



# MTEA NEWS

## To Engage Parents\* in Driver Education, Communication is Key

By Kurtis Koenig, MTEA President

I want to briefly discuss the importance of parent meetings. Though it is true that we are required to host some form of a parent meeting prior to the commencement of instruction, the attitude we adopt, with respect to these meetings, can make a palpable difference in the effectiveness of our programs.

For example, we meet the requirements of the parent meeting by merely informing the parents of their financial obligation, the time frame, and the basic structure of the class. This does not develop a strong sense of importance or urgency for traffic education. I think we should all consider striving for more.

When traffic educators construct a partnership with parents, the impact of our instruction can be more meaningful and more enduring. One key area that is easy to enhance is communication. Communication techniques, such as Remind, Google Classroom, and others can enhance this partnership. Take the time to outline the basic expectations that parents should have for you, the instructor, as well as the expectations you should have for them and their role as their teen's driving supervisor.

To that effect, Charlie Brown, Jeff Westrom, and I will be facilitating a panel discussion about parent meetings during the Huff Symposium at the spring traffic education conference. This is one of the many outstanding workshops that can help you enhance your instruction.

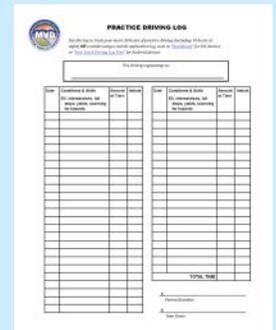
Ultimately, parents need to know that we are going to care about their child's safety and their future, but instructors and parents need to work in tandem to help ensure that our teenagers will retain and continue to practice the defensive driving skills we provide them. Though parent meetings can get lengthy, an early investment of time and care can go a long way to making our roads, and our young drivers, safer.



### ESSENTIAL RESOURCES FOR THE DRIVER ED PARENT MEETING:

- GDL FACTSHEET & DRIVING LOG
- KEYS PARENT/TEEN HOMEWORK
- READY TO DRIVE SOLO? WHAT'S NEXT?
- TEEN DRIVING PLAN

Visit [opi.mt.gov/drivered](http://opi.mt.gov/drivered) for links to these resources.



### TEEN DRIVING PLAN Driving Environments

- WELCOME
- VIDEOS
- GOAL GUIDE
- LOGGING AND RATING TOOL

\* **Parents** refers to the teen driver's parent, legal guardian or adult authorized by the parent/guardian to supervise the teen who holds a valid learner license. When the teen applies for a learner license under the Cooperative Driver Licensing Program (CDTP), the parent/guardian who signs the driver license application becomes liable for any losses or damages resulting from a collision caused by the teen driver.

If a parent or guardian is unable to attend the Parent Meeting and has designated a supervising adult, such as a step-parent, grand-parent or other relative to help the teen meet their 50-hour driving goal, that person can attend the Parent Meeting to learn what is required under the Graduated Licensing Law (GDL).

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## MTEA President's Message



Fellow Traffic Educators,

Spring is trying to work its way through the snow and your executive board is making final preparations for the 2018 MTEA conference, April 22-24. The board met on January 28, and the majority of the conversation hinged around the upcoming conference and the various programs, sessions, and activities we will employ to help you all enhance your craft.

We will have the good fortune to learn, from veterans in the field, about how to construct and facilitate some outstanding in-car lessons, learn about new car technologies, gain insight about how we can impact teen drivers, and so much more!

I look forward to the learning possibilities of this conference a great deal, but I am also very excited to reconnect with the colleagues I haven't seen since last session. The comradery forged between traffic educators is one of the finest, most reliable tools at our disposal.

Together, at the conference and throughout the year, we can explore ways in which we can all continue to hone our programs. The MTEA conference allows old friends and new acquaintances to learn from, and with, each other through the variety of exciting workshops, sessions, and discussions your board has compiled. *Please register by April 16 and book your room by March 30 to get the best rate.*

I look forward to seeing all of you in Bozeman this April.

Be safe out there,

*Kurtis Koenig, MTEA President (2017-18)*



**CONTACT US!** Send a note via the Contact page at [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org) or contact MTEA Executive Secretary Jim Carroll at (406) 278-7856. Mailing address: Montana Traffic Education Association, PO Box 637, Conrad, MT 59425.

### MTEA News

This newsletter 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. Web: [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org). MTEA News is mailed to members and active contributor/sustainers. The spring issue is mailed to all traffic educators in Montana as an invitation to the annual traffic education conference.

