



# MTEA NEWS

## Traffic Education funding bill crashes in 2015 Legislative Session

Report from Jane Hamman, MTEA Lobbyist



**THE FIRST HALF** of the 2015 legislative session was very disappointing for HB 185 to increase funding for the traffic education account by revising the allocation of driver's license fees. It died in the House Appropriations Committee Feb. 26 even with a recommended amendment to phase in over the 2017 and 2019 biennia.

Representative Jean Price (HD 24 Great Falls) did a wonderful job sponsoring the bill and finding 20 co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle (see sidebar).

PLEASE THANK Rep. Jean Price and Rep. Roy Hollandsworth especially for their unflinching support of the bill down to the last few hours in the Appropriations Committee. And if you are able, send an online thank you to the co-sponsors listed above and to the entire Appropriations Committee and House Education Committee for their consideration.

The bill was heard in the House Education Committee Jan. 19, passed 9 – 6 Jan. 21, and then passed second reading 56 – 44 on the House Floor Jan. 26. It was re-referred to the House Appropriations Committee and heard Feb. 10, tabled in a surprise leadership move Feb. 11, heard in the House-Senate Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education Feb. 13, with an amendment to phase in the increase over two biennia. For the next

*Continued on page 6*

### HB 185 CO-SPONSORS

- Rep. Rob Cook (HD 18 Conrad)
- Sen. Jill Cohenour (SD 42 East Helena)
- Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell (HD 84 Helena)
- Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick (HD 20 Great Falls)
- Rep. Edward Greef (HD 88 Florence)
- Rep. Roy Hollandsworth (HD 27 Brady)
- Rep. Ryan Lynch (HD 76 Butte)
- Rep. Edie McClafferty (HD 73 Butte)
- Rep. Wendy McKamey (HD 23 Great Falls)
- Rep. Robert Mehlhoff (HD 22 Great Falls)
- Rep. Doc Moore (HD 92 Missoula)
- Rep. Pat Noonan (HD 74 Ramsay)
- Rep. Gordon Pierson (HD 78 Deer Lodge)
- Sen. JP Pomnichowski (SD 33 Bozeman)
- Rep. Daniel Salomon (HD 93 Ronan)
- Rep. Casey Schreiner (HD 25 Great Falls)
- Rep. Tom Steenberg (HD 99 Missoula)
- Sen. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (SD 21 Crow Agency)
- Rep. Kathy Swanson (HD 77 Anaconda)
- Sen. Leah Whitford (SD 8 Cut Bank)



### MYTHS CRASHED ...

A wrinkled prom dress is no reason to NOT buckle up. Myth Crashers proved it!

Check out other seat-belt and DUI myth crushers on the Plan2Live website: <http://plan2live.mt.gov/mythcrashers.shtml#>



### ONE TERRIFIC TEEN DRIVER SAFETY TIP

#### It's Prom Season!

Encourage fifth graders who are studying the effects of drugs and alcohol to write letters to high school seniors encouraging them to make safe choices to not drive impaired, always buckle up, minimize distractions and provide advice on how to have fun at the prom.

## MTEA Executive Board

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Mick Davis (Great Falls, AA)

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## MTEA News

This newsletter is published by the Montana Traffic Education Association in the fall, winter, and spring. Mailing address: 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 to provide annual conference registration information.

To submit an article, photo, or letter to the editor, contact newsletter editor Steffani Grogan at [sgrogan@forsyth.k12.mt.us](mailto:sgrogan@forsyth.k12.mt.us).

Newsletter deadline for articles:

**Fall issue—October 1**

**Winter issue—December 1**

**Spring issue—March 1**

## President's Message

Spring is almost here and that means another great Montana Traffic Education Conference! **Come join us in Great Falls, April 26-28.** You'll find information inside this newsletter along with a registration form. Remember, you can earn one college credit toward your traffic education minor or renewal units for your educator license, and it's one of the best traffic education conferences in our region.

