What a privilege it is to write to you and welcome you to our new format of the Bulletin! How exciting it is to see what kind of opportunities we have these days!

I got to go to the annual American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA) conference on July 29–August 1, and what a joy it was to go. Thank you to IASE for helping send me as their representative! It was a joy to get to meet many educators from around the nation and discuss what is happening in their area and work through different ideas together. For those of you who have never gone to the ADTSEA conference, it is a wonderful opportunity to make good friends, learn lots, and get lots of ideas to reenergize you in your teaching. I came away with good information and look forward to Kansas next year!

One of the main areas of focus was technology in education. We were presented with many ideas that people have been implementing in their classrooms and that have resulted in huge increases in students’ enthusiasm. If you are one of those people that hasn’t had a lot of computer background, you are not alone, but I truly believe that it is worth the learning! I am also one of those people, but I will say that I am more than excited to see what can be done. It is all a step-by-step process, and no one says that we have to have it all done overnight. I know through my school, there are lots of opportunities to start where I am and learn what I want to. Keeping up with our students’ learning needs and interests can make a huge difference for each of them!

Can you believe that our conference is just around the corner? It is coming fast and I am excited about all the work that Doree Ward and her team have been up to. You will be provided with a lot of information and hands-on teaching ideas, and seeing the driving simulator will be a neat opportunity. Hope to see you in November, because this is a conference you won’t want to miss! — Lisa Sears

Take advantage of this once-a-year opportunity to experience top-notch presentations and to meet and share ideas with other driver educators from across the state. You’ll be invigorated!

Highlights include:
• tours of the National Advanced Driving Simulator
• presentations on driving portfolios, “teachable moments,” youth/alcohol issues, and more
• business meeting/election of officers
• door prizes
• service awards

For registration information, contact Curt Hanson, IASE business manager, 641-472-3349 (h), 641-472-2059 (w), hansoncu@lisco.com.

For more information, including registration fees, hotel reservation information, and a detailed agenda, see IASE’s website, www.ctre.iastate.edu/iase/.
WHO PASSES STOPPED SCHOOL BUSES?

Evidently, lots of people. The Iowa Department of Education asked schools to log every illegal school bus pass-by during 1998 National School Bus Safety Week. On one day, bus drivers recorded 134 violations involving illegal passes of the school bus from the rear as the bus approached the school bus stop and 307 violations involving illegal passes from either the front or rear while the bus was stopped on the roadway with red lamps and stop arm extended.

Each violation represented an opportunity for injury and/or death to school bus passengers. Thankfully, Iowa’s school bus drivers are alert to this type of violation and do an excellent job of making sure students are properly trained and aware of motorists who may illegally pass the school bus.

Landmark Iowa legislation in 1988 allows school bus drivers who are illegally passed while stopped to file an official violation report with a law enforcement officer and thereby initiate a legal investigation. The law has had a substantial impact on the number of violations prosecuted and number of convictions obtained, but the number of violations is still too high. We need to do a better job of teaching drivers about their responsibilities as they approach or follow Iowa’s school buses. √

— Adapted from an article by Terry Voy, Iowa DOE, in the fall 2001 issue of Safety Lines, the newsletter of the Iowa Traffic Control and Safety Association.

SUMMARY OF IASE’S LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

IASE’s new listserv will keep members informed about relevant bills before the 2002 Iowa assembly. In general, IASE supports legislation that:

- requires the expanded use of headlights during daylight hours when visibility is reduced,
- provides stricter enforcement of child restraint laws,
- lowers the legal blood alcohol content of drivers to .08%,
- maintains the present 65 mph speed limit on Iowa Interstate and four-lane divided highways,
- requires the use of a helmet while operating mopeds or motorcycles on Iowa’s roadways,
- requires driver education teachers to fulfill Iowa’s educational requirements and hold a valid Iowa license,
- provides additional funding for driver ed programs, or
- shifts administration and curriculum development for driver education programs from the Department of Education to the Department of Transportation. √

— Adapted from IASE’s legislative platform

Looking for a useful classroom handout? Straightforward rules for sharing the road with school buses are clearly outlined in a new brochure by the Iowa Pupil Transportation Association and the Iowa Department of Education. For copies, contact Terry Voy, Iowa DOE, 515-281-4749, terry.voy@ed.state.ia.us.
Did you know that

• distracted drivers are a factor in 25–50 percent of all vehicle crashes?

