



The Newsletter of the Montana Traffic Education Association

MTEA NEWS

Volume 22, Issue 3

Spring 2017

Celebrate MTEA's 50th Anniversary!

A half century ago, the Montana Traffic Education Association was founded by a dedicated and forward-thinking group of traffic education teachers. The organization was first named the Montana Driver and Traffic Education Association and the first officers of the association were Dan Marinkovich as President, Bob Sparks as Vice President, and Jerry Walker as Secretary-Treasurer. MTEA's membership has grown from 38 in 1972 to almost 200 members today. Join us as we celebrate our illustrious past and look ahead to the next 50 years.



Dan Marinkovich

This 2008 gem from OPI's late Traffic Education Director, David Huff, was adapted for this newsletter:

What do Diana Ross and the Supremes have in common with driver education? While you think about that for awhile, what keeps you working at your job? Have you figured it out? Diana Ross wrote a song that goes something like this: "Stop in the name of love, before you break my heart." Think it over.

In 2003, a teacher and three male driver education students from Manhattan Christian school died when their car spun out on a slushy road and was hit by a semi truck just west of Belgrade. This tragic crash led to a series of events that put Montana front and center in national discussions on driver education. Fran Penner-Ray and I want opportunities elevated by a Montana tragedy to result in improvements to teen driving, which is the single largest reason for teen deaths and serious injuries in Montana and the nation. It's a state and national public health crisis that needs our best efforts for improvement, but driver education has been stalled for over 25 years.



That's why Fran and I come to work everyday and where Diana Ross fits in. It's more than a job. It's a mission. For the sake of love, and before more hearts are broken, it's time to do something to stop the high numbers of people being injured and dying because of young teen drivers. Think it over. We need to do a better job of helping them learn to drive safely.

~ David Huff, Traffic Education Director, (1998-2010)



Preparation, skill and confidence are the winning combination.



We're going to the Montana Traffic Education Conference! Are you?

This graphic is from a Montana Driver & Traffic Safety Education Information Booklet published in 1983 by the Office of Public Instruction, Ed Argenbright, Superintendent

My two cents: Advocating for Driver Education

By Steffani Grogan

Advocate for driver's education by presenting to the school board. Take students and let the public hear how important the program is to your students, what they learn from it, or how the standards have changed.

It is very difficult to place the program's success in the forefront and not make the instructor feel like a braggart. Think back to the last time the driver's education program reported the program's facts, statistics, etc. to the superintendent, let alone the district school board. Someone once made the profound statement to me that if the driver education program doesn't take time in the spotlight another cause will. School funding is always an unknown and MTEA members need to bring a positive image of a successful program to the public's eye.

MTEA Executive Board

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Charlie Brown (Fairfield, B)

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Kurtis Koenig (Ennis, C)

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Vacant (A)

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.

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.

Newsletter deadline for articles:

Fall issue—October 1

Winter issue—December 1

Spring issue—March 1

President's Message



Hello all members!

It is getting closer to the conference and I sincerely hope you and your colleagues are planning to attend. I hope your Administration sees the importance in everything you do with Traffic Education and working with students.

Well.... this winter driving has been nothing short of interesting. Most parents want their child to learn how to drive in the snow and they want us to teach them. With my situation this year at Great Falls High, teaching both semesters and driving after school, I have NOT cancelled any drives due to weather. My schedule just won't allow it. That being said, you know and I know the best technique is to *slow down*. That has been my biggest talking point and I'm still here (knocking on wood...)!



This year's conference will be a great experience. Did you know that MTEA was founded 50 years ago? We'll celebrate our Golden Anniversary by seeing how far we've come in half a century and what the next 50 years looks like for drivers and traffic education. We always try to put the best conference together to benefit all our members and this year should be one of the best (with a special surprise you won't forget). You deserve it and our students deserve it.

Please bring your ideas, techniques and expertise to share at the conference, especially a **favorite driver education lesson** you can share in about 3 minutes during a new "Lesson Slam" session where everyone will share their lesson in a quick exchange around the table and then with the whole group. We'll save your great lessons to share with everyone.

The conference returns to the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, April 23-25. Your registration form is included in this newsletter, so plan to register before April 15 and reserve your room by April 7. I look forward to seeing you and visiting with you soon.

Respectfully yours,

Jerry A. Olson, MTEA President (2016-17)

Jerry Olson is an art and driver education teacher at Great Falls High School and has taught driver education there since 2005. He was honored to serve as MTEA's 2012 Outstanding Traffic Educator of the Year and in 2013 was hired by the Office of Public Instruction as a Montana DRIVE advanced driving workshop instructor.