We always have great keynote speakers, awesome presenters, and time to converse with other instructors. Our sessions offer you the latest ideas and different ways to present to our students. Many teachers feel this a "must attend" conference.

When you attend the conference for the first time, you can put your name in a drawing to win one of three \$150 David Huff Memorial Scholarships. This is our way to honor the late OPI Traffic Education director and encourage teachers to become more involved in their professional association.

In addition to MTEA news and updates, this newsletter includes details about the upcoming spring conference, a conference registration form, and a legislative report from MTEA lobbyist Jane Hamman.

Thanks to all—our members, our board, and the dedicated traffic education instructors across our state—for your amazing teamwork and for a great year.

~ Diane Prongua, MTEA President (2014-15)

## MTEA Membership Benefits

Send us the name of a teacher or someone involved in traffic safety, and we will send them an invitation to join. 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).
- A voice in the ongoing improvement of driver education in Montana through policy and legislative actions.

When you register for the annual spring conference, your MTEA membership automatically renews with the conference fee. If you are not able to attend the conference, you can join using the registration form in this newsletter. Annual membership dues are \$35, payable to MTEA. Contact Jim Carroll at (406) 278-7856 or send a note via the contact page at [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org).



REGISTER NOW!

## 2015 MTEA-OPI Traffic Education Conference

April 26-28, 2015

Heritage Inn  
Great Falls, MT

Leo McCarthy of  
Mariah's Challenge  
will give the opening  
keynote address.

See inside for  
conference details,  
registration, and hotel  
arrangements.

MTEAOnline.org



**Square Butte.** Watch for it if you're traveling north on Highway 15 to the Montana Traffic Education Conference in Great Falls.

This and other Montana geologic attractions are featured on the MDT Geologic Roadsigns web page; <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/geomarkers.shtml>

## Spring Conference Pre-Registration

It's time to pre-register for the annual spring conference scheduled for April 26-28 at the Best Western Heritage Inn, 1700 Fox Farm Road, in Great Falls. Room rates are \$89.99 per night, plus tax. You are encouraged to make your room reservations early as the room block expires by mid-April.

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.

See the conference registration form on page 7 of this newsletter.

**Pre-registration is required. Registration forms and payment are due no later than April 15!** Please be prompt with your registration form and payment of \$195.

Remember, the costs of attending the conference are considered to be an allowable expense for traffic education program costs under OPI guidelines.

If you are a first-time attendee, you can participate in a drawing at the conference to win one of three \$150 David Huff Memorial Scholarships.

If you have any registration questions, call Jim Carroll as soon as possible. The best time to reach him is from 8:00 to 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 Jim by e-mail at [tjcarrol@rocketmail.com](mailto:tjcarrol@rocketmail.com).

The conference registration form, agenda, speaker bios, and hotel information can be downloaded at [www.MTEAOnline.org](http://www.MTEAOnline.org).

### Calling all Door Prizes! You can help ...

Did you know that MTEA budgets money, mostly from the proceeds from our 50/50 drawings, for the purchase of door prizes? Because we have several drawings (and winners) throughout the conference, we can always use more door prizes. 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 at the conference. We will add it to the collection and offer it up during one of the many opportunities to win a prize.



### Bring a Gift for the Silent Auction

Our last two silent auctions at the conference have been a huge success because of the great gifts donated and your generous support. The proceeds raised will help fund the David Huff Scholarship and offset the cost of future door prizes and auction items. If you would like to donate something to the MTEA silent auction, bring it to the conference. And thanks for your support!

### Seeking Nominations for Teacher of the Year and Contributor of the Year Awards

Nomination forms for the MTEA Teacher and Contributor of the Year awards can be downloaded at the MTEA website or the MTEA link on the OPI Traffic Education website. Forms will not be mailed out unless you are unable to access the Internet. Contact MTEA if you need forms mailed to you. Please consider nominating a fellow teacher and/or supporter of your program for the 2015 awards.