To submit an article, photo, or letter to the editor, contact newsletter editor Steffani Grogan by e-mail to: [sgrogan@forsyth.k12.mt.us](mailto:sgrogan@forsyth.k12.mt.us). Articles due **October 1; December 1; March 1.**

## Summary of MTEA's Last Executive Board Meeting

Here's an overview of the last Executive Board meeting held January 28, 2018 in Helena:

- Minutes, correspondence, and financial reports were reviewed.
- An OPI report was heard.
- A newsletter and web page report was heard.
- President-Elect nominations & Board appointments were finalized.
- Teacher/Contributor of the Year nominations and service awards were discussed.
- Planning for the 2018 MTEA conference took place, with various speakers, break-out sessions, and sponsors discussed.
- Door prizes, auction, 50/50, and board assignments were discussed.

The next board meeting will be Monday, April 23, 2018 at the conference.

Anyone with items for discussion should contact Steffani Grogan, President-Elect, or Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, as soon as possible to be included on the agenda.



### Benefits of Membership New Members Welcome!



Besides friendly colleagues and helpful mentors, there are many benefits of membership:

- Annual Traffic Education conference (conference fees extra) 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 for board elections 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](http://MTEAOnline.org).



## MTEA 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 possibly 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](http://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.

## MTEA 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](http://MTEAOnline.org). The Outstanding Contributor/Sustainer of the Year will be recognized at MTEA's spring conference in April.

*To see award winners in past years, visit the MTEA website.*



## Train-the-Trainer Workshop

### *What Do You Consider Lethal?*

Presented by Kelly K Browning, PH.D

Monday, March 19, 2018

St. Patrick's Hospital, Missoula, MT

Actionable solutions to address this public safety concern will be offered. Train the Trainers provides participants with examples of school and community-based programs and presentations, including parent-teen safe driving workshops.

Train the Trainers will provide participants with evidence-based tools to deliver high-energy presentations focused on the dangers of reckless and distracted driving. Participants will become well-versed in Impact Teen Drivers' bedrock, "What do You Consider Lethal?" campaign, and learn how to effectively communicate the essentials of safe driving to teens, parents, and members of their communities.

For more information about Train the Trainer Workshops by Impact Teen Drivers, visit <http://impactteendrivers.org/get-involved/train-the-trainer>.

*Kelly Browning will also give a two-hour Impact Teen Drivers presentation at the upcoming Montana Traffic Education Conference in Bozeman on Sunday, April 22 at 1:45 p.m.*

#### TRAIN-THE-TRAINERS WORKSHOP

Monday, March 19, 2018

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Saint Patrick Hospital, Conference Room 1  
500 W. Broadway  
Missoula MT 59802

4 OPI Renewal Units offered for attending.

To RSVP, please contact Michelle Schaefer  
at (406) 329-5660.

## Candidate for MTEA President-Elect

Elections for President-Elect (2019-20) will take place at the conference. More detailed information will be provided in the conference packet, but here is a brief overview of **Janette Arps**, our current candidate.

Janette Arps teaches Traffic Education and PE/Health in Augusta. She has been a MTEA member and TE instructor for thirteen years. She is currently serving MTEA as a Class C director to the executive board and is also our Silent Auction chairperson.

## Retiring from Teaching?

### We want to honor you!



If you retired this year or have plans to retire from education soon and have been an active MTEA member, we would like to honor you at the next spring conference.

Please download the Service Recognition/Retirement Award form at [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org) and mail to Jim Carroll.

### You can still teach driver education!

If your retirement is 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.

To comply 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.

For more information, visit the Teacher's Retirement System website: <http://trs.mt.gov/>.

## Need to renew your approval to teach Traffic Education?

Traffic education instructors with an endorsement and those working toward their endorsement must submit a TE05 form to the OPI to renew approval to teach traffic education. *This approval usually expires the same year your educator license expires.* The TE05 form is due before September 30. You may also submit it as soon as your educator license is renewed. A new online submission form makes it easy. Visit <http://opi.mt.gov/driver-educators> to submit your TE05 form online!

## Fran's Findings



Someone told me recently that driver ed teachers are the bravest people she knows, and I couldn't agree more. Her memorable story from the backseat 40-plus years ago included a student driving in the left lane on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Great Falls, the teacher calmly telling her to move

into the right lane and the student asking, "Does it matter?" The "classroom on wheels" has always included critical lessons, skills and courage. Your commitment to students and their driving safety is outstanding.

