

P SETTER



Pennsylvania Association for Safety Education

SUMMER 2002 Issue

Miss The Conference?

YOU MISSED OUT!

"Absolutely the best PASE conference I have ever attended," declared Bill Elias of Uniontown. "I learned a lot of new content we need to be teaching now," stated Jim Martin of Clearfield. "Terry Kline's information was invaluable," proclaimed Bill Stauffer of West Chester.

These are just a few of the comments I heard from the attendees at the 2002 PASE Conference in Bedford. "If You Weren't There, You Missed It!" PASE was honored to have Mr. Sean McLaurin, Traffic Safety Program Manager with NHTSA kick off the conference with his presentation about the Teen Driver. There is renewed interest in driver education at NHTSA and throughout the country. We still have to improve what we teach and how we teach it.

Using PASE Past President Jim Crawford's 2001 theme, the 2002 Conference really did "Re-educate the Driver Educator, Vol.2." Breakout sessions by Vince Phillips, Lou Pesci, Dr. John Worzbyt and Dr. Terry Kline focused on giving driver educators help with new content and methodology to be successful in working with new drivers in the new millennium. General sessions with McLaurin, Kline and Anne Titler of PennDOT further solidified the teacher's skills and knowledge.

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Valuable information, conference updates and issues of the PASETTER are currently available at the PASE web site:

adtsea.iup.edu/pase

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Conference...2003

Mark Your Calendars!!!

The 54th Annual Pennsylvania Association for Safety Education Conference will be held on May 1st and 2nd, 2003 at the Quality Inn - Arena in Bedford, Pennsylvania.

Sixty-five rooms will be available at the Quality Inn at the following reduced rates:

Single - \$52
Double - \$58
Triple - \$64
Quad - \$70
Suite - \$67

Call 1-800-329-7499 or 814-623-5188 to make your reservations BY APRIL 15, 2003...Please visit the PASE web site for a registration form and additional details. Also, watch future issues of the Pasetter for additional details.

STATEMENT ON THE STANDARDS FOR SAFETY AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The following is a statement submitted to the Senate Education Committee by PASE Lobbyist Vince Phillips in support of the PASE position that the State Board of Education Standards should include Driver Education.

March 26, 2002

Thank you for convening this hearing as a way to garner input from interested groups and persons. Reviewing these standards is one of the most important functions the Senate Education Committee has. We respectfully request that the Senate Education Committee reject these Standards because they fail to include a key component of what it takes to prepare young people for life after high school. This life skill, driving, should be a necessary component taught in our schools.

The PA Association for Safety Education (PASE) is the state association whose members are actively involved in Driver Education in the Commonwealth. Although most of our members are teachers in the various school districts, there are other members who work with special needs students to help them take their rightful place in society. In today's society, driving is almost a necessity except in the few areas where mass transit exists on a meaningful scale.

Driver Education is safety education. After all, the consequence of gaining a driver's license is steering a several thousand pound object to an objective without doing damage to the vehicle, its occupants, or to others.

It is critical for young drivers to know how to drive, and their skill (or lack of it) is critical for them, for their classmate passengers, and for innocent bystanders.

This cuts to the core issue. What is safety education? In health, it means learning about consequences. What happens if a person abuses their body through the use of controlled substance such as tobacco, drugs, or alcohol? What is the personal result of making the wrong decision, of choosing the wrong path? Driver Education operates under the same umbrella. What if the judgment called for is knowing what to do on wet pavement? Or spacing the interval between cars in icy conditions in order to avoid a winter collision? Driver Education is safety education. Driver Education teaches young people the proper way to drive and helps them understand what happens if they do not look and think before proceeding (excuse the metaphor).

Last session of the General Assembly, Graduated Driver Licensing was passed in Pennsylvania. According to the Governor's Office, the result of GDL has been a saving in human life. PASE has been a long-standing supporter of Graduated Driver Licensing and we commend the legislature for their action.

Still, GDL has a problem. It appears wedded to the notion that experience is the best teacher. It mandates fifty hours of guardian-supervised driving before the youth takes his or her driving test. Ignoring the difficulty of verifying whether or not the 50 hours was "real"; a larger problem stems from the fact that not all guardians are good teachers.

