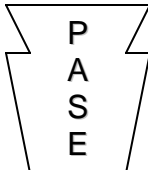


# PASETTER

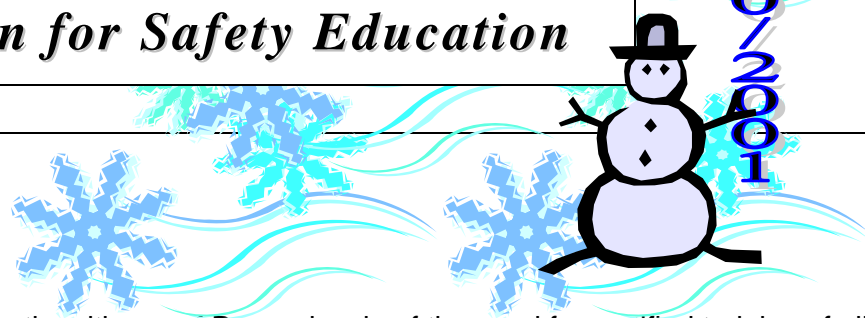


WINTER  
NOON  
HO-HO-HO

## *Pennsylvania Association for Safety Education*

### **President's Report...**

*By: James R. Crawford  
PASE President*



Through a series of articles, I hope to re-educate the citizens of Pennsylvania of the need for certified training of all new drivers, and the re-educating of all existing drivers to reduce the number one cause of death to persons under age 44. That cause is motor vehicle crashes. For many years, they were termed MVA's or motor vehicle accidents. Crashes are no accident. They are often caused by inexperienced or poorly trained individuals. Proper training can reduce the number of crashes, the number of fatalities, and also reduce the severity of injury.

This year I am serving as President of the Pennsylvania Association for Safety Education (PASE). In that capacity I will act as chief representative of my organization and as such, have established the following goal: I will update, and make aware, all Pennsylvania drivers of everyday hazards on our highways. In addition, I will publicize our organization's position that all drivers in our state should be properly trained before receiving a driver's license.

These two goals seem reasonable but the causal citizen might ask, "Aren't we already aware of everyday hazards?" Pennsylvania residents might also ask, "Aren't all students receiving proper training before they receive a driver's license?" This article will attempt to inform the motoring public that they are not as up to date as they think they are, and that the driving situation can be improved. Successive articles will take one aspect of the driving task and educate or update drivers with current information. Pennsylvania is a state with the second most number of retirees, and many of those individuals who have been driving for over 50 years have had no formal training.

I have lived all my life in Pennsylvania, and as a youngster was told that PA was known as the "safe driver state." I'll bet many of our residents wouldn't agree to that claim today. I haven't heard that slogan in many years. Since that time, "You've got a friend in Pennsylvania" and "America Starts Here" have been touted by our state to promote tourism. As president of PASE, I hope to once again make PA the safe driver state. How did we first acquire that title? Pennsylvania had many reasons for claiming that slogan. Education, Engineering and Enforcement are the main criteria for safety. Amos Neyhart, the founder of Driver Education, was an instructor at Penn State and was responsible for the first driver education class in State College, PA. Our state began the movement that spread nationwide.

*(continued on page 2)*

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**The PASETTER  
would like to wish  
everyone a happy,  
healthy and safe**

*(president's report, continued from page 1)*

The Pennsylvania Turnpike was the first limited access highway in the nation. This forerunner of our Interstate Highway System may now seem dated in spots, but it was the attention of attention for every state in the nation. In fact, the Interstate System was proposed by President Eisenhower (another Pennsylvanian) to better defend our nation. The engineering of PA highways was once state of the art. To go along with the nations best roads, Pennsylvania also developed one of the best state police forces. Pennsylvania "troopers" were known to be vigilant enforcers of the Motor Vehicle Code.

What has happened? Pennsylvania still has fine highways, and an excellent police force but driver education has been cut from many of our schools. In other schools, driver education is an elective or offered during the summer. Now it competes with computer training, a myriad of course offerings, and summer jobs or vacations. Parents have become apathetic and unsupportive.

Parents who are supportive and wish to help the next generation of Pennsylvania drivers need to know some things. A good place to start is when the student first gets behind the wheel. Most parents tell their teens to hold the wheel at "10 and 2." This reference is as if the steering wheel were a clock. Positioning the hands at 10 and 2 was the long standing technique and assumed to be the best positioning. General Motors test track drivers in the 1980's found that better control was obtained by positioning at "9 o'clock and 3 o'clock." Did you notice that cars manufactured in the 90's lowered the hand grip areas to 8 o'clock and 4 o'clock? What do most people do? Most still drive with a 10 and 2 hand position. Positioning at 8 and 4 is now the recommended position because of the airbag. With this hand position the airbag can open in the event of a crash and not force the driver to lose control following contact. This position is also more compatible to the body and is less tiring during long periods of operation. A lifetime of driving with a 10 and 2 position can lead to an increase in the wear and tear in the shoulder joint. Hand over hand steering accentuates the problem. I will address a new pattern of steering in my next article.