I was one of the many volunteer judges at the speech and debate tournament in Helena and found listening to young people encouraging and inspiring. Teens can be thoughtful, engaged and excited about many things, including making a difference to save lives.

Social media amplifies voices beyond car radios, sports stadiums, and our circle of friends. Conversations sparked with #MeToo, #NeverAgain, and #BuckleUpBlue4Lauryn can lead to soul-searching, insight, shared stories, and a cultural shift—hopefully towards respect, courtesy and smart choices.

Blue ribbons on steering wheels with teammates and friends insisting on everyone buckling up may be part of the

reason the 2017 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) reported a 10 percent increase in teens always wearing seat belts while driving. The YRBS also noted a decrease in teens driving after drinking alcohol and declines in drug use. Learn more about the YRBS data from Susan Court at the MTEA Conference.

The OPI website overhaul prompted changes to the traffic education curriculum with new OPI logos, updated data, YouTube videos with closed captions, and an easier way to download module content via a Digital Assets page. Videos now play in the pdf versions of the presentations.

You'll find some new curriculum slides on vehicle technology, drug use, and right-of-way. The traffic education curriculum standards and benchmarks remain the same.

The 2018 curriculum modules can be downloaded at <http://opi.mt.gov/curriculum>. We plan to distribute new flash drives and *Behind-the-Wheel Instruction Guide* at the MTEA conference in Bozeman. Let us know your thoughts on the new updates and resources.

Thanks for all that you do to keep our young drivers safe.

— Fran Penner-Ray, Traffic Education Director, OPI



Contact Fran Penner-Ray ([fpenner-ray@mt.gov](mailto:fpenner-ray@mt.gov)) and Patti Borneman ([pborneman@mt.gov](mailto: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. <http://www.opi.mt.gov/DriverEd>.



## Montana DRIVE One-Day Summer Workshops—Register Now!

Lewistown, MT — June 4 through August 9, 2018

Teachers, school bus drivers, and teen drivers are encouraged to attend a one-day advanced driving workshop at the Montana DRIVE track in Lewistown. Taught by your colleagues in traffic education, learn advanced driving techniques to handle the most risky driving situations in Montana. The adult workshop costs \$330. 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. OPI renewal units are also available.

State Farm Insurance has provided an annual grant since 2009 to subsidize the cost of the teen workshop, which makes it affordable to all. The teen workshop fee is \$290, which is offset by the \$200 scholarship funded by State Farm Insurance for teens who apply. Teen workshops are July 23, 24, and 25. Please encourage your students to take this advanced driving workshop designed just for young drivers.

To register, visit <http://montanadrive.mt.gov>, choose a date (and an alternate), and submit an online registration form with your request. OPI will invoice you and confirm the work when paid in full. Register early to get the date you want.

For more information, contact the OPI Traffic Education Office, (406) 444-4432 or email [montanadrive@mt.gov](mailto:montanadrive@mt.gov).

## ***Focus on Success! Register now for the Montana Traffic Education Conference***

### ***GET YOUR LESSON SLAM IDEAS READY!***

- **Registration form due April 16, 2018**
- **Book your room by March 30, 2018**

The following page has all the information you need to register for the Bozeman conference and book your room at the GranTree Inn or the Days Inn for the same rate.

Contact Jim Carroll if you have any questions (his contact information is at the bottom of the form). *We look forward to seeing you in Bozeman!*

### **Donate a Door Prize and/or Silent Auction Gift**

Door prizes are given away at just about every break during the conference. MTEA buys door prizes with the proceeds from our 50/50 drawings, but we can always use more. Consider asking at least one business in your community if they would donate something as a door prize. Bring it with you when you arrive.

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 offset the cost of future door prizes. If you would like to donate something to the MTEA silent auction, please bring it with you to the conference.

## ***David Huff Memorial Scholarship***

*FOR FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES OF THE MTEA CONFERENCE*

As director of Traffic Education (1998-2011) at the Montana Office of Public Instruction, David Huff was a leading light and a driving force to improve traffic education and reduce young driver crashes.

The Montana Traffic Education Association board established the David Huff Memorial Scholarship in 2014 to honor his leadership, dedication and support for professionalism in traffic education.

The MTEA board hopes the David Huff Memorial Scholarship will encourage 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 are eligible for a drawing during the conference.



## **Help Jerry Olson plan the *In-Car Lesson* session at the Spring Conference**

Why do we do what we do? Teaching traffic education can be many things:

### **Rewarding    Satisfying    Scary    Necessary**

I have dealt with many situations, as I am sure you have. Recently I had a student ask me, "Is the brake the fat pedal and the gas the skinny pedal?"