## Fran's Findings



St. Patrick's Day brings to mind shamrocks, leprechauns, pots of gold, and good luck. But no amount of luck can save you from a drunk-driving crash. MDT reports that 85 per cent of 18- to 25-year-old fatalities in the last 10 years involved a crash with an impaired

driver or occupants who were either not wearing their seat belts or wearing them incorrectly. One life lost is one too many. Vision Zero MT aims for zero deaths and zero serious injuries on Montana highways. Driver education helps develop good driving skills and safer choices.

This year is the 10th anniversary of Montana's GDL passed by the 59<sup>th</sup> Legislature in 2005 after four sessions and many years of reflection and debate. GDL is effective in reducing crashes due to the integration of driver education with supervised practice, restrictions on passengers, a night driving curfew, and no alcohol, drugs or traffic citations.

We looked back at our first GDL Fact Sheet and thought it was a good time to update it. You will now find a one-page handout intended for teens and their families available for download on the Traffic Education webpage on the OPI web site ([www.opi.gov/programs/DriverEd](http://www.opi.gov/programs/DriverEd)). On the back is a new driving log from the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) to record the teen's supervised driving time. The law hasn't changed, but for every teen beginning to drive, GDL is new for them and their parents.

The MVD no longer prints and distributes their GDL log, but has GDL information and their log posted on their web site for download. Visit the MVD Driver Licensing page: <https://dojmt.gov/driving/driver-licensing/#graduated-driver-licensing>.



I recently read an article about a research project called: *Driving errors of learner teens: frequency, nature and their association with practice*<sup>1</sup>.

The critical safety errors will not surprise driver education teachers, but parents need coaching strategies for practice on different roads in all kinds of weather during the learner stage. Critical safety errors include:

- Speed control
- Hazard detection and avoidance
- Lane management problems
- Timely braking
- Negotiating curves
- Intersection and left turns
- Following distance

You are also likely aware that safe following distances relate to traffic speed. Research findings noted in *Hidden Highways*<sup>2</sup> found "young novice drivers were the slowest to react to hazards and reduced speed the least in foggy conditions."<sup>3</sup>

We learn from research, experience and memorable stories. I look forward to the good people and good conversations at the MTEA conference in Great Falls in April. Thanks for all that you do to keep our young drivers safe.

<sup>1</sup>Driving errors of learner teens: frequency, nature and their association with practice. Durbin DR, Mirman JH, Curry AE, Wang W, Fisher Thiel MC, Schultheis M, Winston FK Center for Injury Research and Prevention, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Accid Anal Prev. 2014 Nov;72:433-9.

<sup>2</sup>Hidden Highways: Fog and Traffic Crashes on America's Roads AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, November 2014 <https://www.aaafoundation.org/sites/default/files/2014FogAndCrashesReport.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>Mueller, Alexandra, and Lana Trick. "Driving in fog: The effects of driving experience and visibility on speed compensation and hazard avoidance." Accident Analysis and Prevention, 48 (2012): 472 – 479

*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, Traffic Education Director, Montana Office of Public Instruction*



Montana  
Office of Public Instruction  
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

For assistance with your traffic education program, call (406) 444-4432 or email Fran (fpenner-ray@mt.gov) or Patti Borneman (pborneman@mt.gov).

**Braking all the rules:** When you double your speed from 35 mph to 70 mph, the braking distance isn't twice as long, it's four times as long. [www.trafficsafety.org](http://www.trafficsafety.org)

## Retiring from traffic education?

If you retired last spring or have plans to retire from education this year and have been an active MTEA member, please send Jim Carroll a note 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 contributions to MTEA. The form will not be mailed as in the past, as it is now available online at [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org). Please return all forms back to the MTEA office as soon as possible.

## *New 150-day rule for retirees who want to continue teaching traffic 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/> or call (406) 444-3134 (toll-free: 1-866-600-4045).

### **ON THE CONFERENCE AGENDA—Monday, April 27: *TRS and Traffic Educators***

**Jhonnelle Sedlock** with the State of Montana Teacher's Retirement System (TRS) is leading a workshop at the upcoming spring conference. If you are retiring from full-time teaching, but want to continue teaching traffic education part-time, be sure to attend this session.



