

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2007

Secretary of State's Teen Driver Task Force

The IL Traffic Safety Leaders continued their work with the Secretary of State's Teen Driver Task Force in Fiscal Year 2007. The organization was represented by Becky Markwell who was President at that time, along with groups such as the National Transportation Safety Board, the National Safety Council and the IL Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety, continued to work with Secretary of State Jesse White in the development and passage of the restrictions on graduated driver's license holders. The legislation was sponsored by Senator John Cullerton and State Representative John D'Amico and was signed into law August 20, 2007. The IL Traffic Safety Leaders is very proud to have been a part of this effort which made national headlines.

Fall Conference

The IL Traffic Safety Leaders played host to a one-day conference held in Lombard, Illinois on October 5, 2007.

The conference featured Keynote Speaker Dr. Charles Nozicka, Medical Director of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights. Dr. Nozicka's presentation included information about child passenger safety and child restraints as well as a discussion about the increase in deaths and injuries of teens and children due to their involvement in alcohol-related and speed-related crashes.

In addition to Dr. Nozicka's presentation, other workshop included discussions by Allstate and State Farm and a workshop on Illinois' Operation Lifesaver Program about railroad crossing safety.

Awards were presented at the conference luncheon to Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White and the Chicago Tribune for their work in the field of graduated driver's licensing and teen driver safety. Greg McCormick accepted on behalf of the Chicago Tribune and Secretary White attended the luncheon to accept his award.

Spring Conference

On May 7, 2008, the IL Traffic Safety Leaders held their second one-day conference for Fiscal Year 2008.

The conference opened with a presentation from Mike Witter of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Susan McKinney of the IL Secretary of State's Office and Toshiko Lukens from the IL Secretary of State's Office.

Mr. Witter provided updates on the progress Illinois has made in traffic safety over the years but also discussed the plateau the state has reached with regards to deaths and fatalities continuing to occur on Illinois' roadways.

Discussions were had about the need to increase awareness and enforcement in many areas but specifically including DUI and motorcycle safety.

Ms. McKinney presented a discussion to the attendees regarding the implementation of Illinois' new Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device (BAIID) law that will go into effect on January 1, 2009. The passage of Senate Bill 300 will require all first time alcohol offenders to have a BAIID installed in their vehicle as a condition of driving relief. Illinois is one of only six states that currently have this law.

Ms. Lukens provided an overview of Illinois' new graduated driver license law that went into effect on January 1, 2008. Because of the many different aspects of the law, there has been confusion among police departments about enforcement. Ms. Lukens also brought the attendees up-to-date on the new DUI legislation that has been enacted in the last year.

The afternoon portion of the conference was divided into four workshops. The conference attendees could choose from the topics to determine which they wanted to attend. The topics included teen driving restrictions enforcement, motorcycle safety, child passenger safety on school buses and Operation Click program for seat belt enforcement.

Two awards were presented at the conference luncheon. The first was presented to Don McNamara of the National Highway Safety Administration for his lifetime commitment to traffic safety and a corporate award was presented to Saturn Corporation for their traffic safety efforts.

Creation of a Website

In the early months of 2008, the IL Traffic Safety Leaders established a website to help raise awareness of the organization and increase traffic safety awareness. Under the guidance of the new president (Robert Brasky) this website, located at www.itsl.us is constantly updated with new material about the group and its events. It contains news items from the organizations affiliated with the IL Traffic Safety Leaders, copies of past newsletters, a list of upcoming events, contact information for the membership, membership application and a host of other traffic safety related issues.