



MTEA NEWS

MTEA Board Member Susan Carney Receives National and Statewide Recognition

Congratulations to **Susan Carney-Lammerding**, traffic education instructor from Arlee, Montana and MTEA board member, who was selected as one of five ADTSEA Teachers of Excellence for 2018. The award carries with it a cash stipend from The National Road Safety Foundation, a non-profit group that creates driver safety education materials and makes them available at no cost to teachers and schools, police, traffic safety advocates, and youth organizations. Read more about this award at <http://www.adtsea.org>.

Prior to attending the ADTSEA conference in July, Susan was thrilled to receive MTEA’s Outstanding Traffic Education Teacher of the Year award at the April conference. Susan received accolades and support for the many contributions she makes to traffic education, including from OPI Traffic Education director, Fran Penner-Ray, who shares the following from her letter of recommendation:

Susan Carney has taught traffic education in Arlee, MT since 2001 and began training new traffic education teachers in 2013 at Montana State University-Northern. Her innovative standards-based approach and creative energy in developing blended online teacher training has inspired over a hundred new traffic education teachers in Montana.

The Montana Teen Driver Curriculum update included Susan on the project team from 2012 to 2014. She helped the project stay focused on critical information for teen safe driving skills. Susan contributed high standards, expectations and experience involving students in interactive learning behind-the-wheel.

Susan has also worked as an OPI Montana DRIVE instructor since 2010. Montana DRIVE instructors share their expertise and enthusiasm with hundreds of Montana drivers at advanced driving workshops in Lewistown each summer where they learn how to handle skids and other risky driving situations.

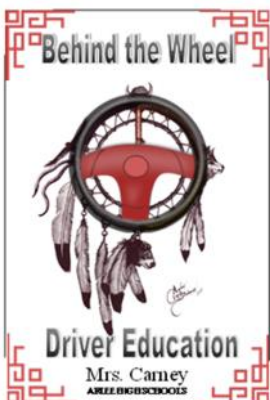
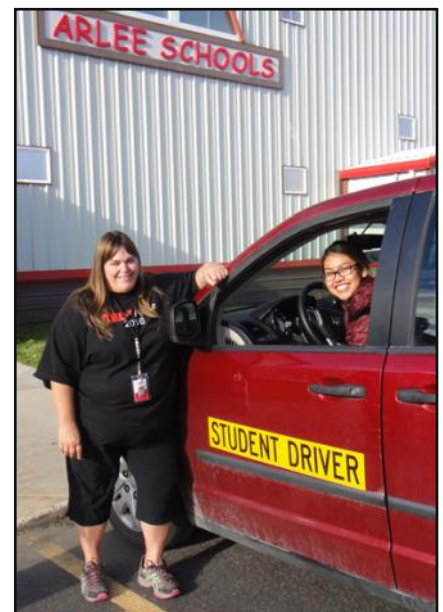
Susan’s creative and positive leadership on the MTEA Board—including serving as president from 2007-2008—has supported MTEA as the valuable organization it is today. Her many contributions to traffic education continue to inspire generations of drivers for years to come.

Well deserved, Carney!

Congrats from your MTEA family!



Susan Carney was in Chicago with Fran Penner-Ray at the July ADTSEA conference to receive a 2018 National Teacher of Excellence Award in Traffic Education.



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MTEA News 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. MTEA News is mailed to members and published at MTEAOnline.org. The spring issue is mailed to all traffic educators in Montana as an invitation to the annual traffic education conference.

Submissions can be emailed to:

sgrogan@forsyth.k12.mt.us.

Articles are due 10/1; 12/1; 3/1.

MTEA President's Message: *Going the Extra Mile*



Some instructors have recently wrapped up a summer program. Others have started a new session during the school year. Whichever way your driver's education program is scheduled into your busy life, I want to thank you for all you do.

People in the MTEA organization go the extra mile. Many of us have a personality that takes on extra assignments for the kids. Nobody just teaches driver's ed! Long days start with classroom

teaching, technology upkeep, coaching, sponsorships, bus driving, managing concessions, athletic director responsibilities, administration duties as well as driver's ed. This doesn't account for the family and personal commitments that must be included in the 24-hour day. Kudos to you for juggling all of the activities.

Unfortunately burnout is a consequence of this lifestyle. The MTEA family provides me with the spark to rejuvenate my program. Someone always has a new idea or is available to talk through program questions. Contact instructors in surrounding towns or call Fran at OPI for a contact that may work as a sounding board for a particular issue.

