

MDTSEA Milestones

1953 MDTSEA Milestones

The Southwestern Michigan Driver Education Association was founded.

1956 MDTSEA Milestones

The Southwestern Michigan Driver Education Association met at St. Mary's Lake, and formed the Michigan Driver Safety Education Association (MDSEA).

1957 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association began publishing a newsletter entitled MDSEA News. Homer Earl was the editor.

1958 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association hosted the 3rd annual conference of the American Driver and Safety Education Association (Later became the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association) in E. Lansing.

1959 MDTSEA Milestones

Lawton Smith, one of the founders of the Southwestern Michigan Driver Education Association, and the first president of the MDSEA, was elected as the 3rd President of the American Driver and Safety Education Association.

1961 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association became a member of the Michigan Education Association.

The Association began holding its Spring Meeting in conjunction with the University of Michigan's (UofM) Annual Meeting for Teachers of Driver Education.

1962 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association began publishing the MDSEA Missive four times a year. Ken Licht was the editor.

The Association changed its name to the Michigan Driver Education Association (MDEA).

The Association's membership dues were increased from \$2.50 to \$3.00.

The Association began awarding Honorary Memberships.

1963 MDTSEA Milestones

Les Silvernale took over as the editor of the MDSEA Missive.

1967 MDTSEA Milestones

Les Silvernale retired as Secretariat, and as editor of the newsletter. Bob Nolan took over those responsibilities.

1968 MDTSEA Milestones

This was the last year that the Association held its Spring Meeting in conjunction with the UofM's Annual Conference for Teachers of Driver Education.

1969 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association hosted the 13th annual American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association

(ADTSEA) conference in Ypsilanti.

1970 MDTSEA Milestones

Bill Covert took over as Secretariat, and Marty Dolan became the interim newsletter editor.

The name of the MDEA Missive was changed to the MDEA Newsletter.

1971 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association hosted ADTSEA's North Central Regional Meeting in Ann Arbor.

The first Silvernale Award was awarded to Milburn Stone for his role in The Case of Officer Hallibrand traffic safety film.

Ron Bradford took over as the editor of the MDEA Newsletter.

Phil O'Leary, an Association Executive Board member, was elected as the 15th President of ADTSEA.

1972 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association's treasury had a \$0.00 balance and owed \$600.00 in its account with Michigan State University (MSU).

1973 MDTSEA Milestones

The MSU Highway Traffic Safety Center reaffirmed its commitment to the Association by continuing to serve as Secretariat. With the departure of Bill Covert, Jane Jensen was assigned that responsibility.

The Association changed its name to the Michigan Driver and Traffic and Safety Education Association (MDTSEA).

The Association President established the President's Award. The first recipient was Jane Jensen, the Association's Secretariat.

1975 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association began a membership contest to increase Association membership.

Bob Gustafson took over as editor of the MDTSEA Newsletter.

At the UofM's request, the Association took over responsibility for awarding the A.A. Vezzani Memorial Award.

1976 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association held 15 regional workshops to distribute four publications published by the National Commission on Safety Education.

Sandy Overall, then Deborah Mayhew, took over the Secretariat's responsibilities.

The first recipient of the A.A. Vezzani Memorial Award, after being taken over by the Association, was Don Hensen of the Ann Arbor Public Schools.

The Association adopted the design of the Michigan centennial license plate as its logo.

1977 MDTSEA Milestones

Robin Bailey took over the Secretariat's responsibilities.

1978 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association began selling a filmstrip entitled, Seat Belts--How Effective Are They?

The Association established four new awards to complement the three they had already been awarding. The Distinguished Achievement Award, The New Driver Educator of the Year Award, the MDTSEA District Representative of the Year Award, and the Outstanding Auto Dealer Award.

1979 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association began accepting advertisements for its conference issue of the MDTSEA Newsletter.

Laura Lantzy-Taylor took over the Secretariat's responsibilities.

The Association hosted the ADTSEA North Central Regional Meeting in Ann Arbor.

Dr. Donald Smith, an Association Executive Board member, was elected as the 23rd President of ADTSEA.

1980 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association developed a speaker's program to sell driver education to the public.

The Association held a series of workshops on Energy Efficient Driving.

1983 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association joined the Alliance for Traffic Safety.

1984 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association raised membership dues from \$10.00 to \$15.00.

1989 MDTSEA Milestones

Several Association Executive Board members participated on the State Board of Education's Driver Education Task Force.

The Association joined the Group United Against Radar Detectors (GUARD).

1991 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association's Executive Board approved purchasing clothing, and other items (with the MDTSEA logo on them) to be sold at the conference.

1993 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association raised membership dues from \$15.00 to \$20.00.

The Association hosted the 37th annual ADTSEA conference in Novi.

Secretary of State, Richard H. Austin, presented Dr. Donald Smith and Dr. Robert Gustafson with the award for "Long Term Service to Traffic Safety."

1994 MDTSEA Milestones

With the retirements of Bob Gustafson and Don Smith from MSU, the university severed all ties to the Association. The Association now became a completely independent organization.

Greg Lantzy was hired as the Association's Secretariat.

The Association's Constitution was amended so that Associate members, as well as Active members, could be Association officers.

The Association's Constitution was amended to add a dissolution article to specify that in the event the Association dissolved, all assets of the Association would go to ADTSEA's Bishop Fund.

The Internal Revenue Service approved the Association's application for non-profit status pending changes of the dissolution article in the Constitution.

The U.S. Postal Service approved the Association's application for a bulk mailing permit.

1995 MDTSEA Milestones

Bob Gustafson stepped down as editor of the MDTSEA Newsletter. Dale Litten volunteered to take over this position.

1996 MDTSEA Milestones

Greg Lantzy took over as editor of the MDTSEA Newsletter.