MTEA is on Facebook!

Search for Montana Traffic Education Association

Summary: Executive Board Meeting

Here's an overview of the Executive Board meeting held January 29, 2017 in Helena:

- Minutes, correspondence, and financial reports were reviewed.
- Newsletter and website reports were heard.
- A Montana legislative report was heard.
- President-Elect and Board assignments were discussed.
- An OPI report was heard.
- President-Elect nominations were finalized.
- Nominations for Teacher & Contributor of the Year were discussed.
- Planning for the 2017 MTEA conference took place, with various speakers and break-out sessions, and sponsors discussed.
- Door prizes, auction, 50/50, and board assignments were discussed.

The next meeting was set for **Monday, April 24, 2017**, at the conference. Contact Jerry Olson, President, or Jim Carroll, Executive Secretary, as soon as possible to be included on the agenda. You can also send a note via the Contact page at MTEAOnline.org.



2017 Montana Traffic Education Conference

Traffic Education Milestones

April 23-25, 2017

Best Western
Heritage Inn, Great
Falls, MT

*See back page for
conference details,
registration, and
hotel arrangements.*

**REGISTER FOR
THE CONFERENCE
BY APRIL 15**

MTEAOnline.org



Help MTEA Grow our Membership

Did you know there are more than 300 teachers around the state assigned to schools to teach Traffic Education? Of that amount, almost 200 of them are members of MTEA. Help us recruit members!

Encourage a colleague to join MTEA! Besides friendly colleagues and helpful mentors, there are many benefits of membership:

- Annual Traffic Education conference (conference fees extra) that brings 180 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.

If you know someone who teaches traffic education and 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 anyone you identify as a potential member.

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.

Song Trivia Question from 1967

Repeating the word "miles" over 50 times in one song was mastered by what band in 1967 with "I Can See for Miles"?

- A. Led Zeppelin B. Pink Floyd C. The Who D. The Beach Boys

Answer: The Who repeated "miles and miles" over 50 times in one song written by Pete Townshend.

President-Elect Candidates

Two candidates for President-Elect for the 2018-19 term will be voted on at the April conference. More detailed information will be provided in the conference packet, but here is a brief overview of the candidates:

Steffani Grogan (Forsyth) teaches traffic education in Forsyth and Hysham, and has been an MTEA member for several years. She is currently serving MTEA as a Class B director to the executive board and is also the MTEA newsletter editor.

Mike Kincaid (Missoula) teaches traffic education and has been an MTEA member for several years. He is currently serving as Class AA director to the executive board and recently participated in a local project to help produce a DVD on intersections.

Jerry Olson is the current MTEA President and will be passing the gavel to Kurtis Koenig from Ennis. Koenig will serve as president from 2017 to 2018.

**TAKE A BREAK
DRIVE AWAKE**



The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Federal Railroad Administration have launched a new railroad crossing safety ad campaign.

“The message is simple: Ignoring railroad crossing signs or attempting to race or beat a train can have deadly consequences,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. “Hundreds of lives could be saved each year by simply following the rules.”

Although rail incidents have declined over the last 10 years, railroad crossing fatalities spiked in 2014. Last year alone, 232 people died in railroad crossing accidents, and approximately every three hours, a person or vehicle is hit by a train in the United States. Although accidents at railroad crossings are an old problem, the problem can be solved. This ad is the latest in a two-year, focused effort to reverse the uptick in railroad crossing fatalities. Its message is simple: **Stop. Trains can't.**

For more information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2mIOuBA>.



Retiring from Teaching?

If you retired this year or have plans to retire from education soon 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. Download the Service Recognition/Retirement Award form at MTEAOnline.org and send to Jim Carroll by April 1.

Retiring? You can still teach traffic ed!

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/>

Legislative Report from Jane Hamman



We are tracking 56 bills as of March 1 that could be significant in the second half of the 65th Legislative Assembly.

Because budgeting decisions still are very tenuous, there likely will be efforts to cut special revenue funds across-the-board sometime in the last eight weeks of the session, perhaps to balance the budget and create a projected ending balance--or to create a new rainy day fund.

A major cut spreadsheet could be adopted in the dead of night with staff instructed to make all the entries in HB 2. Then we would find out after the fact. Nearly any of the 56 bills could be used as an instrument to authorize changes to the drivers license account. Let's all be vigilant, communicate immediately, and be prepared to organize as many emails or calls to legislators as we can muster if that becomes necessary.