Use the people that you meet at conference to reinforce your ideas or to give you one new take-home activity to keep your program fresh. We are not islands. Use the MTEA family to keep you in this driver's education game, because you truly influence young lives in a positive way.

Steffani Grogan, MTEA President (2018-19)

Teachin' Driver Education ... Again

Lyrics by Ramblin' Steffani Grogan

Down the road

Can't wait to get in the driver's ed car.

Teachin' reference points, teachin' intersections,

Teachin' right of way to my students so they don't go too far.

Just can't wait to drive the roundabout again.

Down the interstate

Just can't wait to hit the brake again.

Love drivin' constant speed toward target, seat-belted in

And I can't wait to pass a semi with a white-knuckled kid again.

On the two lane

Sharing with motorcycles, pedestrians and bicycles as we go

Showing the world all we know.

We're busy using best practice skills

Hands are at 9 & 3 going up the hills.

Just can't wait to put distractions away

They need to know seatbelts are here to stay.

I love influencing teens to make good choices

Hopefully, the students hear their teachers' voices.

On the clock again

Teaching 45 classroom hours and 6 hours driving down the road.

We're with a captive audience in our load

No road rage, no inattention, no alcohol allowed

And our way is focused so we don't get plowed.

MTEA Executive Board Meeting Summary—April 23, 2018

Here's an overview of the last Executive Board meeting held April 23, 2018 in Bozeman:

- Minutes, finances, and correspondence were reviewed.
- Conference overviews were provided.
- Reports from awards, door prizes, newsletter, and the silent auction were heard.
- Classification reports were heard.
- President-Elect and Classification Director nominations were reviewed.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, November 4** in Helena. Please send agenda items to President Steffani Grogan or Executive Secretary Jim Carroll as soon as possible (see contact information below).

It's not too soon to start collecting items for the silent auction and door prizes for the spring conference! Plan to attend April 28-30, 2019 at the Copper King Hotel and Convention Center in Butte, Montana.

MTEA Membership Benefits

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

- Annual Traffic Education conference every spring (conference fee includes membership fee) 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 to serve on MTEA board 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.

MTEA's 2018 Outstanding Contributor of the Year Award: *Community Foundation of Northern Rosebud County*

In recognition of the support received from the Community Foundation of Northern Rosebud County, MTEA gave the Contributor of Year award to this deserving organization.

With a two-year grant of \$3,500, the Foundation supported driver education projects in the Forsyth School District in partnership with Business Professionals of America (BPA) and the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

The first year focused on a seatbelt project with the BPA to increase seatbelt use and reduce distracted driving among the student body. Funds were used to purchase pedal karts and drunk goggles for student activities.



Other uses for the karts in the driver education class kept popping up from practicing parking and roundabouts to passing. The karts have been used for demonstration at the annual

Spring MTEA conference with a presentation from the FCCLA students who conducted the activity and most recently as a teaching tool with the new instructors at MSU-Northern this summer.

Last fall (2017), the Foundation saw the benefit of funding another student driving activity. Forsyth driver education teacher, Steffani Grogan, expanded students' experience of driving under the influence to include more specific goggles that simulate disorientation, distorted perception, and nausea for drugs like cannabis, prescription medications and "ecstasy."

Also included in the new pack of six glasses from Drunk Busters are low light condition goggles to show the effects of fatigue on driving. Students would drive small remote control cars through a road system while under the influence of the goggles. Drivers who start in control of the cars can see that the previously mentioned risky behaviors do affect their ability to drive.

Hopefully, these teen drivers will learn to make good decisions by experiencing simulated impairment, so they won't experience the reality of a crash or traffic fatality.

CONTACT US! Send a note via the Contact page at 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.

You and Driver Education

Making every mile count ...

By Brad Gibbs, Billings

Back in the day, when automobiles were like the vehicle in MTEA's logo, traffic was light and most trips were short. The only speedster stopped was an occasional runaway horse! The automobile shattered the peace of the countryside and became the backbone of our transportation system. "Get a horse!" is no longer a popular cry and today's automated vehicles continue to change the face of America.

Refresher courses and advanced training that we receive keep us constantly aware of safe driving performance. Having just started another school year and hoping to apply the information and techniques that we learned at our Montana Traffic Education Conference, I have pledged to make every mile count.

