Your commitment to IASE has never been more important. Our association’s membership has been shrinking to a core group. Though the number of driver educators has begun to rebound since the University of Northern Iowa ICN classes started, the number of people involved in the association and statewide safety education issues has decreased with retirements and for other reasons. It seems as if everyone has ten things pulling them in ten different directions and no one has time to volunteer. Adding to that problem is the fact that schools are reluctant to let instructors out for the annual fall conference.

As I watch our numbers reduce, I have wondered about how viable our organization is if it only touches less than a hundred of the 600–700 who teach driver ed in Iowa. To change this tide, we need to find ways to make an impact on the way education is being handled in driver education in Iowa. Here are several ways to do this:

• The Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) has taken over administrative control of driver education programs as of July 2002. The Iowa DOT’s curriculum committee has been meeting (see related article) and could use your input.
• Find a way to attend the fall conference. Almost every person who has attended conference workshops is surprised how much he/she learns and finds something new to apply in the classroom or car.
• Get involved politically. There is a movement in the Iowa legislature, House File 246, to abolish school permits. Among driver educators, and educators in general, there has been an age-old cry that many students abuse them and that students are endangered merely so that parents’ lives are more convenient.
• Talk to the educators in your area. I live in Warren County. I know that in the summer alone, local schools here employ 25 to 26 people. Yet only four are members of IASE. Any organization lives and dies by grassroots support. Talk to the other teachers in your area. Ask them if they would consider joining. Show them a newsletter or give them the web address (www.ctre.iastate.edu/iase/). It would only take a minute or two of your time, but you may provide that person with a resource that they need to improve their teaching and their interest.

Apart, without the association, we are just a bunch of individuals with small voices and impacts. Together, in the association, we can make a difference and have a great impact.

—Terry Garrett

ACTIVITY NOTE-BOOK AVAILABLE

Searching for ideas for classroom activities? IASE has printed copies of *Cookbook of Activities for Driver Education Classrooms* and still has a few left for a nominal cost to cover printing. Inside are 80 different activities on a variety of classroom topics. Order while supplies last by contacting President Garrett or Past President Ward (see page 2). The cost is $10 plus postage.
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SPRING 2003

STATEWIDE GUIDE

The Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) has initiated an effort to write a statewide curriculum guide. Essentially, this guide would be an update to the 1988 Iowa Department of Education curriculum guide, or what many teachers came to know as “the black notebook.” The Iowa DOT is hoping that this guide will be comprehensive and that instructors anywhere in the state could teach an entire classroom course from it with little or no other materials.

A committee has been formed to advise the Iowa DOT on what additions, changes, and issues need to be addressed since the issuance of the 1988 curriculum guide. If you have input or suggestions, contact any of the following members: Steve Tudor, Iowa DOT; Terry Garrett, SE Polk H.S.; Tim Linder, City H.S., Iowa City; Jim Miller, Moravia H.S.; David Sievers, East Central H.S., Miles; Gary Jorgensen, Orient-Macksburg H.S.; Dale Waggoner, Spencer H.S.; Herb Van Norstrand, Thomas Jefferson H.S.; Council Bluffs; and Terry Voy, transportation consultant for the Iowa Association of School Boards.

AFTER AN ACCIDENT

Even the most careful drivers may be involved in an accident. Knowledge of what to do after the accident can make the experience a little less frightening and reduce the chance of unnecessary complications.

After an Accident...

• Check for injuries. Life and health are more important than damage to vehicles.
• Check the vehicle. Note specific damage to all the vehicles involved.
• Exchange information. Write down the names, addresses, and license numbers of persons involved in the accident. Also, write the license number and description of the other vehicles.
• Call the police. Even if the accident is minor, the police should be notified immediately or as soon as possible.
• Look for witnesses. Jot down the names and addresses of anyone who may have witnessed the accident.

Other Dos and Don’ts
• DO jot down details about the accident, the location, and circumstances such as weather conditions and visibility.
• DO notify your insurance agent immediately.
• DON’T sign any document unless it is for the police or your insurance agent.
• DON’T make any statements on who was at fault.

Remember...

If you understand what to do right after an accident, you can help avoid running into serious complications later on. A good driver is one who drives defensively but is capable of handling an accident should it occur.

TRAFFIC SAFETY HISTORY TRIVIA

William Eno was nine years old in 1867 when he went to New York City with his mother. Their horse and carriage got in a traffic jam. Eno never forgot the experience. In 1903, he published Rules of Driving. He invented such rules as “slow traffic keep right” and “passing allowed on the left only.” He invented one-way streets, safety islands, rotary traffic, crosswalks, stop signs, and traffic cops. Throughout his life he hated to drive. His chauffeur drove him everywhere he went.

