



MTEA NEWS

Newsletter of the
Montana Traffic Education Association

VOL. 19, ISSUE 3 – SPRING 2014



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President's Message

TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

The theme for the 2014 Montana Traffic Education Conference is **Toward Zero Deaths**. As you can imagine, our focus will be on ways to reduce the tragic, and mostly preventable, deaths of young drivers in Montana. This topic will be addressed by our opening keynote speaker, Mike Tooley, director of the Montana Department of Transportation and others who have done the research and are working hard to improve teen driver safety. As educators of traffic education, it falls upon all of us to take the steps necessary to implement and work for the realization of this vision to reduce crashes and fatalities. As you are well aware, traffic *safety* education is one of our most valuable tools.

Scheduled for April 27-29 at the GranTree Inn in Bozeman, the conference is the place to renew contacts, make new ones, and learn about the Office of Public Instruction's revised traffic education curriculum and the latest trends in traffic education. Steve Morgan and the Executive Board, along with the OPI's Traffic Education staff, have been planning an exciting conference. Along with an impressive list of conference speakers, there will be the ever popular roundtable discussions, informative workshops, entertaining prize offerings, and great new resources for all to bring back to your individual driver education programs.

If you are planning to attend your first Montana Traffic Education Conference, or are inviting a new traffic ed teacher to join you, the MTEA is offering up to three \$150 scholarships to help offset conference costs. Only first-time attendees can put their name in a drawing at the conference for a chance to win a scholarship. Read more about the David Huff Memorial Scholarship in this issue.

I look forward to seeing you in Bozeman this spring. I promise it will be an exciting time for learning, sharing ideas, and enjoying camaraderie with your fellow traffic education instructors.

Mike J. "Mick" Davis, MTEA President

Executive Board Meeting Summary

Here's an overview of the last Executive Board meeting held January 26 in Helena:

- Minutes, financial reports, and correspondence were reviewed.
- Conference plans were discussed relative to speakers, breakouts, 50/50, door prizes, silent auction, service awards, exhibitors, and registration giveaways.
- A pre-conference workshop on bicycle/pedestrian safety was discussed.
- An OPI update was provided, with updates to Common Core, Traffic Ed Standards, and Montana DRIVE.
- Improvements to the MTEA website and newsletter were discussed.
- Discussion on planning for the 2015 Legislative Session took place.
- The AD&D insurance policy and cost trends were discussed.
- Teacher/Contributor of the Year and Service awards were discussed.
- Discussion on finalizing a David Huff memorial scholarship took place.
- A report on MTEA Board appointees and President-Elect nominations was heard.

The next meeting is set for April 28th at the spring conference in Bozeman. Anyone with items to discuss should contact Mick Davis, President, or Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, as soon as possible to be included on the agenda.

MTEA News

This newsletter is published three times yearly; in the fall, winter, and spring. Normally this newsletter goes only to MTEA members and active contributor/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 all teachers in the state approved to teach Traffic Education.

If you like what you see and are not a member of MTEA, please consider joining. That way you'll stay up to date on what's happening across the state in regard to Traffic Education. Membership is only \$35.00 per year. See the application in this newsletter.

MTEA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Invite a colleague to join!

Of the 330 teachers assigned to teach traffic education in Montana, about 200 of them are members of MTEA. We would like to invite the non-member teachers to join their professional association. If you know a teacher who might enjoy the benefits of membership in MTEA, please invite them to become a member. Elementary, secondary, and university teachers and administrators involved with traffic safety education (and other interested persons) can join MTEA.

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

- Annual Traffic Education conference (conference fees are extra) that brings 200 teachers together with experts in the field, opportunities for ongoing 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 status (board elections, annual awards).
- Eligibility for awards.
- A voice in the ongoing improvement of driver education in Montana through policy and legislative actions.

If you attended the 2013 spring conference in Great Falls, your MTEA membership automatically renewed with your conference payment. Again, if you know a traffic education teacher who is not a current member of MTEA, please encourage them to join. Contact Jim Carroll at the MTEA address below and he will send an application form and letter to the teachers you identify as potential members.

To join or renew, complete the membership form in this newsletter or download it at MTEAOnline.org. Mail the form with your dues to Jim Carroll, MTEA Executive Secretary, MTEA, P.O. Box 637, Conrad, MT 59425.

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/>. You'll be kept informed about curriculum updates, grants and contests, professional development and training opportunities, MTEA events, OPI program requirements, and the latest research and useful resources for traffic education.

It's time to pre-register for the 2014 Montana Traffic Education Conference

It's time to pre-register for the annual spring conference scheduled for April 27-29 at the GranTree Inn, in Bozeman. Room rates are \$89 per night, plus tax. You are encouraged to make your room reservations early. Call the GranTree at (406) 587-5261. 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 14th, so it is recommended you reserve your room before then. Additional rooms are also available at the adjacent Holiday Inn if the GranTree fills up. Their phone number is (406) 587-4561.