I keep asking myself "Self, what can I do to improve road safety?" First, I can discourage dangerous driving behaviors by staying involved in passing new laws or strengthening laws that already exist. Second, I will stay involved in the adoption of new technologies that strive to make both vehicles and roads safer. Third, and closer to home, I will continue to educate my students to make sure they understand the risks of certain behaviors and recognize what they need to do to keep themselves and others safe.

At the MTEA conference our theme was "Focus on Success." For me, that meant: focus on making the roads safer by helping young drivers be as informed and prepared as they can possibly be when it is their turn to get behind the wheel. My driver education class tends to take a comprehensive and systematic approach to teaching safe driving skills. The information we learned from Kelly



Browning in her Impact Teen Drivers presentation will now be a part of my classroom teaching.

I believe there is no substitute for a high-quality driver education class and the Impact Teen Drivers presentation made me think about adding more visual stimuli into my own teaching. We are not alone in our efforts to help drivers learn and

prepare as much as possible while they are in our sphere of influence. Governments, nonprofit organizations, and creative professionals create powerful public service announcements (PSAs) that are available to us online.

These short videos memorably reinforce the fact that it is dangerous to do things like text, speed, drive drunk and fail to buckle up and some of them get the message across in only 30 to 60 seconds! Safe driving PSAs are effective in confronting drivers with the risks of unsafe driving in unexpected ways. Some are like a lightning bolt to the brain, searing their focused messages onto the minds of the people who view them.

The Impact Teen Drivers videos and PSAs can also play a valuable role in giving drivers a visceral understanding of why certain actions are so unsafe when they're behind the wheel.



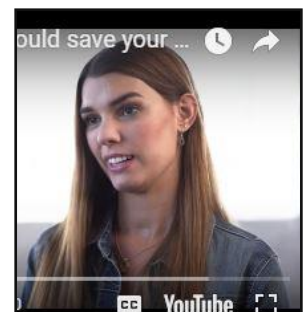
www.impactteendrivers.org/resources/videos

With this in mind, I've put together a list of some of my favorite safe driving PSAs. It would be great if we could share the ideas that we use in our classes with each other. These ideas could make us laugh, make us think and, maybe with a little luck, even make us drive a little more carefully.



For your convenience, Brad Gibbs' recommended videos are on the MTEA website at <http://www.mteonline.org/videos>.

- The Unseen - AT&T It Can Wait (3:38)
- Close to Home – AT&T It Can Wait (3:52)
- The Last Word – TextTheLastWord (3:54)
- Liz Marks Texting & Driving Story (3:12)
- Don't Text and Drive PSA – Tony Gentry (1:01)
- Wait For It ... this could save your life @Summer Break 4 (3:50)
- Embrace Life – Always wear your seat belt (1:29)
- 360 AT&T It Can Wait Driving Simulation (2:39)



MTEA as Catalyst: Teachers Helping Teachers

By Kurtis Koenig, Whitehall—MTEA President (2017-18)

I have taught driver's education for 11 years, served on the MTEA executive board, and been honored to lead the association as your president. My career path has now changed course and I am no longer an English teacher at Ennis where coaching and teaching driver education filled my non-teaching hours. I am now the K-5 principal for the Whitehall School District. The district is fortunate to have an outstanding traffic education instructor, Melissa Robbins, so there is simply no room or need for me to instruct young drivers at this time.

However, I am not ready to be "put out to pasture."

What do I do now? Besides fulfilling my responsibility as a past-president of MTEA, which means I'm overseeing program development for the 2019 conference, I want to stay involved. I love driver education. I believe that our association is a fantastic organization comprised of some of the finest educators in the state. There is simply no way I can walk away from it altogether.

Once a driver educator always a driver educator, right? This got me thinking about what I can still do for the Montana Traffic Education Association.

As a newly-minted driver education teacher I relied so heavily on the expertise and advice from the more seasoned instructors within the MTEA. Though I am not even close to amassing the number of years of experience as some of my colleagues from across the state, I do have a few things that I could offer the next generation of instructors. This is a lesson that everyone in the association should keep in mind.

Whether you are a veteran of 25 years, 10 years, or you are fresh off of your initial course work at Havre, you have something to offer for the greater good of the association. Those with more experience in traffic ed can enlighten us all about concepts that they have implemented to great or poor success. We can all learn from their experience, which is the greatest teacher.



"You have something to offer for the greater good of the association."

