

CASE Newsletter

California Association for Safety Education Volume XVIII, Number 3 - Sept. 2008

Teen Death and Injury Remains a Priority

by Jerry Gaines

CASE Governmental Relations Representative

This year has seen key organizations take note of the number one teen health issue, death and injury from collisions on the state's highways. Caltrans noted that teen deaths and injuries from highway crashes were one of its top three priorities in drafting its new Strategic Highway Safety Plan. This year the California State Parent Teachers Association listed early teen deaths and injuries on the highways as one of its top legislative priorities.

State Senator Tom Torlakson from the Bay Area held a hearing in February on what needs to be done to address the number one teen health issue: death and injury on the highways. CASE president Shannon Woods and Immediate Past President John Knippel testified on the nature of traffic safety education as it exists today. They noted the critical issues associated with public school, private school, and commercial school driver education programs as well as the issue of weak governance oversight that currently exists in the state.

Senator Torlakson in turn introduced SB 1114 to address the issue by identifying more effective ways to reduce the loss of teen lives and in turn the significant economic loss to the state's economy. His bill sought to collect \$10 from each new teen driver's license applicant to fund a task force to seek more effective ways to prepare teens for entering the highway system. In addition, the bill would have provided grant funding to public schools who chose to offer free driver education to their students (designed to address the inequity of low income students not being able to afford commercial school driver education classes).

As readers know the state is in its worst ever budget crisis with no new 2008-2009 budget adopted as of this writing. SB 1114 passed the Senate and the Assembly Transportation Committee earlier this year. Because of the budget stalemate and strong opposition from the Governor's Finance Department, Senator Torlakson chose not to bring his bill up for a vote in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, so his efforts to address the teen health crisis had to end this year.

What readers need to know is that although Senator Torlakson is termed out in the Senate this year, he is a candidate for election in the State Assembly next year with hope to continue to serve California in the Legislature as a state assemblyman. Given the support from Caltrans, California State PTA, California Teachers Association, and other key support groups, we hope to see renewed efforts with legislators such as Senator Torlakson to address the teen traffic safety health crisis next year.



President's Message

by Shannon Woods

I love teaching. I love teaching driver education. I love it so much I can easily start obsessing. One might say that I have a passion for traffic safety. So here we are at the start of another school year. The opportunity for us to reach out and make a lasting impression on the minds and hearts of the teens we have been entrusted to teach weighs heavily upon us as we face an ever restricting budget crunch, less support from our schools and what seems like insurmountable setbacks. While these things may cause us to be dismayed or frustrated, I say "Chin up!" We have done many positive things in the name of traffic safety and have many more great things to accomplish. It is those positive things I wish to focus on for a moment.

Senator Torlakson's SB1114 would have restored much-needed funds to schools that offer driver education and encouraged other schools to begin driver education classes. We appreciate Senator Torlakson's legislative efforts to address the issue of teen deaths and injuries on California's highways.

Continuing on the positive notes, the University of California Riverside Extension completed the last class of the session this summer adding nine new credentialed teachers. This is only the tip of the iceberg as we hope the demand for trained teachers will increase. In fact the other day, my VP asked me whom, beside myself, was certified to teach driver education because there wasn't a way for me to fill the need for next year by myself. Another positive thing is our position in the spotlight. Right now we are enjoying increased awareness of the need for Driver Education. The California PTA has

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President's Message

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identified traffic safety as their number 3 concern. This has never been one of their priorities before.

Lastly, I have included the websites for the upcoming National Teen Driver Safety Week sponsored by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. There are three websites for you to visit. www.ntdsw2008.org is the site targeted to teachers. You can download materials, get lesson plans, and find cool activities geared towards a peer-to-peer message. www.raising safedivers.org is the site geared for parents so they can have a way to speak to their teen about being a safe driver. The third site, www.ridelikeafriend.com is the site for the teens. Here they can get tips about being a good friend who is a good passenger. The theme for this campaign is *Ride Like A Friend, Drive Like You Care*. National Teen Driver Safety Week is October 19-25, 2008. It is a great opportunity for you to interact with teens to help them present safe driving messages to their friends. Start a campaign at your school or a school near you.

But now to the heart of the matter. Albert Einstein said, "We cannot make changes using the same kind of thinking that created the problem." To me, this challenges us to identify major issues and then look, think, and act differently in order to find solutions. We can no longer be complacent as our programs are nickel and dimed away. We need to outreach to our communities and make that parent connection. We must demonstrate courage and support our peers to join our ranks as driver educators. We have a serious teacher shortage in our field. But, like in the movie "Field of Dreams", IF you build it, they will come. We need to build our certified numbers. We must be ready to meet the demand so there can be no excuses.