See the conference registration form included in this newsletter for other details. Please be prompt with your registration form and payment of \$195. **Pre-registration is required. Registration forms and payment are due no later than April 15th!**

Remember, the costs of attending the conference are an allowable expense for local 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 8:00-11:15 a.m. 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 him by e-mail at tjcarrol@rocketmail.com. The registration form can also be downloaded at the MTEA website: MTEAOnline.org.

Pre-Conference Workshops Offered



Journeys from Home will give two pre-conference workshops on bicycle/pedestrian safety: *Middle School Road Ready* and *Cycling Savvy*. The workshops start Saturday, April 26, at 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. and resume on Sunday, April 27, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. College

credit and the cost of the workshops may be available free of charge. Details and registration information can be found at www.journeysfromhomemontana.org or by calling Roger DiBrito at 406-273-6458.

David Huff Memorial Scholarship

For first-time attendees to the MTEA Conference

The Montana Traffic Education Association board has established the David Huff Memorial Scholarship to honor his leadership, dedication and support for professionalism in traffic education.

As Montana's director of Traffic Education (1998-2011), David Huff was a leading light and a driving force to improve traffic education and reduce young driver crashes. David collaborated with Montana and national leaders to raise the standards for teen driver education and training. His leadership on supporting and implementing Montana's Graduated Driver Licensing Law in 2005 led to research and development of KEYS parent-teen homework. He developed partnerships to work on revising and updating Montana's traffic education standards and curriculum.

David Huff passed away on October 12, 2012 and left us with the challenge to educate young drivers through professional instruction and guided practice.

When our individual lives are integrated with others, our efforts make a difference and our work lives on through others. – David Huff

The MTEA board hopes the David Huff Memorial Scholarship will encourage new traffic education teachers to attend and participate in the annual MTEA conference and become active, engaged members of their professional organization. A total of \$450 will be available for annual scholarships. Up to three attendees who are attending a MTEA conference for the first time can win a \$150 scholarship by participating in a drawing during the conference.

More information will be provided at the Bozeman conference this spring.

Call for Silent Auction Items for 2014 MTEA Conference

Our last two silent auctions have been a huge success because of the great gifts donated and your generous support! The proceeds raised will help towards offsetting the costs of future door prizes and auction items. If you would like to donate something to the next silent auction, please bring it to the conference.

President-Elect Nominations

Since our President-Elect must be nominated from the existing Board, your input is important. Each classification should be prepared to submit at least one name from their group at the conference. ***MTEA will continue to be strong only if its members continue to be actively involved.***

MTEA Recognition at the Conference

Nomination forms for the MTEA Teacher and Contributor of the Year awards can be downloaded from the MTEA website (MTEAOnline.org) or the MTEA link on the OPI Traffic Education website at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/DriverEd>. Because of the online availability, forms will not be mailed out as in the past. Please seriously consider nominating a fellow teacher and/or supporter of your program.

Retiring soon? 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 or via the Contact Form on the MTEA website: MTEAOnline.org. We would like to honor you at the next spring conference (and keep you as a member of MTEA).

Teacher's Retirement System: New 150-day rule for retirees who want to continue teaching traffic education. If you retire based on a termination date of January 1, 2014 or later, you must wait 150 calendar days before you can return to work as a working retiree in a TRS reportable position. The 150 calendar day break begins on the first day following your termination.

In order to help ensure compliance with IRS public pension qualification standards, an unmistakable interval of time between a member's retirement and their return to work as a retired member is necessary. The break in service requirement applies to all TRS members, including members employed by the University System.

Visit the Teacher's Retirement System website for more information: <http://trs.mt.gov/> or call (406) 444-3134 (toll-free: 1-866-600-4045).

Planning for the 2015 Legislative Session

In just ten months the 64th Legislative Assembly will be convening in Helena. These winter months are one of the best times to chat with your representative and your senator about their plans and about your traffic education program.

If you need to confirm your legislators, go to www.sos.mt.gov/elections. Click on the box for "2012 General Election Results," then click on Legislative and scroll down to find your county(ies). Your website, MTEAOnline.org, also has a page devoted to legislative issues related to traffic education.

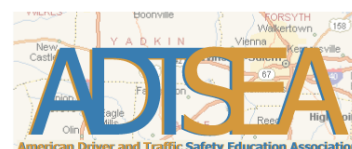
I was amazed by the number of totally uncontested races; although some districts have an entirely new configuration due to redistricting. If you like your legislator, perhaps you will offer your assistance with his or her 2014 campaign for the June 3 primary or, if your candidate is unopposed, for the November 4 general election. Establishing such a relationship could go a long way to increasing understanding of and support for traffic education.