If you are new to the profession, you may be privy to cutting-edge techniques that you gleaned from your initial instruction in Havre. It does not matter where you are in your traffic ed career, you are important to this association, you are important to your colleagues, and you are important to the communities you serve. How can you improve each of these qualities?

What continually impresses me about MTEA is the range of teacher backgrounds and their willingness to share ideas, knowledge, and learning techniques and materials with their colleagues at the annual conference. Tapping into these resources will not only assist you in driver ed classes, but also help you in your regular classroom, on the field or court, and in

the advancement of your career.

For the upcoming school year, please take a moment to be introspective. We spend so much of our time worrying about the things we need to do better. These are key concepts to consider. However, take the time to consider your strengths.

How can you ply these strengths to help someone be the best version of themselves they can be? That might look like encouraging a younger teacher to try a new pedagogical strategy or it might be reaching out to an experienced educator for advice. It could also be volunteering to share your experiences and expertise in a session at the MTEA conference.

If teachers, across disciplines, are able to work together in harmony to solve the growingly complex issues of today's school system, education in Montana will continue to rise to the top. The sharing of advice and information is one of the pillars of the MTEA. I am still excited to be a part of traffic ed and I encourage all of you to utilize your colleagues in the association to the fullest potential.

More importantly, stand up and be heard, be involved, and constantly strive to make yourself, those around you, and the MTEA better.

Send your ideas for the 2019 MTEA conference (and anything else related to traffic ed) to Kurtis Koenig at kkoenig@whitehallmt.org and to Fran Penner-Ray at fpenner-ray@mt.gov.

Presentations and handouts from recent MTEA conferences can be found at: <http://opi.mt.gov/driver-educators>. Lesson Slam activities from the 2018 MTEA conference will be published in the Winter 2019 issue of MTEA News!

Why Take a Montana DRIVE Workshop?

By Denise Bordeleau, Butte



What is Montana DRIVE? It is probably the most fun you can have taking a class in the summer. Every one-day summer class is offered from the second week in June to the first week in August in beautiful Lewistown, Montana. Next summer, a full week in July (five one-day workshops) will be offered for teen drivers.

Reasons to take this class include: you can earn one college credit (if you student teach the next day) or 9 renewal units. You can improve your response in emergency situations, brush up on vehicle knowledge and behavior on the road, become a more confident driver and step out of your comfort zone.

Teachers can take the coursework on day one, then turn around on day two and learn to instruct one aspect of the course. This is a great way to actually enhance the skills that you take home to use in the driver's education program for your school.



Everyone can learn something new in this safe, but real-life driving environment.

Classroom time consists of once in the morning, afternoon and end of the day. The instructors are knowledgeable and work hard to make this information concise and relevant. The rest of the day will be spent moving from exercises in various vehicles in a fast-paced, fun environment.

I started as an instructor four years ago and haven't looked back. The instructors are a great group of professionals from all over the state. They are very dedicated, knowledgeable and fun to be around. Every year I learn something new from either my colleagues or the clients. It is really fascinating to watch students grow as more skilled and confident drivers.

Think about bidding on the donated Montana DRIVE Workshop certificate at the MTEA conference silent auction. Every teacher should experience this fun advanced driving workshop. More info: montanadrive.mt.gov.

Training the Future Teachers of Driver Education in Montana

By Fran Penner-Ray, Director, OPI Traffic Education

The MSU-Northern traffic safety education class of 2018 (*see at right*) spent two weeks on campus in Havre. The shift to blended online courses began in 2011 for traffic safety education courses at MSU-N. In the past five years, more than 100 teachers completed the required eight credits to become approved traffic education (TE) teachers.

There is an ongoing need to recruit and mentor additional TE teachers since experienced traffic education teachers are retiring. Recruitment strategies schools have found successful include:

- Identify a teacher in your district who would make a good TE teacher and offer tuition reimbursement to pay for the coursework to get them qualified. Professional development is an acceptable use of Traffic Education funds. Schools may want to require the teacher to teach a minimum number of years to recover their investment.
- When recruiting teachers for other subjects, offer priority for a teacher who is also a Montana-approved TE teacher.
- New teachers in medium to large districts can return to team-teach smaller classes of 12 to 15 students.



MSU-N Class of 2018 Traffic Education students on their way to becoming driver education instructors. We salute you!

The Traffic Education Program at OPI supports affordable and accessible driver education to help teens develop safe driving habits and reduce young driver crashes.

