



# MTEA NEWS



Newsletter for the Montana Traffic Education Association VOL. 18 ISSUE 2 – WINTER 2012

## MTEA EXECUTIVE BOARD

### **President:**

Steve Morgan (Kalispell, AA)

### **Past President:**

Tom Zuhoski (Belt, C)

### **President-Elect:**

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### **Executive Secretary:**

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### **Legislative Liaison:**

Charlie Brown (Fairfield, B)

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Lynn Mason (Hamilton, A)

Peter Lethenstrom (Stevi, A)

Steffani Grogan (Forsyth, B)

Class B open position

Diane Prongua (Hot Springs, C)

Janette Arps (Augusta,, C)

Your students will be asked...

Guiding new drivers into safe experiences behind the wheel is a big job. Signals, stop signs, seatbelts, speed limits; there is a lot of information for students to keep straight as they prepare to take their driver's license test.

However, there is one question that Montana law requires everyone receiving or renewing their license is asked, and the answer won't be found while studying the rules of the road. Your students will be asked if they would like to register their choice to be an organ, eye or tissue donor. LifeCenter Northwest can help prepare students to make an informed decision regarding their donation status.

To help you educate your students about what it means to register to be an organ donor, visit LifeCenter Northwest's [website](#) to review educational materials such as an informational video, education resource guide, class worksheet, and an in-class presentation request form.

For more information, contact Mary at LifeCenter Northwest (425-201-6591).

# Make Seat Belts a Habit

## ADTSEA on the Web

Check out ADTSEA on the Internet. Their address is <http://www.adtsea.org>

## RETIRING

If you retired last spring or have plans to retire from education this year and have been an active member of MTEA, please let Jim Carroll know at the MTEA address. We would like to honor you at the next spring conference. Remember that we have implemented an application process to help in recognizing years of service and contribution to MTEA. The form will NOT regularly be mailed as in the past, as the form is now available on-line at the MTEA link on the OPI traffic education website at <http://opi.mt.gov/>. All forms are due back to the MTEA office post-marked by March 15, 2013.

## OPI WEB SITE

If you have not already done so, you may want to check out the traffic education web site that the Office of Public Instruction has posted. Log on to the OPI page at <http://www.opi.mt.gov>. Once there, put your cursor on the "Programs" box then scroll down to 'Driver's Education'. Here you will see a link to the Advanced Driver Education program in Lewistown as well as Driver & Traffic education links. The link to MTEA information is also located here. New information is consistently added, so be sure to revisit the page if you have not been there in a while.

## KEYS Project

Hopefully, you are utilizing the "Keep Encouraging Young Driver Safety" (KEYS) materials in your program. The KEYS curriculum is a great resource and an excellent way to develop more parent/student involvement in your program. If you need any information on training and/or a copy of the master packet, contact Jim Carroll at the MTEA address.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT IN...

- 1902... *Mercedes* registered as a trademark
- 1911... First Indianapolis 500 race
- 1956... GM, Ford and Chrysler offer seat belts as optional safety equipment

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 though. 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!

## LIFE INSURANCE APPLICATION REMINDER

Just a reminder that if you have not already sent in your application for the \$5,000 Life/AD&D in coverage through the Association, please do so. We still have a number of members who have not returned the form, even though it has been mailed out several times already! Questions? Contact Jim at 278-3285(w) or 278-7856 (h).

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

Please give serious consideration on 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. If you would be interested in finding out more about these positions, contact Jim Carroll. **MTEA will continue to be strong only if its members continue to be actively involved!**

### **Executive Board Minutes**

Here's an overview of the last Executive Board meeting held Nov. 4 in Helena:

- Minutes and financial reports were reviewed
- Miscellaneous reports from the Billings conference regarding speakers, meals, awards, door prizes, social mixer, accommodations, breakout sessions, and costs were heard
- MSU-N present and future course offerings were discussed
- A membership update was heard
- A report on door prizes and artwork for the conference was heard
- The purchase of door prizes and artwork for the next conference was approved
- Silent auction plans for the next conference was discussed
- A final review of the 2012 Billings conference took place, including classification reports
- Future conference sites and dates were looked at
- Planning for the 2013 MTEA conference took place with several speakers and break-out sessions already organized
- Planning for the 2013 Legislative Session took place including potential bills and ideas for the safety day to be held in the Rotunda in March
- Creating a MTEA web page was discussed and approved
- An OPI report was heard
- A memorial scholarship in honor of David Huff, former OPI director, was discussed
- Board appointments and President-Elect nominations were discussed

The next meeting was set for January 27, 2013, in Helena. Anyone having items for discussion should contact President Steve Morgan or Executive Secretary

Jim Carroll as soon as possible to be included on the agenda.

**If you have any items for the MTEA Newsletter, send it to:**

**HAROLD LAIR**  
**33946 Jims Dr**  
**POLSON, MT 59860**  
**FAX: 406-883-6345**  
**E-MAIL lair@compuplus.net**

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:**

<b>FALL NEWSLETTER</b>	<b>OCTOBER 1</b>
<b>WINTER NEWSLETTER</b>	<b>DECEMBER 1</b>
<b>SPRING NEWSLETTER</b>	<b>MARCH 1</b>



### **PROFESSIONALISM**

Did you know that there are close to 375 teachers around the state approved to teach Traffic education? Of that amount, about 190 of them are members of MTEA. Benefits of belonging to MTEA include updated information through conferences, \$5,000 AD&D life insurance coverage, scholarship availability, this newsletter, eligibility for service awards, and the opportunity to share ideas with other professionals.

**The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety** has some new animated videos regarding crash avoidance technologies. Check out what they have at [iihs.org/crash\\_avoidance](http://iihs.org/crash_avoidance).

**PLAN ON ATTENDING THE  
MTEA CONFERENCE IN  
GREAT FALLS, APRIL 28-30**

## 2013 ADTSEA Conference

The 2013 ADTSEA conference will be held July 14-17 at the Hilton DoubleTree Hotel in Portland, Maine. 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.

### BICYCLES IN TRAFFIC ONLINE VIDEO

If you are looking for a good video that addresses bicycles in traffic, check out this one at [http://www.pacast.com/players/cmsplayer.asp?video\\_filename=9223\\_PennDOT\\_4SharingtheRoad.m4](http://www.pacast.com/players/cmsplayer.asp?video_filename=9223_PennDOT_4SharingtheRoad.m4) .

### TEACHER AND CONTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Nomination forms for the MTEA Teacher and Contributor of the Year awards can be filled in online through the [OPI/MTEA](#) webpage. Because of the online availability, forms will not normally be mailed out as in the past. The application deadline for all forms is March 15. Please seriously consider nominating a worthy fellow teacher and/or supporter of your program.

### MTEA SILENT AUCTION

MTEA is preparing for another successful silent auction to be held during our 2013 conference in Great Falls. It was a huge success last year and those who participated are much appreciated. Many great items have been donated thus far, but there is still a lot to fill! 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. Don't delay! Bring the item to the 2013 conference and/or contact Barb Lockman [blockman@helena.k12.mt.us](mailto:blockman@helena.k12.mt.us) or Janette Arps [smileyarps@yahoo.com](mailto:smileyarps@yahoo.com) if you have questions.

## MONTANA ROADS

Interested in actually 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 via the Internet. Go to <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/weather/rwis.shtml> for pictures. Pictures are updated every 30 minutes. This site will also link you to other camera sites across Montana and various road reports. The MDT home page will link you to other sites of interest as well. Remember also that by calling 1-800-226-7623, you can get statewide road and weather information, 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.