As your president, I have three goals for our association:

1. Increase membership.
2. Make ourselves more visible
3. Improve member communications

I believe these goals are not unreachable. However, they cannot be met without your

help. I know you are overworked and underpaid. I know you have other obligations beyond your Driver Education class. But I challenge you to examine where and in what capacity you can dig in and do more. This is my passion. I have more than enough. Take some of mine; I will gladly pass it on. Have a great and active school year.



CASE Calendar

September 21-27, 2008 - National Child Passenger Safety Week. Contact: NHTSA, www.nhtsa.dot.gov/childps/planner/index.cfm

October 6-10, 2008 - National Drive Safely to Work Week. Contact: Network Employers for Traffic Safety, www.trafficsafety.org

October 19-25, 2008 - National Teen Driver Safety Week. Contact: www.ntdsw2008.org

December 1-31, 2008 - National Crackdown on Drunk/drugged Driving Month. Sponsored by MADD, NHTSA and GHSA. Contact: www.MADD.org

March 20-21, 2009 - 57th Annual CASE Conference, Delta King Riverboat, 1000 Front Street, Old Sacramento, CA. See the conference registration form included in this newsletter.

May 2009 - National Youth Traffic Safety Month. Contact: www.NOYS.org

Teacher Preparation Courses

For information on Driver Education teacher prep courses in the Northern California and Riverside areas, contact Anna Maria Toma at UC Riverside School of Extended Education (951) 827-1661.

CASE Newsletter

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California Association for Safety Education 57th Annual CASE Conference

Delta King Riverboat Hotel

1000 Front Street, Old Sacramento, CA 95814

Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21, 2009, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Join us in Old Sacramento next spring for an outstanding traffic safety education conference! We are again planning a stimulating and interesting program with presentations from top educators and experienced professionals in traffic safety education.



- The Delta King Riverboat Hotel room rate for attendees is \$109 plus tax, single or double occupancy for Thursday and Friday nights only. If you wish to stay Saturday night, the charge will be at the hotel's regular rate. Call the Delta King for reservations Toll-Free 1-800-825-5464 and state that you wish to make a reservation under the *Group Reservation Room Block for CASE (Reservation #208430)*. **Rooms must be reserved by February 9, 2009** to receive the Conference Rate, but you are urged to reserve your room early as availability is limited. The hotel is located at 1000 Front Street, Old Sacramento.
- Conference Registration Fee: \$145 for CASE members or \$185 for non-CASE members. The \$185 fee includes a one-year CASE membership. Make checks payable to **CASE Conference** (Registration Form below). Fee includes a continental breakfast both days, a Friday night reception, and a banquet-style luncheon on Saturday. **Conference registration fee must be received by February 28, 2009 to guarantee Saturday banquet meal.** Registrations received after February 28 are \$185 (\$225 for non-members).

----- REGISTRATION FORM -----

Registration must be received no later than February 28, 2009

Mail check to: CASE Conference, 25 Shelbourne Place, San Mateo, CA 94402

Name: _____ School District/Business _____

Address: _____ Evening Phone () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail: _____

Registration Fee Enclosed: \$ _____ (\$145 CASE members, \$185 non-members*) if received by February 28, 2009

School District Purchase Orders not accepted (if your school district is paying for registration, a district check must be sent with this registration form attached).

1 unit of state university Professional Development Credit available for a fee payable at the Conference Registration Desk

* \$185 fee includes one-year CASE membership

Strategic Highway Safety Plan Teen Task Force

Jerry Gaines, CASE Governmental Relations Representative

In May, Caltrans held a traffic safety summit in both Anaheim and Sacramento to introduce its new **Strategic Highway Safety Plan**. At this event interested stakeholders who attended the workshop that focused on “**Challenge Area 6– Reduce Young Driver Fatalities**” formed a facilities task force to address issues identified in the SHSP. Kathy Kelly of the Department of Motor Vehicles agreed to chair the group and CASE members Bill Cole and I agreed to serve with other participants, including representatives from the California Department of Education.