Check out the Legislative website at <http://www.leg.mt.gov> to follow bills.

Fran's Findings



Reflecting on 50 years since the founding of MTEA brings into focus dramatic shifts in our connectivity, our vehicles, and our roadways. I believe today's teens are not much different from teens in 1967. Teens are still spending time with

friends, dancing to music, pushing their limits and learning from mistakes, worrying their parents, and driving around late at night.

Rolling Stone Magazine is also looking back on their five decades of reporting on musicians, culture, and political upheaval. The soundtrack of our lives includes the miles we've traveled and the changes we experience as the years go by.

The Interstate Highway System came to mind as I looked back on 50 years. My iPhone found President Eisenhower's remarks on the need for a new highway program in a speech delivered at Cadillac Square in Detroit on October 24, 1954. In 1968, tunneling began to build the Eisenhower Tunnel in Colorado that carries I-70 traffic under the Continental Divide at the highest elevation of 11,158 feet. Tunnel construction to connect east to west was completed in 1979 due to complications with fault lines and working at such a high altitude.

The search for information changed remarkably with the Internet, Google, Wikipedia, and hand-held devices.



We need critical thinking and analysis especially when all sorts of information is out there. Our traffic education standards include Lifelong Learning, reflecting the need for adaptability going forward. We drive cars and pickup trucks, which have changed to include power steering, ABS, and ESC with seatbelts and other required safety features. I recently discovered that UPS trains their drivers to use a triangular view, looking forward to the target and checking the rear zone every 5 to 8 seconds.

Changes coming to the OPI's web site should increase accessibility and include captions in videos. Updates to the Traffic Education web pages include simplified navigation and a chapter-by-chapter audio version of the Adapted Illustrated Montana Driver Manual recorded by the Montana Talking Book Library.

Montana's 65th Legislature is in Helena with nearly 1,000 bills introduced and over 1,500 unintroduced bills. We have seen crowds at the hearings and at marches and rallies for causes people believe in. It's too soon to know what motor vehicle law changes will go forward, but we are watching and wondering. We'll keep you posted.

I look forward to seeing you at the MTEA 50th Anniversary celebration in Great Falls.

~ Fran Penner-Ray



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/Programs/Drivered>

Montana DRIVE One-Day Summer Workshops—June 5 through August 10

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR ADULT AND TEEN WORKSHOPS



Teachers and teen drivers are encouraged to attend a one-day advanced driving workshop at the Montana DRIVE track in Lewistown.

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. By March 10, half of the 36 teen workshops were already filled. 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 24, 25, and 26. Please encourage your students to take this advanced driving workshop designed just for young drivers.

To view available workshop dates and register, visit MontanaDrive.mt.gov. For more information call the OPI at (406) 444-4432 or email montanadrive@mt.gov.

Celebrate 50 Years of Professional Instruction and Guided Practice!

MTEA was founded in 1967. Since 1968, more than 500,000 teen drivers have benefited from the dedication of our state's traffic educators. *

We will celebrate and mark this achievement at our 2017 conference in Great Falls.

MTEA MILESTONES

1998 - Curt Hahn retires from the Office of Public Instruction. David Huff selected as the next Director of Traffic Education.

2000 - Montana hosts the annual conference of the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA) in Billings.

2006 - GDL goes into effect in Montana. OPI releases new curriculum modules and resources for use by traffic education educators in Montana.

2009 - MTEA begins offering AD&D/Life Insurance up to \$5000 coverage as a benefit of membership (with no additional cost to members).

2010 - David Huff retires as Traffic Education Director at OPI and Fran Penner-Ray becomes interim director. In 2011 she becomes director.

2012 - MTEA launches new website: MTEAOnline.org.

2014 - The OPI updates the Teen Driver Education and Training Curriculum after extensive teacher-led revision to make modules more interactive.

Get Ready for the 2017 Spring Conference!

Register for the Conference and Book Your Room

The following page has all the information you need to register for the conference and book your room at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls. 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 Great Falls!

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.

Nominate an Outstanding Teacher and a Contributor of the Year

Please consider nominating a fellow teacher and/or supporter of your program (or yourself) for the 2017 awards. Nomination forms for the MTEA Outstanding Traffic Education Teacher of the Year and Contributor of the Year awards can be downloaded at the MTEA website: MTEAOnline.org. Nominations will be accepted until February 15. Forms will not be mailed out unless you are unable to access the Internet.