## 2013 MTEA CONFERENCE

**The 2013 MTEA conference is scheduled for April 28-30 at the Best Western Heritage Inn, 1700 Fox Farm Road, in Great Falls. Room rates are \$77 single or \$86 double, plus tax. You are encouraged to make room reservations early. Call the Heritage Inn at (406) 761-1900 or 1-800-548-8256. 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 13, so it is recommended you reserve a room before then.**

## **TEEN SAFETY DAY at the ROTUNDA**

In an effort to make us more visible to the Legislature, the MTEA Executive Board is planning on a day in the State Capitol Rotunda on March 15. Planning is still taking place, but an effort to keep traffic education in Montana on the minds of the Legislators is the main goal.

## **MTEA MEMBERSHIP**

If you attended the spring conference in Billings, your membership into MTEA automatically renewed with your conference payment. If you know of someone who is not a current member of MTEA, encourage them to join. Contact Jim Carroll at the MTEA address and he will send an application form and letter to those people you identify as potential members.

## **LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

MTEA will again retain the services of Jane Hamman as lobbyist for the Association. Issues that are likely to surface for the 2013 Session include seat belts/child restraints, revised DUI laws, texting and driving, and traffic education funding, to name a few. As a safety professional, you are encouraged to be informed on the issues and get involved by contacting Legislators on how you feel about those issues. Look for more information in this newsletter about the upcoming Session.

## **MTEA to Launch Web Site**

With the help of Patti Borneman at OPI, MTEA will soon have its own web site! Plans are to go "live" with this page in early January. The site will feature information specific to our organization and will allow us more flexibility than what we currently enjoy through the OPI web site. The address will be <http://www.MTEAOnline.org>. Plan to visit the site and tell us what you think! Also, a THANK YOU to Patti for all her efforts in pulling this off for MTEA!

## **LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

MTEA will take an active role in seeking to increase funding to schools for traffic education during the 2013 Legislative session. Currently LC1355, a bill to "revise funding allocations for the traffic education account", has been entered in the session requests. The plan behind this bill is to phase in additional traffic education funding for schools. Keep an eye on the progress of this bill!

## **Teens and Trucks**

If you would like to have a semi-truck come and visit your driver education class, contact Jeff Steeger at 444-4207 or [jsteeger@mt.gov](mailto:jsteeger@mt.gov). Teens can climb into a semi and experience the limited view from the truck's cab.

## **CNN HERO OF THE YEAR**

**Leo McCarthy** of Butte has been chosen as a 2012 CNN Hero for his community work in establishing **Mariah's Challenge** to reduce teen drinking in Butte. He received an award in Los Angeles as a top ten award winner. Congrats to Leo in helping to make Montana safer!

## **'BUCKLE UP' SIGNS**

**If you are interested in obtaining personalized "Buckle Up" signs for your school, contact Jerry Olson or Mick Davis in Great Falls. They can give you information on how to have your school logo and colors included on the sign. For a 'generic' look, you can contact your county seat belt coalition for plain signs for your school.**



MONTANA TRAFFIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
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**WHEN PHYSICS MEETS BIOLOGY is a great video resource on crash dynamics. You can watch it here:**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtlUBA-WHjKM>.

### **PROMOTING ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION REPORT**

For an in-depth study at what is going on in the realm of pedestrians and bicycle travel as a way to encourage more active transportation, check out *Promoting Active Transportation: An Opportunity for Public Health* put together by the [Safe Routes to School Partnership](#).

**HAVE A GREAT  
CHRISTMAS!**

### **NHTSA's Driver Education Toolkit**

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 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).

## **Fran's Findings - December 2012**

In the spirit of the season, we hope teachers, students and their families will enjoy safe travels and celebrations. The dim light of shorter days adds to our winter storm and drowsy driving challenges. Your work with young drivers to develop decision making skills and safe driving habits is critical to safety in every season.

**Stop and Buckle Up** - "Let's make them AWARE that we CARE" is a campaign to encourage seat belt use started in Great Falls by Jerry Olson, MTEA's Teacher of the Year. Details to follow in a Traffic Education E-News soon! Check out Jerry's web site at: [thecoachO.com](http://thecoachO.com) and visit MTEA's new web site: [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org). Do you have a story to tell about an innovative student activity or event that increased traffic safety awareness? Please share with Fran or Patti and we'll include your story in a Traffic Ed E-News. Our focus on Graduation Matters here at OPI extends to traffic education. We want to see our teen drivers on graduation day, ready for the next big step in their lives.