Several strategies were identified for study by the SHSP task force that Dr. Bill Cole served on during the past year. The strategies focus on topics related to:

- *governance* (having a single entity provide oversight for driver education and driver training),
- *standardized criteria utilized by all private/public agencies,*
- *driver education and driver training for all first time drivers,*
- *extending provisional licensing to all first time drivers aged 20 and under,*
- *having parent requirements for attending orientation prior to driver training,*
- *modify rules for testing and retesting,*
- *eliminating traffic violators schools for teens to dismiss violations,*
- *increasing penalties for violations to existing GDL restrictions,*
- *and enhancing the GDL program to stay crash/violation free for at least six months prior to achieving the next level (e.g. no crash or violation for six months using a provisional license before moving to an unrestricted license.)*

The facilities task force has met twice this summer (with some members participating by teleconference). Plans are being made to hold meetings every four to six weeks. Steve Bloch of the Automobile Club of Southern California will be releasing in October new data on the findings of changing the GDL curfew from midnight to 11:00 p.m. recently. Preliminary results appear to be favorable in regard to this change in the GDL curfew.

Although not a change in SHSP, the Facilities Task Force may draft suggestions for proposed legislation to assist in the possibility of achieving some of the strategies noted above. Updates will be provided in future editions of the *CASE Newsletter*.

CASE E-mail List

To be included in our e-mail list, send a message with the subject line “Add to CASE E-mail” to:
casemembership@sbcglobal.net

Free: *Toxic Tales of Teens and Alcohol* Video

To combat the high incidence of teen crashes nationwide, the Recording Artists, Actors and Athletes Against Drunk Driving (RADD) Coalition and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), both members of the National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS), have joined forces with private and public partners. The coalition is promoting a campaign aimed at fostering dialogue between parents and teens and their peers on the importance of not driving impaired, buckling up, maintaining safe speeds and preventing underage drinking. The coalition's first outreach campaign is in collaboration with HBO Family and its hard hitting documentary, *Smashed: Toxic Tales of Teens and Alcohol* with an accompanying community kit.

To order the DVD or video versions of *Smashed*, call the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information at the toll free number, staffed 24/7 - 1-800-729-6686. Please request DVD190 or VHS198. No email orders are being accepted at this time. Thanks to the generosity of RADD Youth Coalition members, underwriters and supporters, both the Kit and shipping are free of charge to the public.

Special Spouse Rate Offered for 2009 CASE Conference Meals

For the first time, CASE is offering a special meal rate for spouses who attend the 2009 Conference in Sacramento. The spouse rate of \$45 will include the Friday and Saturday continental breakfasts, Friday night reception, and Saturday banquet luncheon. The fee will not include attendance at the conference sessions.

If you wish to take advantage of this offer, please make a note on your registration form and include the \$45 fee in your check.

Comedy Club Conference Outing Planned for Friday, March 20

CASE members attending the 2009 Conference in Old Sacramento will have an opportunity to join a group outing Friday evening, March 20 at the Laughs Unlimited Comedy Club. Located on Front Street close to the Delta King Riverboat conference site, Laughs Unlimited has established itself as one of the premier comedy club venues in the country.



More information on the group outing will follow by mail and in the next issue of the CASE Newsletter.

National Child Passenger Safety Week Sept. 21-27

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among children in the United States, but many of these deaths can be prevented. Placing children in age- and size-appropriate car and booster seats reduces serious and fatal injuries by more than half, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA).



The goal of National Child Passenger Safety Week is to bring public attention to the importance of safely transporting children. This week was formerly held in February, but has been moved to September to allow more opportunities for communities to hold car seat check events without the threat of inclement weather.

For information about National Child Passenger Safety Week, visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov/childps/planner/index.cfm

DMV Study: Traffic Violation Dismissals Linked to Crash Risk

Drivers whose traffic violations are dismissed by courts in California after they have completed traffic school are more likely to be in another crash within a year than drivers whose convictions remain on their driving records. This conclusion was reported in a Department of Motor Vehicles study that updated previous agency research.

The study, "A traffic safety evaluation of California's traffic violator school citation dismissal policy" by Michael A. Gebers, compared two groups of California drivers who received traffic citations during 2000-2001. The traffic school group consisted of drivers who received violation dismissals, and the conviction group included drivers with one-point moving violations. Before the violations, the drivers who attended traffic school had characteristics associated with a lower crash risk than the drivers with convictions -- they were slightly older, more likely to be women, and more likely to drive commercially. They also had better driving records during the previous two years.

Despite their lower initial crash risk, traffic school drivers had a crash rate about 5 percent higher than that of convicted drivers during the year following the citation. When the traffic school drivers' lower initial crash risk was considered, their crash rate was estimated to be about 10 percent higher than it would have been without the dismissal. The findings corroborate three previous DMV reports indicating that traffic violator schools don't reduce drivers' risk of future crashes.

