

NAWHSL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN
HIGHWAY SAFETY LEADERS

December 2022



Merry Christmas!

WE WISH YOU A SOBER AND SAFE
HOLIDAY FROM NAWHSL



Last Christmas Holiday Remix

*Last Christmas I drove sober and safe
And the very next day you drove wasted away
This year, to save me from tears
Have someone sober drive you*



December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Month

During this holiday season especially, let us remember all those we have lost to impaired driving and take simple steps to save lives. I encourage every American to plan ahead how you will get home after drinking and to be sure that if you have used any substance you never get behind the wheel.

Ride-share apps make it easier than ever to stay safe. And whenever you see loved ones or colleagues putting themselves or others at risk, step up to offer a hand. Lives depend on it.

President Joseph R. Biden
(Proclamation excerpt)





Alex Otte: 2022 Distinguished Young Woman in Traffic Injury Prevention

Alex Otte was honored as the winner of this year's scholarship from the National Association of Women Highway Safety Leaders at the 2022 conference. Alex is a seasoned advocate for safer roadways and waterways in the United States. Lauren "Alex" Otte is not only the youngest National President of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), but she is also the survivor of a tragic boating accident. At the age of 13, Alex's life quickly changed when she was run over by a boating driver

who was under the influence. As a result of Alex's appalling experience, she now has dedicated her life to ensuring others will not encounter a similar experience.

Alex has extensive experience in formulating legislation for driving under the influence (DUI) and boating under the influence (BUI). She has served the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators as a researcher and analyst. Alex's success has led her to participating in the passing of legislative reform, including the HALT Act and ignition interlock law in her home state of Kentucky. Her experience in legislation will prove to be invaluable as she works to create a user-friendly database for the public and government.

Alex's NAWHSL project will be to create a nationwide database that provides information on DUI and BUI laws and consequences. This database will help offenders understand the penalty they will pay if they drive or boat under the influence and will also encourage state government to compare their DUI and BUI laws to other states.

Alex has been recognized by MADD for the National Youth Activist of the Year Award in 2015 and served as a National Teen Influencer 2014. Today, Alex has become an influencer through her numerous speeches given at conferences across the United States. With a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Kentucky, Alex is now pursuing a Master of Business Administration-Marketing at the University of the Cumberlands.



2023 Scholarship Application Period is Open

Young Women in Injury Prevention are Invited to Apply

Award Includes:

\$1,000 stipend

Opportunity to present at the 2023 NAWHSL Conference in New York City, and more!

Eligibility: Age 30 or below; Student, Employee, or Intern

Application period: September - December 31, 2022

Winner Announcement: January 31, 2023

Project Period: February - August 1, 2023



Go to NAWHSL.org for Application

2022 CONFERENCE

TRAFFIC SAFETY IN AN EQUITABLE WORLD



Can You See That First Responder?

The high intensity lights and reflective vehicle markings may have unintended consequences for first responders. The combination may actually make it more difficult for approaching motorists to see them at night, according to a recent study.

Researchers for the Emergency Responder Safety Institute asked volunteer civilian drivers to approach different emergency lights setups on a closed course at night. The setups were designed to mimic a traffic incident scene, and featured a silhouette cutout of a firefighter wearing a hi-vis safety vest along with 14 combinations of lamp color, lamp intensity, pattern, flash rate and presence of reflective markings next to the lights.



Results showed that when fluorescent and reflective markings were present, the drivers could not see the silhouette until they were up close. Detection of the silhouette occurred the earliest in the tests featuring high-intensity lights and no reflective markings. ERSI stated that they plan future research. <https://www.respondersafety.com/news>

Note from NAWHSL Friend



Bella Dinh-Zarr with son Kai and husband Robert

Bella Dinh-Zarr, PhD, MPH, former NAWHSL Board of Advisors Chair and longtime supporter, now lives in Ottawa, Canada! After finishing her term as NTSB Vice Chairman and Board Member, she traveled around the world for almost a year with husband Robert and son Kai before the start of COVID in 2020.

In 2021, she began a joint appointment as the Senior Advisor for Public Health and Transportation to both the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (www.TIRF.ca) and the FIA Foundation (www.fiafoundation.org). In this position, Bella divides her time between international transportation policy work and community safety and mobility work (with East End District in Houston and the Blackfeet Nation).

Bella sends her best wishes to NAWHSL friends, and she can be reached at: BELLAD@TIRF.CA

Know Your Facts

Seat Belts and the Prevention of Traumatic Brain Injuries

While many of us in the traffic injury prevention field tout the benefits of seat belts, it is wise for us to know the research behind these claims. One such study is reported in the *World Journal of Emergency Medicine*, Effectiveness of Seatbelts in Mitigating Traumatic Brain Injury Severity.

Introduction to the study: “Over the past few decades, traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) have become one of the leading causes of death and the leading cause of injury-related death in the USA. It is estimated that 1.70 million people are subject to TBIs each year. Males are more likely to sustain TBIs (59%); the most common age groups are 0–5 years, 15–19 years, and >65 years. Approximately 1.36 million people present to the emergency department (ED),

275,000 are admitted to the hospital, and 52,000 people die from TBIs.*The leading causes of TBIs are falling (35.2%), motor vehicle collisions (MVCs, 17.3%), struck by/against an object (16.5%), and assault (10.0%). These statistics combine to make TBIs the leading cause of injury-related death in the USA at 30.5%. It has been estimated that, with specific guidelines from the Brain Trauma Foundation, up to 50.0% of the 52,000 TBI-related deaths may be prevented.”

It concludes “Not wearing a seatbelt is significantly associated with having a worse head injury, being admitted to the hospital, and requiring intensive care or surgery. The use of seatbelts confers significant protection against adverse sequelae following TBIs. These data serve to underscore the importance of injury prevention efforts.”