Some may be terrible drivers who transmit all their bad habits to the next generation. If a student hears from a guardian that running stop signs (or lights) is OK if they do not see oncoming traffic, that is the lesson they will absorb if there is no countering influence. Not all guidance in teaching driving skills is negligent. It may be well meaning but uninformed if the parent teaches the youth as he or she learned it forty years ago. Given all the developments under the hood and changes in highway construction standards, driving is not the same as it used to be. New laws such as driving (versus passing) on the left or absence of seatbelts as a traffic violation may be things that the parent simply has not been exposed to versus the Driver Education instructor whose job it is to know.

Continued on Page 4

Put Simulator Systems Ad Here

STATEMENT ON THE STANDARDS FOR SAFETY AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION, continued from page 2

It is the rule of first impression. If a young person learns something the wrong way, it is much harder to retrain than it is to expose him or her to the correct way of driving. Learning it wrong provides an imprint that is very difficult to unlearn.

A positive influence is the Driver Education instructor. Even though experience is an effective teacher, it is not always the best teacher. It works best when coupled with instruction from a trained teacher who can demonstrate the correct way to drive not the most expedient.

As a society, we do a disservice to our children if we do not teach them how to drive through a system of formal Driver Education. Sadly, many school districts do not offer Driver Education. Although reasons vary, the major reason is budgetary.

The Commonwealth's reimbursement has remained at \$ 35.00 per pupil taking Driver Education, a rate unchanged since the 1950s. The current cost is about \$350.00. It is no wonder that some school districts have sacrificed their Driver Education program. That issue of a proper reimbursement will be fought in the hallways of the General Assembly since, as you know, legislation has been introduced by Senator Clarence Bell and Senator Joe Conti to correct this problem. PASE hopes that this committee will focus your attention on those bills in the days ahead.

The State Board should include in its Standard on Safety and Physical Education a section stating that formal Driver Education is an important component of a student's total safety education. The PA Department of Education has an enhanced curriculum. Should not the State Board of Education encourage its use? Setting standards for safety and physical education to include a strong statement for Driver Education sends a signal to the entire educational community, administrators, school directors, teachers, and students, that Driver Education is crucial.

Conclusion

One area receiving considerable attention currently is technology literacy. It receives this attention because it is felt that releasing students into the world without required computer competency is almost abandoning them. It is a little like not teaching them how to write or read. Driver Education should be regarded in the same way. Everyone in our highly mobile society must be driving literate too. Sending students out into the world without learning these necessary skills also leaves them without a tool they will need for their entire life. Indeed, it is a tool that could protect their life.

On behalf of the PA Association for Safety Education, thank you for reviewing our viewpoint on the importance of Driver Education being included in these Standards.

MAHS SADD is Persevering

By Nicole Myers, SADD Student Secretary,
Middletown Area High School

This year, the SADD chapter at Middletown Area High School organized and sponsored many events.

In December, SADD members took part in decorating the Tree of Life at the state capital. The Tree of Life was decorated in red ribbons in remembrance of Pennsylvanians who have died in alcohol-related crashes.

On March 5th, students traveled to the Zembo Temple in Harrisburg for Prom Styles 2002, an event that combines a fashion show, music, dancing, food and prizes in an effort to demonstrate to teens that they can have fun without alcohol and other drugs.

During the High School's annual pre-prom assembly, SADD and the Driver Education Department welcomed guest speaker Andrew Steed. Steed, born in England and now residing in Elizabethtown, offered the students a new perspective on life. Included in the pre-prom assembly was Angel Day. The twelve "angels" that participated in the event represented those who die in alcohol-related crashes every half hour in the United States. The participants were given carnations and could not speak once they were "dead."

On April 5th, members made non-alcoholic drinks for the American Trauma Society's State Convention. And May followed with the SADD sponsoring the Dauphin County Safe Driving Competition. The competition was open to students who have completed the driver education curriculum. The competition was held at Middletown Area High School with over \$6000 in prizes awarded.

The VW Safety Beetle was rescheduled from November 5th to May 14th. The Safety Beetle is a great way for licensed drivers to experience the effects of driving under the influence.

SADD strives to promote a lifestyle free from destructive decisions. Destructive decisions include underage drinking, drug abuse, driving under the influence and other behaviors that affect lives negatively.

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IRRC SUPPORTS PASE STANDARDS VIEW

The following is the text from a memo submitted to Brad Bradshaw, Jack Ulrich, IIAP and Art Glatfelter on May 15, 2002 by Vince Phillips, PASE Lobbyist regarding state educational standards.