MTEA is on Facebook!  
Search for Montana Traffic  
Education Association.

## Executive Board Meeting Summary

Here's an overview of the last Executive Board meeting held January 25, 2015 in Helena:

- Minutes, correspondence, and financial reports were reviewed.
- An OPI report was heard.
- A newsletter and web page report was heard.
- The AD&D insurance policy was discussed relative to rising costs.
- A legislative report was heard along with discussion on strategy.
- The TOY/COY awards program was discussed along with candidates.
- President-Elect nominations were discussed.
- Planning for the 2015 MTEA conference took place, with various speakers and break-out sessions finalized.
- Media coverage and conference sponsorship was discussed.

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

## AD&D Insurance Program

For those who attended the conference last year, there was discussion about our members' AD&D insurance benefit.

Costs continue to rise for this program and the MTEA membership will need to consider this if we continue to fund this membership benefit.

Options explored by the Executive Board have been to increase membership dues, reduce coverage, or drop the program. Expect more detailed information to be presented at the conference for further discussion.

**DISTRACTED**  
EYES OFF THE ROAD



**April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month**—Watch the Montana-made film *Distracted: Eyes off the Road* at <http://watch.montanapbs.org/video/2365250868/> and visit [distraction.gov](http://distraction.gov) for more resources to share with your students.

*Continued from page 1*

two weeks we tried every day to get the bill off the table and amended so it could go back to the House Floor for another second reading. One of the reasons for the failure of the bill was some opponents' belief that parents and students should have to pay significant amounts or even all of the traffic education costs.

THANKS ALSO to Jim Carroll, Charlie Brown, Gary Dalton, Mike Kincaid, Fran Penner-Ray, Dennis Parman, Steve York, Bob Vogel and others who supported and explained the program in various hearings and all members and friends of the MTEA who sent letters and emails and made calls.

We supported HB 297 introduced by Rep. Virginia Court (HD 50 Billings) to deal with distracted driving and supported the amendments to limit it to prohibiting writing, reading or sending written communications while driving. Because it was classified as a revenue bill, it remains in the House and will be heard on the House Floor, probably next week. It's a good bill that could be killed on the floor.

Space precludes discussion of the DUI, changes to speed limits and other bills being tracked until next time. As always, PLEASE send me an email right away if you hear about a potential problem bill or other matter that needs to be addressed.

Jane Hamman e-mail: [Janeleehamman@aol.com](mailto:Janeleehamman@aol.com)

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

The parent/student homework assignments—*Keep Encouraging Young Driver Safety* (KEYS)—are a great addition to the work you're doing to actively engage parents in their child's driver education.



To obtain full color 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 visit the

Traffic Education page on the OPI's website and you'll find the download there. You can also call Randy Bachmeier at (800) 662-6132 x3730 or e-mail him at [rbachmeier@msun.edu](mailto:rbachmeier@msun.edu).



**Leo McCarthy**, founder of **Mariah's Challenge**, will give the opening keynote address at the MTEA Conference this year. In 2007, McCarthy lost his 14-year-old daughter, Mariah, when an underage drunken driver hit her and two of her friends as they walked down a sidewalk near her home in Butte. Mariah's Challenge has awarded over \$225,000 in college scholarships to Butte teenagers who were free of MIPs by high school graduation.

In 2012, CNN chose McCarthy as one of the top **10 CNN Heroes**: <http://www.cnn.com/2012/10/11/us/cnnheroes-leo-mccarthy-interview/>



## Montana DRIVE Summer Workshops REGISTER NOW!

Teachers and teen drivers are encouraged to attend a one-day advanced driving workshop at the Montana DRIVE closed driving track in Lewistown. Most of the dates in June are reserved, but openings in July and early August are available. They won't last long, however, so please register now.

The adult workshop is \$315. 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.