Contact the Traffic Education Office for more information or visit the MSU-N Traffic Education page to plan ahead! Registration begins in spring for the summer 2019 courses.

<http://www.msun.edu/distance/traffic.html>



Fran's Findings: A Starting Line for Teen Drivers



Driving long, open roads in Big Sky Country gives time for reflection. Our work to educate young drivers is essential even as engineering innovations aim to improve the safety of roads and vehicles. Driver choices, habits and behaviors lead to safe journeys, but also

errors and crashes. We can learn from near misses and from researchers using in-car cameras.

A new documentary, **3 Seconds Behind the Wheel**, follows the lives of eight drivers over six months using in-car cameras to monitor their driving behavior and capture how often and why their attention was directed away from the task of driving. Even the two-minute preview raises debatable questions about whether we can “just drive” with the infotainment in the dashboard. Focused attention seems scarce and watching other drivers gives insight into drivers on the road with us. We count on them to stay in their lane and stop. Visit <https://3seconds.org/> to learn more.

The Driver Education Symposium I attended in July brought state administrators and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to Chicago to discuss national standards and state assessments. Montana standards require driver education programs to hold parent meetings and we meet or exceed most national standards.

It was an honor to be at the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA) in Chicago with Sue Carney-Lammerding who presented *Big Issues in Big Sky Country*, highlighting Montana's traffic education curriculum standards. Her stories from Glasgow, Arlee,

Lewistown and Havre represented Montana well for her ADTSEA Teacher of Excellence Award (*see page 1*).

The ADTSEA conference presentations are at <http://adtsea.org> (click on **Documents**, then **Presentations**).

Skills to control speed, stop and scan for hazards begin with driver education and develop with experience and practice. Consider agility—some of us had it when we were young—it's the ability to react in a timely, responsive, and skillful manner. Agility with adaptability is important since the environment around us is always changing.

Adaptable Montana driving skills proved useful when I traveled to France with my husband, Robert, in September. He drove a manual transmission Renault through the mountains, Autoroutes, and Paris. We saw the tail lights of a Maserati in the Alps and drivers moving over to pass bicyclists even on narrow twisting roads. With boldness and the help of turn signals and courteous drivers, we navigated through seven lanes of tangled steady traffic and road construction to reach the road to the airport. It was a nightmare intersection that would be ideal for a student intersection redesign project.

Thanks to your work, our teens learn to drive on town streets, two-lane highways, and gravel roads. We get them to the starting line to safely drive on long roads, through mountain passes, and in complex city traffic.

Montana Teen Driver Safety Day is October 16, 2018 and we celebrate and encourage safe driving all year long.

— Fran Penner-Ray, Traffic Education Director, OPI



Contact Fran Penner-Ray (fpenner-ray@mt.gov) and Patti Borneman (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>.

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 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/>.





Montana Traffic Education Association
PO Box 637
Conrad, MT 59425

Return Service Requested



Montana Teen Driver Safety Day
Third Tuesday in October (MCA 1-1-229)

SAVE THESE DATES!



March 1-3, 2019—Portland, Oregon
Pacific Northwest Driver & Traffic Safety Conference
 If you are looking for another great regional Traffic Education conference, the 2019 Pacific Northwest Driver & Traffic Safety Conference is excellent. Visit <http://triwou.org/projects/tse>.



April 28-30, 2019—Butte
Montana Traffic Education Conference
 The 2019 spring conference will be held April 28-30 at the Copper King Hotel & Convention Center in Butte. Look for more details as the year progresses. Remember, the cost of attending the conference is considered an allowable expense for traffic education program costs under OPI guidelines. Visit: <http://www.mteaonline.org/annual-conference>.



July 21-24, 2019—Burlington, Vermont
ADTSEA Conference
 The 2019 ADTSEA conference will be held July 21-24 in Burlington, Vermont. The conference will provide you with a wealth of information and an opportunity to network with other professionals from across the United States.

MTEA has a scholarship program that will provide up to \$500 per person to offset ADTSEA conference costs. If you can't attend, at least consider joining your national organization. Check out the ADTSEA website at <http://www.adtsea.org>.

CELEBRATE!

Teen drivers who are:

- *Focused*
- *Buckled Up*
- *Sober & Rested*
- *Experienced*
- *Lawful*
- *Compassionate*
- *SAFE*

October 16, 2018

MONTANA TEEN DRIVER SAFETY DAY!



Search for: Montana Traffic Education Association