• drivers are most often distracted by something outside the vehicle, followed by adjusting a radio or CD player, talking with other occupants, adjusting controls, and using a cell phone?

• hands-free cell phones may be just as distracting as hand-held phones? (It’s the conversation, not the device, that distracts drivers.)

The AAA is developing educational approaches that train drivers to recognize when they are being distracted and to manage distractions. For more information, contact Daron Van Helden, 952-707-4985, daron.vanhelden@mn-ia.aaa.com.

— This article was provided by AAA. For more information, see a longer version of the article online, www.ctre.iastate.edu/iase/.

So far at this year’s IASE board meetings, board members have approved the following actions:

• to oppose Iowa HF #5 (permitting driver education classroom sessions of 180 minutes; however, the legislature did pass this bill),

• to contract with Iowa State University’s Center for Transportation Research and Education to publish and maintain a newsletter, website, and e-mail listserv,

• to add the Iowa Department of Public Safety as an IASE service agency, pending approval at the annual meeting, and

• to continue IASE’s professional lobbying agreement with Walter and Associates.

In addition, the board discussed these topics:

• ways to accommodate school contract dates when setting IASE’s annual conference date,

• the possibility of UNI awarding credit for members attending the fall conference,

• the possibility of getting a curriculum development grant through Iowa DOT Research and Education funding,

• dividing Iowa into regions to allow board members to make personal contacts with potential members in their area of the state,

• initiating a Driver Education Teacher of the Year award to increase IASE membership and increase parental support, and

• the need to update the IASE bylaws.

Complete minutes of the January, April, and June 2001 board meetings are online at www.ctre.iastate.edu/iase/.

The next board meeting will be Thursday evening, November 8, 2001, in Iowa City (prior to the annual conference).
DON'T BE IN THE DARK
ABOUT NIGHT DRIVING

Did you know that
• the risk of being in a crash is 40 percent higher at night than during the day?
• darkness, glare, and the ability to recover from glare all affect night vision?
• the ability to focus and adjust to varying lights diminishes as we age?

Here are some tips to improve your ability to drive safely at night:
• Keep your eyes moving.
• Increase your following distance.
• Keep windows and headlights clean, and make sure all your exterior lights work.
• Use high beams whenever possible (but be considerate of other drivers).
• Don’t flash your high beams at inconsiderate drivers.
• When meeting vehicles, look ahead down the right edge of the roadway.
• Drive on well-lit streets and roads.
• Don’t tint your windows.
• During the day, protect your eyes from glare; you’ll see better at night!

This article was provided by AAA. A longer version is online, www.ctre.iastate.edu/iase/.

APPLY NOW FOR YOUR SERVICE
AND/OR RETIREMENT AWARD

Have you reached an important professional landmark? Your IASE peers want to recognize your accomplishment at the conference in November!

To apply for your service award and/or retirement certificate, complete the following application. Check the appropriate category(ies):

☐ 20 years teaching driver education
☐ 30 years teaching driver education
☐ 40 years teaching driver education
☐ retirement (year: _____________)

Name (as you want it to appear on the award or certificate): __________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City/zip code: ______________________________________
Home telephone: _________________________________
Work telephone: _________________________________
E-mail address: _________________________________

Mail this completed application by October 30, 2001, to Curt Hanson, 801 N. Court, Fairfield, IA 52556-2235, or e-mail the information to hansoncu@fairfield.k12.ia.us.

Another great resource—see the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association's website: adtsea.iup.edu/adtsea/default.asp

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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 the IASE.

For information about IASE, contact President Lisa Sears (see page 2). For information about the Bulletin, contact Marcia Brink, editor, 515-294-8103, mbrink@iastate.edu.