First-time Conference Attendees—There's a scholarship for you!

In 2014, the **David Huff Memorial Scholarship** was established to encourage traffic education teachers to attend and participate in the annual Montana Traffic Education Association conference and become active, engaged members of their professional organization. A total of \$450 (\$150 each) will be available to three first-time attendees whose names are drawn during the conference. If you haven't attended a traffic education conference yet, make plans to attend this year!

Come prepared for the *Lesson Slam!*

The Sunday afternoon roundtable discussions we've done in the past have been replaced by a sharing technique called *rapid fire* or *slam*. Here's how it will work:

1. Every member needs to bring a BEST or most SUCCESSFUL traffic education practice, lesson, video, BTW activity, or other helpful resource.
2. During the Lesson Slam each member will be given only **3 minutes** to relay his/her tool and its uses. Presentations will rotate around the tables as notes are taken to be published in the fall newsletter, so we can all benefit from the shared lessons. Each table will nominate **1 idea** to present to the general session.
3. Members should be able to leave with a minimum of 16 resources for the classroom on their return home. Remember, all best lessons/resources will be published in the fall 2017 MTEA newsletter, so come to the conference with a GREAT lesson to share.



Celebrate MTEA's 50th Anniversary! MONTANA TRAFFIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE Great Falls, Montana ~ April 23-25, 2017



The Montana Traffic Education Association and Montana Office of Public Instruction invite you to **Traffic Education Milestones**, the theme of the **2017 Montana Traffic Education Conference!**

Guest speakers include **Pat Goldhahn**, a Fairfield father who will share his story of loss and the **BuckleUp4Lauren** blue ribbon campaign. **Craig Shankwitz**, from the Western Transportation Institute, will give a presentation on **autonomous vehicle technology**. As part of the 50th Anniversary celebration, **Jon Axline**, historian with the MT Department of Transportation, will present **Trails to Highways**.

A variation on our Roundtable discussions is an exciting new **Lesson Slam**. 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 distracted driving, teens and traffic laws, mental health, motorcycle safety, intersections and pedestrians, and special education. As always, there will be an OPI report on traffic education in Montana and DOJ/MVD staff will give a CDP update and answer your driver licensing questions.

PRE-REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE: All attendees **must pre-register with MTEA by April 15, 2017**. 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 2017 conference takes place at the **Best Western Heritage Inn**, 1700 Fox Farm Road, in Great Falls. 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 **Heritage Inn** at (406) 761-1900 or **1-800-548-8256**. Mention the group name (Montana Traffic Education) to get the special rate. Cut-off for the group rate is **April 7**, 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 23. 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 23. The first general session will begin at noon. The conference ends at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday April 25.

Conference agenda, speaker bios and other updates will be posted at 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 15, 2017
Bring an item to give as a door prize!

2017 Montana Traffic Education Conference Registration BEST WESTERN HERITAGE INN April 23-25, 2017 – 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 check from _____

Amount \$ _____

_____ 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)

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
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Upcoming Events

APRIL 23-25 Montana Traffic Education Conference and 50th Anniversary Celebration, Great Falls. *Details inside!*

JUNE 5 through AUGUST 10 Montana DRIVE Advanced Driving Workshops. Details inside and at: <http://montanadrive.mt.gov>.

JUNE 19-30 Traffic Safety Education Teacher Training on campus at MSU Northern in Havre. Visit <https://www.msun.edu/distance/traffic.html>. Online courses also available.

JULY 16-19 The 2017 ADTSEA conference will be held in Sacramento, California. MTEA has a scholarship program that will provide up to \$300 per person to offset ADTSEA conference costs. If you can't attend, at least consider joining ADTSEA, your national organization.

Visit the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association website at <http://www.adtsea.org>.

AT&T will be at the conference Sunday, April 23 to demonstrate their distracted driving simulator. Check out all the new resources on their website at ItCanWait.com.



The screenshot shows a social media post from 'It Can Wait' (@ItCanWait). The post includes a 'Follow' button and the text: 'We pledge because life is too beautiful to be steered off course by distracted driving. Why do you pledge? ItCanWait.com'. Below the text is a photograph of a winding road through a mountainous landscape with snow-capped peaks. At the bottom of the image, the text reads 'DISTRACTED DRIVING IS NEVER OK.' followed by the AT&T logo.