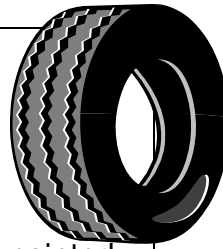
Beginning drivers should make a fist, then extend the thumb toward the roof of the car. This "thumbs up" grip should be used and both hands must be on the wheel. With two hands on the wheel in a balanced position at 8 and 4 (in the wheel grip areas) the student driver will be in position to safely control the vehicle. Veteran drivers who use the 10 and 2 should lower their grip. Most will say, "This feels uncomfortable," and immediately abandon this hand position. Behavioral scientists state that it takes 15 repetitions to establish habit and if a bad habit has been formed it takes 15 times to break a habit and 15 times to establish a correct one. Of course it will feel uncomfortable. Give it time! If you want to teach the correct position to your teenager, you must model the correct behavior yourself.

In addition to hand position, how close to the wheel do you sit? Car manufactures suggest a minimum of 10 inches from the airbag to the chest/face. More space is preferable. The airbag will inflate at about 200 mph for the first 6 inches. In a 50 mph crash, you will move forward at 50 mph for 6 inches. Hopefully the airbag will be fully inflated when you arrive. Sitting too close to the wheel will lessen the benefit of an airbag and can cause some serious injury from the bag itself. To properly find the correct distance from the wheel for each individual, first sit behind the wheel and extend both arms above the steering wheel. Make a fist with each hand and bring them together such that both thumb and forefingers are touching. Palms are down and knuckles are up much like someone who is holding the oars in a rowboat. Your wrists should be touching the steering wheel at the 12 o'clock spot. Adjust the seat to establish this position.

In my next article, I will address push/pull steering, a replacement for the very common hand over hand technique. If any of the information in the previous several paragraphs is new to you, maybe you are not prepared to be the sole instructor of a new driver.

## Tire Safety Tips...

Submitted by Juli McGreevy, State Coordinator  
Coalition for Vehicle Choice



Recent media attention to the Firestone tire recall has pointed up the importance of proper tire maintenance. Here are a few tips for helping to ensure the safety of your tires:

Check tire pressure at least once a month for better safety, fuel economy and tread wear. Don't over-inflate or under-inflate tires. Your vehicle owner's manual contains important safety information about the tire pressure that is safe for your vehicle.

Check tire treads. Less than 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch of tread means tires are "bald" and should be replaced. Insert a penny between the treads. If the top of the Lincoln's head is showing, you need new tires. Bald tires won't provide proper traction and are unsafe.

Rotate tires every six months to minimize tire wear. The owner's manual shows how to do this.

If you live in an area where there's lots of snow and ice in the winter, remember to use tires specifically designed for weather conditions.

Remember, your safety is riding on your tires

(From the fall "Update" of the Pennsylvania Coalition for Vehicle Choice)

The Members of the  
Pennsylvania Association  
for Safety Education, Inc.  
wish to recognize and thank  
the exhibitors who  
participated in the 2000  
Pase Conference

- ABS Education Alliance
- Delmar Thomson Learning
- Doron Precision Systems, Inc.
- Glencoe/McGraw Hill
- Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board
- PA Motorcycle Safety
- Safety Industries, Inc
- Simulator Systems International



## Gov. Ridge Announces Young Driver Reforms are Saving Lives

HARRISBURG (Jan. 5) – During his January radio address, Gov. Tom Ridge today shared with Pennsylvania the dramatic reductions in the number of teen drivers involved in crashes since Pennsylvania's young driver reforms took effect one year ago.

"Last December marked the one-year anniversary since all of the new changes took effect," Gov. Ridge said in his monthly radio address. "I'm pleased to report that the results are staggering – even better than we had hoped:

- "Crashes involving teen drivers were down 25 percent – that's about 1,000 fewer crashes compared to 1999;
- "Fatalities involving 16-year-old drivers were down more than 70 percent – from 55 in 1999 to 16 last year; and
- "Injuries resulting from crashes dropped nearly a third from more than 4,600 in 1999 to less than 3,300 last year.

(continued on page 5)

# Underage Drinking is Pennsylvania's number one drug problem

By: *Felicity M. DeBacco-Erni*

Many adults don't know that it is illegal to give alcohol to those under 21 – even their own children in their own homes. Sometimes, parents and others think that they can do teenagers a favor and keep them safe by taking away the car keys and having kids stay until they are sober enough to drive. Not only is this illegal, it is also extremely unsafe. People who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to become alcoholics than those who begin drinking at 21.