In the future, perhaps you or someone you know might consider running for the legislature to represent your district.

THANKS for ALL you do. Stay warm and safe out there! ~ Jane Hamman, MTEA Legislative Lobbyist

2014 ADTSEA Summer Conference

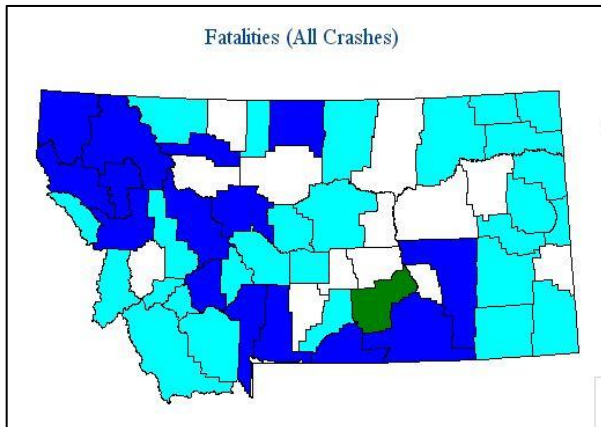
The 2014 ADTSEA (American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association) conference will be held **July 13-16** at the Hilton DoubleTree Hotel (near the airport) in Wichita, Kansas. Check out the ADTSEA website at <http://www.adtsea.org> for more details about registration, room rates, and tentative agenda.



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.

Crash Data for Montana Counties

Did you know that Montana had 13 counties with zero traffic fatalities in 2012? You can check five years (2008 through 2012) of your county crash data in the State Traffic Safety Information (STSI) on the NHTSA Data Web site at: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/NCSA>.



The map and data tables of Montana crashes show we have more fatal crashes due to road departures than at intersections. Too many people are unrestrained and each number represents an individual, a family, a friend, a choice and a story of how life can change in an instant.

Montana data comes from law enforcement crash reports entered into the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA) is an office of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) responsible for providing a wide range of analytical and statistical support to NHTSA and the highway safety community.

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

Hopefully, you are using *Keep Encouraging Young Driver Safety* (KEYS) materials in your program. The KEYS homework is a great resource 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.

Teaching Traffic Education in Montana

As many of you know, traffic education teachers are needed in Montana. Some are planning to retire within a few years and many districts need to expand their existing programs to meet increasing demand. One way to recruit new traffic education teachers is for districts to encourage a currently employed educator to obtain the required training so they can be approved to teach traffic education at their school.

In just a few weeks from late spring to early-summer, a Montana educator can receive enough training at MSU-Northern to begin teaching traffic education in mid-summer. Many of the required courses can be completed online, while others require only two weeks attendance at the Havre campus. Initial approval from the OPI Traffic Education Office is based on the completion of at least 8 required traffic safety education credits, a valid Montana educator's license, and an acceptable driving record.

To learn more about the requirements to begin teaching traffic education, renewing your approval, and information related to the Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP), visit the OPI's Traffic Education page: Teaching Traffic Education. You will find links to MSU-Northern and other helpful FAQs related to teaching traffic ed in Montana.



Montana DRIVE Summer Workshops

This summer, spend a day at the Montana DRIVE closed driving track in Lewistown to practice safe driving maneuvers that will make you more confident and skilled behind the wheel.

The adult workshop is \$315 per driver and the teen workshop is \$280, which is offset by a \$200 scholarship funded by State Farm Insurance for teens who apply. The teen workshops are July 28, 29 and 30.

One college credit is available from MSU-Northern for teachers who complete the workshop, stay an extra day to student teach, and write a short paper on the experience.

To view available dates and register, visit <http://www.montanadrive.mt.gov>. For more information call OPI (406) 444-4432 or email montanadrive@mt.gov.



Fran's Findings – March 2014



We all travel on icy and snowy roads and sometimes slide off or skid. Changes in conditions can be as challenging as shifts in standards. Driver education is one of the milestones preparing our teens to travel safely on the road to be college and career ready. Montana Common Core Standards seek to educate students to value evidence, know how to use technology, solve problems, and think critically. Studying the Montana Driver Manual, analyzing crash causes and prevention options along with student discussions and presentations support speaking, listening, literacy and safety. We are partners in preparing our students to graduate and adapt to a world of change.

The new **Adverse Conditions curriculum module** (5.1) includes key questions and videos of semi-trucks on wet and foggy freeways and elk crossing the road at night. Susan Carney of Arlee and Charlie Brown of Fairfield shared their in-car camera footage in the presentation. Ask students to identify the problems portrayed in the videos and develop solutions for the closed zones. Describe strategies for traffic and road conditions in terms of speed, lane position, and communication options to effectively solve the problems.