**David's Tree** – To honor the late David Huff, a memorial tree was planted on the alley side of our OPI building with staff and some members of David's family present on a chilly, but sunny fall day. David joked about having an office with an alley view instead of a valley view when we moved to our office on the corner of 11<sup>th</sup> and Montana Avenues. We will put in a memorial plaque in the spring when the Princess Kay plum tree (*Prunus nigra*) blooms. David is missed every day. His vision to reduce young driver crashes continues to guide our work.

**TE Curriculum** – We are continuing to update the OPI Montana Teen Driver curriculum to change the text-heavy PowerPoint presentations to more engaging learner-centered activities with real-world driving scenarios and driver decision points. The Vision, Share the Road and GDL Parent modules were updated in the spring and soon the Mixing with Traffic module will also be posted on the OPI Driver Education web page. Contact Patti Borneman to request a flash drive with the updates. Teachers with ideas or suggestions for improving and reinvigorating the TE curriculum are encouraged to get involved. A Montana Department of Transportation Highway Safety Grant is partially funding this project.

**TEDRS** – The online Traffic Education and Data Reporting System (TEDRS) is being used by more than 100 schools to enter Student Lists and print TELL permits and completion certificates. DOJ's driver examiners can also login to view and print Student Lists with their certification forms. The online forms enable driver examiners to look up driver's 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.

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

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

*Fran Penner-Ray, Traffic Education Director, Montana Office of Public Instruction*

## **HANGING UP WHILE DRIVING – LOCAL ORDINANCES ARE ON THE RISE**



In November 2012, Missoula joined other Montana cities that have banned cell phone use while driving: Butte, Billings, Great Falls, Whitefish, Havre, Hamilton, Bozeman and Helena, and Anaconda-Deer Lodge County.

Two years ago, the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Commission heard testimony from middle school students from Fred Moodry Middle School in Anaconda and unanimously passed an ordinance that bans texting while driving in the city and county. Just this year, the commission was asked to strengthen the ban and 3-1 voted to amend the original ordinance to include all forms of hand-held devices during driving. Hands-free devices are excluded from the ban.

According to a story in the Montana Standard, students in Tammy Hurley's US History class initially tackled "distracted driving as part of the national Project Citizen curriculum for middle school. Surveys with local businesses, police and firefighters showed 82 percent in favor of their ordinance." (May 16, 2012) Hurley's 2009-2010 class also wrote the original texting ordinance, which passed 4-0.

## **MTEA to launch new website in January – MTEAOnline.org**

MTEA will launch <http://www.MTEAOnline.org> this January to serve members better and inform the general public about traffic

education issues in Montana. The new website will provide information on Membership and how to get more involved, Legislative Issues, the MTEA/OPI Annual Conference, Resources for Teachers, News and Announcements, and other features down the road such as a Traffic Ed Forum for teachers to discuss topics of interest. Check out the website in January and let us know what you think.

## **Preparing for the 2013 Legislative Session with Jane Hamman**

I am looking forward to working with and representing MTEA again this session. Rep. Jean Price, House District 21 (D.- Great Falls) will sponsor the association bill to gradually restore the traffic education account, amending 61-5-121, MCA, to fund 50% of driver ed costs. She will serve on the House Education Committee, among others, and this bill might be assigned for hearing in her committee. We are reaching out to legislators and inviting them to be co-sponsors and supporters of the bill (bill draft #LC 1355). Rep. Steve Lavin, HD 8 (R.- Kalispell) will chair the House Transportation Committee and Se. Elsie Aentzen, SD 27 (R. – Billings) will chair the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee.

The session begins January 7. Please email me names of legislators who might sign on to the bill as a supporter and with other suggestions and questions anytime.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas!

Jane [Janeleehamman@aol.com](mailto:Janeleehamman@aol.com)