See the full study here: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7790715/>

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*For 2018 and 19 data, see <https://www.cdc.gov/traumaticbraininjury/pdf/TBI-surveillance-report-2018-2019-508.pdf>



Did You Know?

Youth who start drinking before age 15 years are six times more likely to develop alcohol dependence or abuse later in life than those who begin drinking at or after age 21 years.

Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Rockville, MD; 2016.

Know Your Facts

Distracted Driving Data



The National Distracted Driving Coalition has released a new report, "Distracted Driving Prevalence Data: Sources, Challenges & Technological Solutions," that identifies crucial gaps in distracted driving data measuring the prevalence of the problem in North America. The report also highlights potential opportunities for emerging technological solutions, such as Cambridge Mobile Telematics' DriveWell platform, to collect more robust and complete data. Read the report here:

<https://bit.ly/NDDC-Prevalence-Data> StopDistractions.org
Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

For more information on distracted driving, download GHSA's report with General Motors, "Directing Drivers'

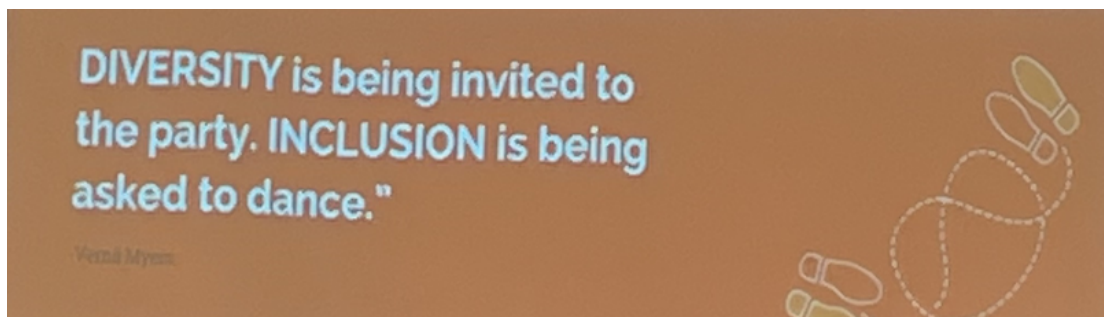
Attention: A State Highway Safety Office Roadmap for Combating Distracted Driving," offering one of the most comprehensive looks at this pervasive yet preventable traffic safety problem and urging a broad culture shift to make this deadly behavior socially unacceptable:

<https://www.ghsa.org/resources/GHSA/GM/Distracted-Driving22>

Free Course Available

The Federal Highway Administration offers a free web-based training "Road Safety Fundamentals". It is a 12-hour, self-paced course. According to FHWA, "Participants will explore the ..concepts of road safety through problem solving common safety issues, evaluating data for various road safety objectives, and strategizing actionable steps to enhance road safety and reduce fatalities."

Find this course at the National Highway Institute, COURSE NUMBER: FHWA-NHI-380124A.



NEW STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Welcome NAWHSL's New Members!

DEANGELA GAYMON OKLAHOMA

DeAngela joined the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office in 2019 as a Program Manager and has led the highway safety grant program and office operations as Deputy Director since 2021, with special focus on the State's traffic records systems. She places emphasis on leadership that values people and their development, grace in the workplace, and a strategic operations approach that effectively uses existing tools and resources and continuously improves processes. Her superpower? Asking the right questions to get to root causes and developing agile solutions.

A proud Wolverine, DeAngela holds a B.S. in Industrial and Operations Engineering from the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor and a Master's in Entrepreneurship from Langston University. She is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), Highway Traffic Safety Professional (HTSP), and State of Oklahoma Certified Procurement Officer.



JOANNE KURT-HILDITCH MISSOURI



Joanne has been the Senior Director of the Missouri Safety Center since February 2018. The Missouri Safety Center holds numerous MoDOT Highway Safety and Traffic Division grants including Drug Impaired Driving (DRE Program), Impaired Driving Countermeasures {Breath Alcohol Instrument Training, Ignition Interlock Device Program, SFST Training}, Statewide Seatbelt Surveys, Enforcement Campaign grants, police driving, the Missouri Motorcycle Safety Program, and others related to traffic safety. Joanne also sits on the Board of the Missouri Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Advisory Council (LETSAC). Joanne's other roles include facilitating the Missouri Law Enforcement Phlebotomy Program {LEPP} Task Force under a grant from NHTSA, administrative oversight for the Central Missouri Police Academy, and the Arrest Process training with the Missouri Division of Probation and Parole.

Historically, Joanne was also the President of the Missouri and Illinois Corrections' Associations and is active in the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Drug Recognition Expert Section. Joanne has worked in the field of criminal justice since 1992 and during the last several years has taken on a significant role in traffic safety in Missouri.



YOU'RE INVITED!



NEW YORK



2023 NAWHSL ANNUAL MEETING

*Experience community with other
Traffic Safety professionals.*

August 10-12

Location:

**NEW YORK MARRIOTT MARQUIS,
1535 BROADWAY,
NEW YORK, NY 10036**

www.NAWHSL.org

NAWHSL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN
HIGHWAY SAFETY LEADERS

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President: Juliet Little (CT)

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2023 Registration Rates:

\$600 – Early Bird Attendee (ends 1/27/23)

\$650 – Regular Attendee (1/28/23 – 3/10/23)

Early Bird Registration is Available NOW!!



www.lifesaversconference.org

OUR MISSION

TRAFFIC SAFETY: TO PROMOTE SAFE BEHAVIOR AMONG HIGH RISK POPULATIONS AND TO ASSURE VIGOROUS, EFFECTIVE PUBLIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS TO REDUCE HIGHWAY CRASHES AND CRASH SEVERITY.