Downloading the PowerPoint presentation from the OPI's website could take up to an hour due to the size of the videos. We will distribute flash drives with the brand new updated curriculum and highlight the new traffic education curriculum resources at the MTEA Conference in Bozeman, April 27-29. If you are not planning to attend the conference or need the updated modules right away, let us know. We'll send you a flash drive with the modules you request. Work continues on the Deadly D's modules: Distractions, Drugs and Alcohol, Drowsy Driving, and Dangerous Emotions.

New bicycle safety questions based on the Montana Driver Manual will become part of the driver licensing exams. Yes, it's important and yes, it will be on the test. Do you know the answer to this question?

When a bicycle is traveling in your lane and you need to make a right hand turn:

- a) You may turn right in front of the bicyclist
- b) You should wait for the bicyclist to pass before making your turn
- c) The bicyclist must wait and allow you to make your turn
- d) The bicyclist should be riding on the sidewalk

Resources in the **Share the Road curriculum module** (3.4) will help prepare students for this new knowledge exam question, and hopefully prepare them to be safe bikers, pedestrians, and conscientious drivers. Bicycle lessons on mixing with traffic, intersections, lane changes, and merging could meet some of the required traffic education classroom hours.

TEDRS & CDTP Enhancements: The CDTP Road Test form will be available when you log into the Traffic Education Data & Reporting System to create and manage a student list. The road test form will include student names and birth dates already in TEDRS and will print two to a page. We hope this will simplify your CDTP drive test scoring and recordkeeping.

Driver license fees are used to fund driver education, in part due to the Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP) partnership between the Office of Public Instruction and the Department of Justice, provided in 61-5-110, MCA. The CDTP authorizes trained and certified driver education teachers to administer the written test for a learner's license and to conduct the driving skills test on behalf of the DOJ Motor Vehicle Division.

It is an honor to work with 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, Director, Traffic Education Program



REGISTRATION FORM
Montana Traffic Education Conference
GranTree Inn, Bozeman, Montana ~ April 27-29, 2014



The 2014 Montana Traffic Education Association Conference begins at noon on Sunday and ends at noon on Tuesday. Our opening keynote speaker, Mike Tooley, Director of the Montana Department of Transportation, will talk about *Toward Zero Deaths*, a campaign to reduce traffic fatalities. The conference features roundtable discussions, workshops on in-car lessons, the revised Montana Teen Driver Education curriculum, and other topics. The DOJ/Motor Vehicle Division will give updates on the GDL and Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP) and provide the initial or refresher six-hour CDTP training. Two concurrent pre-conference workshops on Saturday, April 26, will again be offered by Journeys From Home. Contact Roger DiBrito for details.

Conference Hotel Reservation: The 2014 conference takes place at the **GranTree Inn**, 1325 N. 7th Avenue in Bozeman. Room rates are \$89 single or double, plus tax. Make room reservations early. Call the GranTree Inn at (406) 587-5261 or 1-800-624-5865. 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 14**, so be sure to reserve your room early. A block of additional rooms are set aside for MTEA at the adjacent Holiday Inn, 5 E. Baxter (406) 587-4561. Rooms are also \$89 plus tax and should be reserved by April 14.

Workshop/Conference Registration: All attendees **must pre-register with MTEA by April 15, 2014**. The registration fee is \$195 and includes five meals. Tear off the registration form below, complete, and mail to MTEA with a check for \$195. **Walk-in registrations are strongly discouraged. Cancellation policy:** Upon written notice of cancellation, \$135 of the \$195 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 27. The cost is \$150. OPI will make available, at no additional cost, up to 16 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 27. The first general session will begin at noon. The conference will conclude at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday April 29, 2014. **Visit MTEAOnline.org for conference details.**

Please Complete Form Legibly

You must pre-register to attend.
PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 15, 2014
 Bring an item to give as a door prize!

2014 MTEA/OPI Conference Registration
 April 27-29 - Bozeman, 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 _____

____ Please register me for the MTEA conference and renew my membership in MTEA. Enclosed is a check to MTEA for \$195. * *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.

MTEA USE ONLY

Date _____

Check No. _____

Received CK from _____

Amount \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: MONTANA TRAFFIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION or MTEA. Mail to the address shown above.

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

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Montana Traffic Education Association

Application for Membership – New members and renewals

Enclosed are my dues of \$35 (If you are registering for the spring conference, this form is not needed.) I understand that my membership expires on May 1 of each year. Even if you don't have the time to become actively involved, your support is appreciated! *Membership expires May 1st of each year. If you attend the spring conference, your membership will automatically renew for the next 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 kept confidential. Please check below which phone number can be included in the membership directory. If you have any questions about MTEA or membership in the organization, call Jim Carroll at (406) 278-7856.

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