—Minnesota Driver & Traffic Safety Education Assoc.
BOOK LOOKS AT SUVS AND SAFETY

“One in every six new vehicles sold in the United States is a sport utility vehicle (SUV), and there are now 20 million of them in the nation’s garages. But the reality is that SUV occupants are at least as likely as car occupants to die in a crash and much more likely to be paralyzed. SUVs are hard to control, especially in emergencies, and inflict horrific injuries on the occupants of other vehicles they hit. They also guzzle gasoline, make global warming worse, and emit up to 5.5 times as much air pollution per mile as cars.”

This excerpt is drawn from the publicity materials for a new book entitled High and Mighty—SUVs: The World’s Most Dangerous Vehicles and How They Got That Way, published by Public Affairs Books. In the book, Keith Bradsher, The New York Times Detroit Bureau chief, presents evidence highlighting the following safety issues:

- SUVs are no safer for their occupants than cars.
- SUVs have worse brakes than cars.
- SUVs may be especially poor choices for teenagers to drive.
- SUVs have rollover concerns.

A note from Curt Hanson, IASE business manager: This book will be of interest to many driver education teachers. If the author is correct, we will see an increase in teen auto deaths as the first wave of SUVs grows old and becomes affordable to teen drivers. The book begs the question: Should we include more information about how the handling characteristics of SUVs and pickups differ from cars in driver education curriculums?

RECENT FINDINGS

Deer Whistles Examined

Air-fed deer whistles, small plastic devices attached to car bumpers to scare deer from roadways, are “acoustically ineffective,” according to research by the University of Connecticut. For more information, visit www.news.uconn.edu/reI02112.htm.

Drivers’ Use of Seat Belts Influences Children’s Actions

A 2002 seat belt study conducted for the Colorado Department of Transportation found “striking” differences in car-seat and seat-belt usage rates for children riding with buckled and unbuckled drivers.

States with Open Container Laws Have Fewer Alcohol-Involved Vehicle Crashes

Comparison of crash data showed states that lacked Open Container laws had significantly greater percentages of alcohol-involved fatal and single-vehicle crashes than the states with partially or fully conforming laws. For more information, see National Highway Traffic Safety Association, Traffic Tech Technology Transfer Series, June 2002.

DRIVE SAFER AMERICA! INITIATIVE

Continental Teves, manufacturer of automotive safety systems, has partnered with Indy car driver and automotive expert Lyn St. James to launch the “Drive Safer America!” national consumer awareness initiative. As a professional driver and concerned mother, St. James has long believed that drivers need to learn, and then practice, safe driving techniques. This initiative facilitates learning of today’s newer safety technologies. Go to www.drivesaferamerica.org for more information.

The IASE Board

wishes to thank IASE sustaining members for their contributions.
IASE BULLETIN

The IASE Bulletin is published twice a year for the Iowa Association of Safety Education by the Center for Transportation Research and Education at Iowa State University, Mark Anderson-Wilk, editor (515-294-7124, maw@iastate.edu).

Articles are written by IASE members and others interested in promoting safe driving. Submit articles for consideration to any board member (see pages 2–3). The information and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily those of IASE.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Standard membership is $40/year. Membership for students and retirees is $10/year. The fee includes a subscription to the Bulletin.

To become a member, submit check payable to IASE, along with your name, address, e-mail address, and phone number to the address below.

CONFERENCE REVIEW AND LOOK AHEAD

IASE and the Iowa Traffic Control and Safety Association (ITCSA) held a joint annual conference last October 31 and November 1 in Johnston, Iowa. The first day included ITCSA-focused topics such as satellite mobile data technologies, traffic engineering studies, and crash analysis tools. Friday was devoted to education and crossover topics such as improving older driver safety, GDL updates, technology to aid travelers, and the new weather and road condition reporting systems.

IASE had a Q&A forum with Terry Dillinger, Steve Tudor, and Toni Kerkove of the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) about the oversight change from Iowa Department of Education to Iowa DOT. After lunch, Dr. Terry Kline of Eastern Kentucky University gave great presentations on the impact of new vehicle technology in cars and the latest classroom and in-car techniques. I spoke to most of the educators in the room and everyone said they learned many things they could use with their students. Credit was offered for the first time in many years.

Those who attended from both IASE and ITCSA thought that the organizations complemented each other and that both groups benefited from the mix of presentations. The only negative was how few driver educators were present. Whatever the reason, many people missed out on a great conference. Please pay attention to the 2003 fall conference developments. There is talk of a “safety summit” to be sponsored jointly by IASE, ITCSA, and others. The conference would include multi-group sessions on Thursday and then each group meeting separately on Friday. We are still in the process of deciding whether to join this effort or to go it alone as we have in years past. Either way, please try to attend. Otherwise you won’t know what you’re missing.

—Terry Garrett

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

If passed, Iowa House File 246 would repeal the schools drivers’ license provision under Chapter 321, which allows a minor meeting certain requirements to operate a motor vehicle to and from the minor’s school. Please voice your support or concerns to your legislator and/or send me feedback.

—Craig Walter, Lobbyist