As you know, the Independent Insurance Agents of PA and the Pennsylvania Association for Safety Education have advocated the inclusion of Driver Education in the proposed Academic Standard for Safety and Physical Education promulgated by the State Board of Education. This advocacy has included testimony at three regional hearings conducted by the State Board of Education, written comments twice, and letters to the Senate and House Education Committees. Most recently, PASE submitted a statement to the Senate Education Committee as part of its oversight hearing.

I am pleased to report to you that the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) has accepted our view. As contained in the PA Bulletin Vol. 32, No. 18, May 4, 2002 (Page 2290), IRRC commented:

Section 10.3. Safety and Injury Protection. - Reasonableness; Protection of the Public Health Safety and Welfare.

The Pennsylvania Association for Safety Education commented that the proposed standards should be expanded to include driver education. It is reasonable to assume that most students will drive during their lifetime. Given the statistical significance of teenage motor vehicle accidents and fatalities, the Board (State Board of Education) should include a standard for classroom instruction of driver safety education.

This IRRC comment is a real victory for advocates of Driver Education. It forces the State Board of Education to include Driver Education in its final proposal or justify why it is not included.

In addition, it provides momentum in to the legislative process for the two proposals endorsed by IIAP and PASE. These would increase the state reimbursement to school districts from \$35 to \$350 per Driver Education student and would increase the beginner's fee from \$5.00 to \$ 50.00 to pay for it.

There is still a great deal of work needed on this issue but advocates should mark this as an important development.

MISS THE CONFERENCE? YOU MISSED OUT! continued from page 1

Rooms at the Quality Inn were modern and comfortable. The support from the staff of the Inn and the Arena Restaurant was super. The food was plentiful and tasty. The Quality Inn-Arena Restaurant made such a favorable impression that the PASE Board of Directors voted to return there for the 2003 Conference. Make your plans for Thursday and Friday, May 1 and 2, 2003 to attend. Yes, it will be a two-day conference because attendance seems to wane greatly on Saturdays. The conference will begin about 9:00AM on Thursday and end by 5:00 PM on Friday.

It was especially rewarding to see the shock of delight on the face of Miss Terri Kerfonta, this years' recipient of the James E. Heller Award. Terri has put in countless hours of clerical and support work helping PASE over the past 10 years. In addition, Mr. Ron Strapel, recently retired PASE Executive Secretary, received The Special Service Award, presented by President Rogish. There is not enough time or space in this issue to describe the dedication, work and service Ron has given to this organization. You know in your hearts and minds the value of Ron's efforts over the years. So take a moment to reflect on Ron as a professional and a genuinely good person.

So, if you missed the 2002 conference, YOU MISSED IT! Don't miss the 2003 Conference. We will continue to bring new content and methodology to you. But you gotta' be there to learn.

Dr. Brad Bradshaw
PASE Executive Director

Buckle Up The Ones
You Love...
Remind everyone you
ride with to buckle
up on every ride.

The Members of the
Pennsylvania Association
for Safety Education, Inc.
wish to recognize and
thank the exhibitors who
participated in the 2002
Pase Conference

ADTSEA

BeaveRun Motorsports Complex

Doron Precision Systems, Inc.

IDEALL Foundation

Prentice Hall

Raydon Corporation

Simulator Systems International,
Inc.

Verizon Wireless

Thank You!!!

SEND IN *YOUR* ARTICLES!!

The PASETTER is created by article submissions provided by PASE members.
And, we are always on the lookout for articles.
You are encouraged to submit articles....
Remember... without you, the PASETTER doesn't exist.
If you would like to submit an article...enclose this completed form, with your
article and mail them to:

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The Pasetter
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R&P Building
629 Fisher Avenue
Indiana, PA 15705

OR...

Email your articles to dbowser@iup.edu

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reproduced, please be sure to submit the source of the article, and
author for copyright purposes. **Remember...large documents and
articles WILL NOT be summarized by the editor and printed...it is
the submitter's responsibility to do this.**

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Pictures Say It All: Photo Highlights from the 2002 Conference

(to view additional photos, please visit the web site)



Welcome...

*Superintendent of Bedford Schools Patrick Crawford (top row left) welcomed PASE members to the conference.

*Brad Bradshaw, PASE Executive Director (top row right) provided updates and instructions.



*PASE President, Jerry Rogish (second row left) addresses members during the opening ceremonies.