The teen workshop is \$280, which is offset by a \$200 scholarship funded by State Farm Insurance for teens who apply. Teen workshops are July 20, 21 and 22.

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](mailto:montanadrive@mt.gov).

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## ADTSEA Summer Conference

The 2015 **American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association** conference will be held **July 12-15** at the Hilton North Raleigh/Midtown Hotel in Raleigh, North Carolina. Check out the ADTSEA website at [www.adtsea.org](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. Contact Jim Carroll for more information.

If you can't attend, at least consider joining ADTSEA, your national organization.



**MONTANA TRAFFIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**  
**Montana Office of Public Instruction**  
**MTEA/OPI Traffic Education Conference**  
**Heritage Inn, Great Falls, Montana ~ April 26-28, 2015**



**The 2015 Montana Traffic Education Association Conference** begins at noon on Sunday and ends at noon on Tuesday. Our keynote speaker is Leo McCarthy, Director of Mariah’s Challenge. The conference features national speakers on innovative vehicle technology and distracted driving; workshops on crash dynamics, using in-car cameras, the revised Montana Teen Driver Education curriculum, Operation Lifesaver, and other topics. Staff from the DOJ/Motor Vehicle Division will give updates on the GDL and Cooperative Driver Testing Program (CDTP) and answer your CDTP questions.

**Conference Hotel Reservation:** The 2015 conference takes place at the **Best Western Heritage Inn**, 1700 Fox Farm Road, in Great Falls. Room rate is \$89.99 per room, 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 15**, so be sure to reserve your room early.

**Workshop/Conference Registration:** All attendees **must pre-register with MTEA by April 15, 2015**. 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 26. 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 26. The first general session will begin at noon. The conference will conclude at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday April 28, 2015. **Up-to-date conference info at MTEAOnline.org.**

Please Complete Form Legibly

You must pre-register to attend.  
**PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 15, 2015**  
 Bring an item to give as a door prize!

**2015 MTEA/OPI Conference Registration**  
 April 26-28 – Great Falls, Montana



**MTEA, PO Box 637  
 Conrad, MT 59425**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date\* \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

School(s) where you teach \_\_\_\_\_

MTEA USE ONLY

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Received CK from \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ 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.

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: MONTANA TRAFFIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION or MTEA**  
 Mail to: MTEA, PO Box 637, Conrad, MT 59425

Questions? Call Jim Carroll at (406) 278-3285 (days) or (406) 278-7856 (evenings)

THE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COST OF COLLEGE CREDIT.

THE COST FOR THE ONE SEMESTER HOUR OF CREDIT IS \$150 AND MUST BE PAID TO MSU-N AT THE CONFERENCE.



Montana Traffic Education Association  
PO Box 637  
Conrad, MT 59425

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**REGISTER NOW!**

**2015 MTEA-OPI  
Traffic Education  
Spring  
Conference**

**April 26-28, 2015**

**Heritage Inn  
Great Falls, MT**

**See inside for conference  
registration form and details.**

**Visit [MTEAOnline.org](http://MTEAOnline.org) for  
agenda, speaker bios, and more.**

**What do traffic educators say about the  
Montana Traffic Education Conference?**

*The MTEA Conference has been the most organized and relevant educational conference I have attended on a yearly basis for the past 22 years. The presentations, guest speakers, networking with other instructors and our continued partnership with the Motor Vehicle Division cover all topics to help the members of our organization promote successful traffic education programs across Montana. This is a yearly "must attend" conference.*

**~ Jodi Stugelmeyer—Billings and Laurel**

*I always enjoy the networking at roundtable discussions and at meals with all the fabulous driver education Instructors across the state. I always learn a new technique or two. It is also comforting that others are having as much "fun" with some of our young drivers!*

**~ Lori Peterson—Polson**

*Every year there is a dynamic speaker, a networking opportunity or new program that reminds us what a quality conference Montana has for Driver Education educators. Last year I thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and look forward to learning more at this year's conference.*

**~ Karen Covert—Chinook**