This same student also coasted to a standstill because she told me she lost the gas pedal... didn't know where it went.

Or how about the student who doesn't understand the steering wheel? How much input to give it? When to unwind the steering wheel after a turn? Then you get the student who struggles with RIGHTS & LEFTS. One of my students, on her final drive trying to get waived showed up with an "L" on her left hand and an "R" on her right hand. I asked her why? She replied, "I don't want to mess up my turns!"

This coming MTEA conference, we are planning an "IN CAR LESSON" session. Something to help get the lesson across or a tip to make the lesson easier to teach. For years, I came to the conference asking anyone who would listen, "How do you teach parallel parking?" It was a lesson that I struggled with constantly. I could do it myself, but I really struggled teaching the techniques. I finally found a way on YouTube and incorporated it the same day to a first time driver. She was perfect... very nervous, but perfect.

**What are some things you would like to hear about or ask about? Help us put together this session so we meet your needs. Please email me at: [jerry\\_olson@gfps.k12.mt.us](mailto:jerry_olson@gfps.k12.mt.us) to let us know what your needs are and I will make sure it gets covered.**

See you in Bozeman, it's going to be a great conference.

Safe travels,

*Jerry Olson, Past-President (2016-17)*



## REGISTRATION FORM MONTANA TRAFFIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE Bozeman, Montana ~ April 22-24, 2018



The Montana Traffic Education Association and Montana Office of Public Instruction invite you to **Focus on Success**, the theme of the **2018 Montana Traffic Education Conference!**

Guest speakers include **Harry Amend**, a retired coach and school administrator who now consults on Leadership Development, **Kelly Browning** from Impact Teen Drivers, **Jeffrey Weldon** on crashes and courts, **Stephanie Harrell** on new car technology, and the ever-popular **Rich Hanson**.

Back by teacher demand is the **Lesson Slam** lesson exchange. Bring a favorite traffic education lesson that can be shared in a three-minute, interactive exchange at your table and with a larger group.

Montana traffic educators and others will present on teaching at small schools, intersections, parent meetings, special needs students, teacher health behind the wheel,

and the latest from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. As always, there will be an OPI report on traffic education in Montana and DOJ/MVD staff will give a CDTP update and answer your driver licensing questions.

A pre-conference workshop on navigating the OPI's new website and changes to the Traffic Education curriculum will be offered.

**PRE-REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE:** All attendees **must pre-register with MTEA by Monday, April 16, 2018**. 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 is refundable.

**BOOK YOUR ROOM:** The 2018 conference takes place at the **Best Western Plus – GranTree Inn**, 1325 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Bozeman. Room rate is \$99.00 (plus tax) for a single or double room. Attendees will be asked for a credit card to secure a room.

Call the **GranTree Inn at 406-587-5261** or **1-800-780-7234** or the Days Inn at 406-587-5251. Mention the group name (Montana Traffic Education) to get the special rate. Cut-off for the group rate is **March 30** 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 22. 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 22. The first general session will begin at noon. The conference ends at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday April 24.

**Conference agenda, speaker bios and other updates will be posted at [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org). Check back often!**

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

You must pre-register to attend.  
**PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 16, 2018**  
Bring an item to give as a door prize!

### 2018 Montana Traffic Education Conference Registration BEST WESTERN GRANTREE INN April 22-24, 2018 – 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ 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**.

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)

MTEA USE ONLY

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Received check from \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## Traffic Safety and Driver Education Conferences in 2018

### April 22-24, 2018—Montana Traffic Education Conference



The 2018 spring conference will be held April 22-24 at the Best Western GranTree Inn in Bozeman. Remember, costs of attending the conference are considered to be an allowable expense for local program costs under OPI guidelines. **LOOK INSIDE FOR REGISTRATION DETAILS** and visit [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org). Up to 16 OPI renewal units are available.

### June 9, 2018—Wyoming Traffic Safety Conference

Plan to attend this one-day conference at Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming. Come to learn and leave with ideas and activities for your driver education and traffic safety programs. For more information contact Debbie Cottonware at (307) 705-1224 or email: [truenorthdriving@gmail.com](mailto:truenorthdriving@gmail.com).

### July 22-25, 2018—American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association Conference



The 2018 ADTSEA conference will be held July 22-25 in Rosemont, Illinois. 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. Check out the ADTSEA website at <http://www.adtsea.org> for more details.