## Facts about Age Eligibility for a Montana Traffic Education Learner's License

Montana's young driver licensing rules include the Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP) established in 1995 (MCA 61-5-110) and Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) in 2006.

Students must be age 14½ to take the driver license knowledge test and receive a Traffic Education Learners License (TELL). They must be age 14½ by the completion date of the state-approved traffic education course for the school district to receive TE reimbursement from the OPI.

Young drivers in Montana can obtain a restricted driver's license at the age of 15 only if they have completed a state-approved traffic education course offered by a public school district, have passed the tests to receive a TELL or Learner's Permit, and have satisfied the first step of the GDL: 50 hours (10 at night) supervised driving with a parent or legal guardian within at least 6 months.

In 2012, the OPI's TE04 Student list was revised to include separate columns for the TEP dates and the TELL dates in the Traffic Education Data and Reporting System (TEDRS). Student names imported from AIM can now be edited to match the full legal name on the student's birth certificate. If you find an error in the AIM list, please notify the district clerk at your school who enters the AIM data into OPI's database so they can also correct the student's legal name.

Instructors CDTP-certified by the Motor Vehicle Division of the Department of Justice (DOJ/MVD) can directly issue a Traffic Education Learner License (TELL) to students who are at least 14½ years of age. Student lists entered in TEDRS include the option of printing TELL permits for students who pass the knowledge test.

The TEDRS Student List includes dates for:

1. TEP - Traffic Education Permit - valid only during class to drive with TE teacher. GDL requires a six-month learner permit holding period with a minimum of 50 hours supervised driving practice. The six months begins when the TEP is issued.
2. TELL Class D - valid for one year to permit driving only with parent/legal guardian. The minimum age is 14½ to take the DOJ/MVD knowledge test. Vision screening is also required. Students must pass the TELL knowledge test before their driver education class completes. If the class has concluded and the student has not passed the TELL knowledge test, they receive no credit toward their required six-month learner's license holding period. The six-month period starts over the day they pass the knowledge test at the Driver Exam Station.

The TELL permit includes this reminder about eligibility for a restricted license:

***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 date + 6 months], you may apply for a First Year Restricted License at a driver exam station. Schedule your driving test at [www.doj.mt.gov/driving](http://www.doj.mt.gov/driving) or call **1-866-450-8034**.

For more information, contact Fran Penner-Ray, Traffic Education Director, Montana Office of Public Instruction, (406) 444-4396 or e-mail: [fpenner-ray@mt.gov](mailto:fpenner-ray@mt.gov). Or contact Tammy Stefanik, Motor Vehicle Division, DOJ at (406) 444-1779 or e-mail: [tstefanik@mt.gov](mailto:tstefanik@mt.gov).

More information about the Cooperative Driver Testing Program is available at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd> on the "Teaching Traffic Education" page.