“Alcohol is not going to disappear from our society,” said Justin Eichenlaub, a freshman at the University of Pittsburgh. “The real effort must be made in eliminating underage access to alcoholic beverages.” Several years ago, Eichenlaub and other students in Erie launched Project Sticker Shock. They teamed up with beer distributors to put stickers on cases of beer that warn that “It is illegal to buy or provide alcohol for anyone under 21.”

The project capitalizes on kid power to ensure that everyone receives a consistent message about the law. Erin Jones, a sophomore from Big Spring High School in Newville who participated in the project this year said, “Maybe people who see the stickers will think about what's going on around them.”

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board is underwriting the project so other communities can participate. If your community is interested, please contact Lynda Kerr at [Lkerr@lcb.state.pa.us](mailto:Lkerr@lcb.state.pa.us) or 717-772-1432.

*“Maybe people who see the stickers will think about what's going on around them.”*

*- Erin Jones, Big Spring High School*



## PASE Membership Application

Dues for active members \$20, Retiree \$10, Student \$5 per year.  
Sustaining Membership is \$100.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_ School/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Ron Strapel, PASE Secretary/Treasurer, 1840 Marengo Road, Warriors Mark, PA 16877

(Gov. Ridge Announces Young Driver Reforms are Saving Lives, Cont.)

“This is great news. Simply put, it means these are Pennsylvanians who are alive today because we took these important steps. That’s something we all can feel good about.”

“But we can’t be satisfied – not as a state, not as individuals. As parents, we all must take time to talk to our teens about safe driving habits.”

“Let’s help our teens get the practice time they need to prepare them for the road ahead. Let’s help all of them become safe drivers. It’s in their best interest – and ours.”

The reforms were part of legislation that Gov. Ridge called for in January 1999, to better prepare young Pennsylvanians to drive safely and save lives.

Gov. Ridge signed the measure into law in June 1999. The extended nighttime and passenger restrictions took effect in August 1999. The other graduated licensing reforms took effect in December 1999.

“For many teens, a driver’s license is but the first stop on the road to freedom,” Gov. Ridge said. “In reality, it’s a privilege that comes with tremendous responsibility. After all, when young drivers get behind the wheel, they take their lives – and ours – in their hands.”

“For too long, it was too easy for teenagers to get a driver’s license in Pennsylvania. And the results too often were tragic. In 1998 alone, while overall fatalities on Pennsylvania’s highways declined, the number of young driver fatalities shot up 13 percent. For 15 to 20-year-olds, the number one cause of death was traffic accidents.”

“That’s why I asked the General Assembly to change Pennsylvania’s young driver laws – to give teens the practice time they need, and to send young drivers a message that driving is a privilege – one that will be taken away if they do not drive responsibly.”

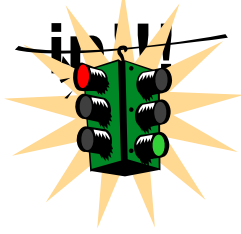
“Now, our youngest drivers must meet stricter standards before they get their license. They will face tougher consequences if they abuse their driving privileges.”

“Among the changes we made:

- “Requiring 50 hours of supervised behind-the-wheel practice;
- “Imposing a minimum six-month learner’s permit, instead of 30 days;
- “Tightening the curfew on late-night driving;
- “Now, only drivers who are crash free and conviction free for an entire year can become eligible for a regular license before age 18;
- “And, finally, suspending a Junior driver’s license if he or she violates our traffic laws multiple times or commits a single high speed violation.”

(continued on page 8)

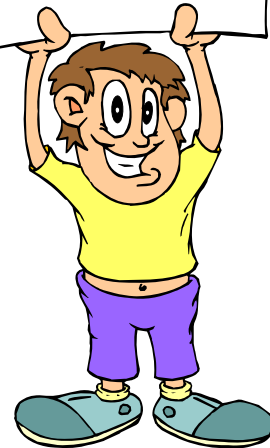
# Send those articles



**If your school is planning an activity that deals with highway safety...we'd like to know. Send your articles to:**

Dana Bowser, Pasetter Editor  
Highway Safety Center  
R&P Building  
629 Fisher Avenue

# Don't Forget!



See page nine of this issue of the PASETTER to register for the 2001 PASE Conference

## Be A Part Of IT!!

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:

Dana Bowser, Editor  
The Pasetter  
Highway Safety Center  
R&P Building  
629 Fisher Avenue  
Indiana, PA 15705

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Article: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Author(s) of Article: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any sources that you acquired information for your article from, and would like noted at the end of the article:

Special Instructions:

Please submit your articles in typed form. If you would like an article 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.**

# Student Advisory Activity

By: John Decker



Teachers need everyone's support if we're to encourage our youth to succeed in life and build safe driving skills. The primary goal of driver education is to help young drivers become responsible drivers, well aware of, and better able to manage, the risks of driving. The driver education program provides an opportunity to learn the meanings of risk, how to avoid high-risk situations if possible and minimize them if unavoidable.