About 12,000 crashes in California each year occur because of the 1.2 million drivers whose citations are dismissed, the report estimates. The author estimates that annual economic losses associated with these crashes total \$398 million.

With a traffic violator school dismissal, a high-risk driver is able to sidestep penalties that normally would be deterrents, including license suspensions and revocations and higher insurance premiums. "Avoiding increased insurance premiums is one of the primary reasons violators choose the [traffic violator school] option," the report notes.

IHS Status Report, July 1, 2008

An advertisement for SSI driving simulators. The background is a grayscale image of a road stretching into the distance. The text "ON THE ROAD WITHOUT EVER HITTING PAVEMENT" is overlaid in large, bold, white letters. To the right, there is a list of features under the heading "SSI driving simulators are:". Below the list are several images of different simulator setups, including a full cockpit simulator and a workstation with multiple monitors.

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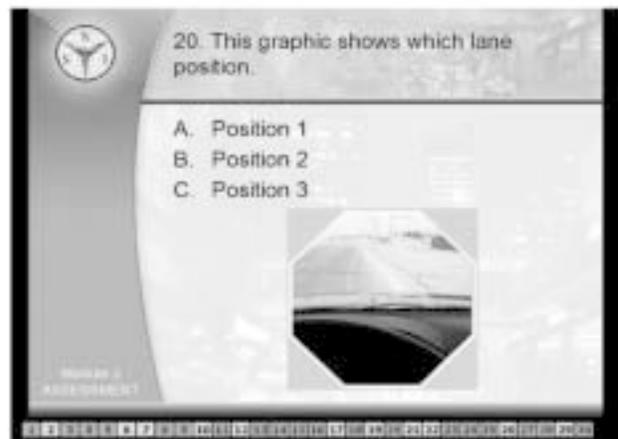


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Teacher Tip

Numbered Heads Variation

Submitted by Barbara Shiffermiller, CASE Past President

Materials:

Questions, twenty (20) minimum, I put them on worksheets so the students will have them in front of them to work from. It is not absolutely necessary to have a worksheet since you will be asking the questions orally.

A number or letter cube with six numbers or letters. I do not use dice with dots. I got the number cube from a specialty game store that has Dungeons & Dragons books and other card games. The letter cubes I got at an educational supply store.

Different colors of marbles or other colorful items for group colors. The amount is based on the size of your class and number of groups.

A bowl that the students can't see through to draw items from (marbles or other items).

Books that the students can use to find the answers to your questions. Every student needs one.

Instructions:

Groups can be set up in several ways. Groups need to have six students, but there always seems to be one group that has fewer than six. You can give the students two minutes to get in groups of six. You can choose the groups or you can use six of the same color marbles/other item to give to each student as they come in the door. You will need 36 or the number for your class with six items of each color. If you don't use this number of items just take six, or the number you need, different colors and have a representative of each group choose one. I do this by having a student from each group reach into a bowl they can't see into to make the choice random.

Each student in the group will represent a number or letter depending on the six sided cube you use. Groups that have less than six students will have students that represent more than one number or letter. Each group has a color. Put the colors on the board.

Use a timer. When used for review I give one minute to the students to look up the answers. When used to teach new material I give two to three minutes depending on the difficulty of the question. Time can be different for each question or the same.

Make sure to tell the students that one of them will be responsible to answer for the class. Ask a question, start the timer, then roll the cube near the end of the time and choose a color from the bowl. When the timer goes off have the student that represents that number/letter from that color group answer the question. I call the number first then the color to add a little drama.

I give one point for the correct answer within 30 seconds. If the student has started to answer I allow that student to complete the answer. If the answer is correct the group received a point. If the answer is incorrect choose another color. At this time you can also call a different number/letter if you wish and give a point to the group with the correct answer.

This is aimed at getting all students involved in learning and works well for all learners.

Please help us increase our membership!

Our Membership Committee is requesting that each member do his/her part to bring in new members. Please check with the driver education professionals at your school or district to see if they are members of CASE. If not, provide them with the membership application below and discuss the importance of belonging to their professional association.



Make check payable to:
CASE
25 Shelbourne Place
San Mateo, CA 94402

Membership Application (please type or print)

Professional Memberships are **\$40.00**. New memberships are valid for one year from date of receipt.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School: _____ District _____

County: _____

Phone: School or office () _____ - _____ Evenings: () _____ - _____

Referred by (optional): _____