*Sean McLaurin of NHTSA (second row right) delivered an informative and memorable keynote address.

Workshops & General Sessions (Below)



Past-President Jim Crawford introduces Terry Kline prior to a general session



Terry Kline – Eastern Kentucky University



Anne Titler - PennDOT

Photo Highlights, continued from page 9

Workshops & General Sessions, continued



Lou Pesci - IUP

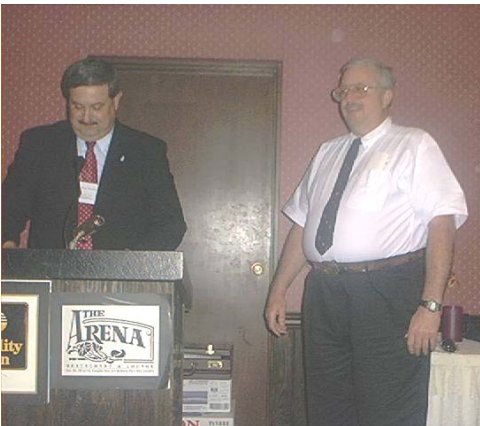


Vince Phillips – PASE Lobbyest



John Worzbyt - IUP

PASE Banquet



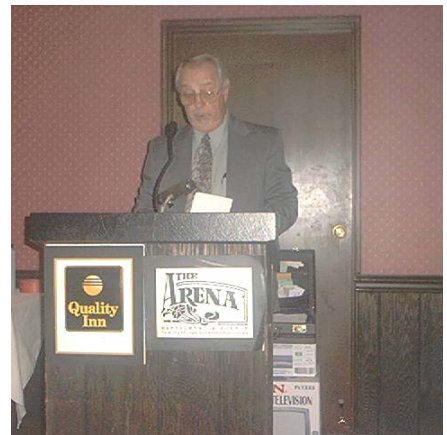
*Brad Bradshaw and Jerry Rogish start off the evening festivities (left)



*PASE Officers for 2002-2003 are sworn in (right)



*Jerry Rogish presents Ron Strapel with the Special Service Award (left). Ron has diligently served Pase, taking on several different roles. Ron, (right), provides members with the invocation.



Click It or Ticket: Two Tickets...Two Fines What Does it Mean to Me?

You may have heard it on the radio...or seen it in an article, especially during the month of May. Click It or Ticket is the catch phrase that is encouraging motorists to buckle up in many states including Pennsylvania.

But, Click It or Ticket is more than a phrase that's intent is to stick in our minds and drive us to develop and stick with the healthy habit of buckling up on every ride. Click It or Ticket is high-profile campaign that is driven by law enforcement and the cooperation of highway safety educators. The campaign's intent is to show the public that law enforcement officers are watching drivers and passengers to ensure that they are using their seatbelts, and restraining children in child passenger restraint systems. And, if they aren't, there can be consequences.

In brief summary of the Pennsylvania's Vehicle Code Title 75, Section 4581, anyone transporting children under the age of four shall fasten them securely into an approved child passenger restraint system. Violators may be stopped as a primary offense for non-compliance of the Child Passenger Protection Act.

Additionally, each driver and each front seat occupant of a passenger car, class I or II truck or motor home shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt. A conviction under this paragraph by State or local law enforcement agencies shall occur only as a secondary action when a driver of a motor vehicle has been convicted of any other provision of title 75. Hence, if you violate another provision of title 75 that is considered a primary offense, you can be in store for another ticket if you aren't buckled up.

In addition to enforcement efforts, the campaign allows drivers and passengers in the Commonwealth the opportunity to gain more information about the importance of buckling up from many sources. In countless cases, law enforcement officials have teamed up with highway safety offices to educate and remind citizens that their common goal is to prevent motor vehicle deaths and injuries.

Enforcement and education are key elements to the Click It or Ticket campaign. But, take a moment to learn why buckling up and securing children in the proper restraints is key...Remember, buckling up and spreading the word farther starts with you.

Become A Member!!!

If you haven't already, The Pennsylvania Association for Safety Education (PASE) would like to invite YOU to become a member. If you have questions, or are interested in becoming a member today, please contact us at the toll-free telephone number listed below and let us know!

IUP Highway Safety Center
1-800-896-7703

Also, visit our web site at adtsea.iup.edu/pase for more information today!

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Inside!!!

2002 Conference Highlights...

If you missed it...you missed out!