The Student Driver Advisory Activity is an attempt to help young, new drivers to understand that they are not alone in their quest to earn their driver's license and become the safest driver to talk with, about questions, concerns, problems they may have as they learn to drive.

During the first or second day of class, students are assigned the task of recruiting at least four (you pick the number) licensed drivers to serve on their committee. Three must have at least five years experience as a licensed driver. One may be a fellow student with less than five years driving experience. At least one must be a parent. Hopefully this will help build a relationship that will allow the student and parent to weather the student driving experience better and show the students that their parents are really pretty sharp and helpful. The committee members must be available, and willing, to talk with the student driver about their questions, concerns, problems, etc.

The committee recruitment form explains the purpose of the activity, what is expected of committee members, and a space to put their name, relationship to the student (parent, friend, boss, neighbor), and years licensed. They sign the form indicating their willingness to help.

Early in the course, and then periodically, students are assigned a project that requires them to talk with their advisors. An example might be: talk with someone you know who has a car with cruise control. Find out when the person used cruise control. Does the person feel that concentration is less on the road because of cruise control?

Through their advisors, students will have individuals they can talk with about their driving, as they learn, and gain insight into the responsibilities of safe driving, the variety of different perspectives other drivers have, and the maturity to manage risk and become the responsible and safe driver we all want them to become.

(Those interested in receiving additional information should contact John Decker).

# PASE Nominations for Office

Vice President: \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Secretary/Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Rehabilitation Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult/Community Education: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Parliamentarian: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail by February 15, 2001 to:

J.J. Miller  
AAA West Penn/West VA/SCO  
196 Murtland Avenue  
Washington, PA 15301

\*Please include phone number of nominee



(Gov. Ridge Announces Young Driver Reforms are Saving Lives, Cont.)

According to the state Transportation Department (PennDOT), the statistics – which cover January to September – also show crashes involving 16-year-old drivers between 11 p.m. and midnight also were cut by 52 percent, and crashes between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. were down a full 10 percent.

To help adults who supervise young drivers organize behind-the-wheel practice time into meaningful lessons, PennDOT has produced a publication called, “How to Steer Them to Safe Driving.”

The publication, as well as more information regarding young-driver safety and licensing requirements, is available on PennDOT’s website, which can be accessed through the PA PowerPort, [www.state.pa.us](http://www.state.pa.us), or directly at [www.dot.state.pa.us](http://www.dot.state.pa.us).

(The above information was provided through a news release made available by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of the Governor, Commonwealth News Bureau)



**2001 PASE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM  
 RADISSON LACKAWANNA STATION HOTEL, SCRANTON  
 700 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, SCRANTON, PA 18503  
 MAY 3, 4 AND 5, 2001**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ School/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Advanced registration before April 15, 2001 is \$130.00. After April 15<sup>th</sup>, the fee for late registration is \$150.00. The registration fee includes breaks, listed meals and conference materials. **LODGING IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE REGISTRATION FEE.** Hotel reservations can be made via: 800-333-3333, 570-342-8300 or fax 570-342-0380. PASE has 100 rooms blocked for the conference **until April 15<sup>th</sup>**. Single Occupancy \$108.90 per night. Double occupancy \$108.90 per night. Specify two double beds or one queen size bed.

<b>Conference Registration</b>	Number	Total
Active (Early) \$130.00	_____	_____
Active (Late) \$150.00	_____	_____
Student \$120.00	_____	_____

**Extra Tickets (Guest/Spouse)**

Thursday Night Dinner	\$25.00	_____	_____
Friday Breakfast	\$13.00	_____	_____
Friday Luncheon	\$15.00	_____	_____
Friday Banquet	\$30.00	_____	_____

Membership: PASE dues are payable either before or at the Conference Registration Table.

Active	\$ 20.00	_____	_____
Retiree	\$ 10.00	_____	_____
Student	\$ 5.00	_____	_____
Sustaining	\$120.00 (Exhibitors)	_____	_____

**NOTE: As part of Act 48, we will be a provider for the in-service credit.**

Please make registration remittance payable to PASE, Inc. and send to:

Ronald J. Strapel  
 1842 Marengo Road  
 Warriors Mark, PA 16877

If you have any questions, please call 814-692-5578 or fax 814-692-8494