The Association established a scholarship that would allow two students to attend the National Student Safety Program conference.

1997 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association contracted with Propulsion International to purchase 20,000 copies of Michigan Traffic Safety Education Student Manual that were written specifically for Michigan laws and regulations.

1998 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association began holding a series of Driver Education Segment II workshops.

1999 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association began selling a Teachers Resource Guide developed by Propulsion International to accompany the Michigan Traffic Safety Education Student Manual.

Bob Gustafson, a MDTSEA Executive Board member, wrote for Propulsion International, a Student Workbook to accompany the Michigan Traffic Safety Education Student Manual.

At the Association's request, the Michigan Department of Education approved ADTSEA's National Credentialing Courses as meeting Michigan driver education teacher requirements.

Robin Bordner, an Association Executive Board member, was the first recipient of ADTSEA's National Driver Education Teacher of the Year Award.

2000 MDTSEA Milestones

Robin Bordner was trained by ADTSEA to teach the National Credentialing Courses and began teaching the courses in Michigan and out-of-state.

The Association's Executive Board entered into a contract with the Traffic Safety Association of Michigan (TSAM) to provide Secretariat services, distribute the textbook material, and be editor of the MDTSEA Newsletter. Norene Lind was hired for this position.

A new amendment to the Association's By-Laws was approved, which required all board members to meet prescribed moral standards.

A comprehensive Secretariat's Procedural Manual was developed by Norene Lind.

2001 MDTSEA Milestones

Lists of all Association officers, all Association award winners, and all honorary membership were developed.

The Association opened a free Hotmail account (mdtsea@hotmail.com)

The Association established its own web site (www.mdtsea.org).

Bob Gustafson, an Executive Board member, was awarded ADTSEA's Richard Kaywood Memorial Award, its highest award.

John Stimac, a MDTSEA Executive Board member, was the recipient of the Richard H. Austin Long-Term Traffic Safety Award by the Michigan State Safety Commission.

2002 MDTSEA Milestones

The MDTSEA adopted the slogan, "Educating for Safety."

At mid-year, the balance in the Association's accounts, for the first time, totaled over \$100,000.00 (\$132,923.50).

The Executive Board revised advertisement rates for advertising in the newsletter, and began accepting ads for all issues.

The Attorney General's office approved the Association as a Registered Charitable Trust.

Bob Gustafson wrote a History of the Michigan Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association and developed a listing of MDTSEA Milestones.

Major enhancements were made to the Association's website (www.mdtsea.org).

2003 MDTSEA Milestones

Newly elected Secretary of State Terry Lynn Land was a presenter at the conference. She vowed to return in subsequent years in validation of our organization.

MDTSEA adopted an advertising policy that allows the board to deny requests for advertising in the newsletter, as well as exhibiting materials/products at the conference.

Although textbook sales for the year were down approximately 10.5% as compared to 2002, MDTSEA not only paid off its entire inventory of textbook, workbook, teacher resource guide, and videotape inventory in 2003; it has set aside \$50,000 in a higher yield interest bearing account.

The MDTSEA website was updated to include seven (7) award nomination forms, and a link to the list of Secretary of State Third Party Test organizations. A link to the SOS private driver schools is targeted for 2004.

Dr. Robert E. Gustafson, PhD
Professor Emeritus
Michigan State University

2004 MDTSEA Milestones

Public Acts 70 and 71 of 2004 transferred public driver education programs from the Michigan Department of Education to the Michigan Department of State (MDOS). For the first time, all components of Michigan's driver education programs are now housed in one department, MDOS. The program will be separated by function, with the regulation and monitoring of schools going to MDOS' Bureau of Regulatory Services, and the curriculum and teacher preparation functions going to MDOS' Office of Traffic Safety.

Dr. Thomas Reel, Director of the Traffic Safety Association of Michigan (TSAM) retired, and the organization changed its name to the Michigan Resource Center for Health and Safety. It will be under the executive direction of Cindy Agle.

Dr. Robert "Gus" Gustafson passed away, and in his honor, MDTSEA will present an annual award in his name.

2005 MDTSEA Milestones

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land assembled a driver education advisory committee for the purpose of determining what priorities the Department of State should pursue in the upcoming year. Discussion involved making enhancements to the teacher preparation courses, segment 1 and 2 curriculums, equitable treatment of private and public school programs and instructors, etc.

The Michigan Department of State convened a legislative workgroup to discuss amendments to the GDL licensing statutes, as the sunset date for GDL licensing occurs in 2006.

2006 MDTSEA Milestones

The Michigan Traffic Safety Education Student Manual is upgraded to the 5th edition.

The ADTSEA annual conference is held at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The Secretary of State convenes the "Driver Education Advisory Committee" for the purpose of updating the driver education laws in Michigan. Public Act 384 of 2006, the "Driver Education Provider and Instructor Act," is enacted and accomplishes the following:

- Levels the playing field between private driving school and public school driver education providers.
- Upgrades the requirements for instructor certification.
- Requires the Department of State to develop and enforce a standard curriculum or approve an alternative curriculum that meets certain criteria.

2007 MDTSEA Milestones

The Driver Education Provider and Instructor Act [2006 PA 384] went into effect on October 1, 2006; however, many of the provisions of the new law included delayed effective dates to allow the Michigan Department of State to develop and roll out the new provisions in stages.

Effects of the new law on MDTSEA in 2007:

- Several MDTSEA board members were chosen to teach the state's first professional development classes. The purpose of the class was to present and review the "Michiganized" ADTSEA curriculum. As of the end of the year, over 1,600 of the 2,400 Michigan instructors have attended the classes. Although MDTSEA was not allowed to directly advertise itself at the meetings, the networking in the meetings allowed us to spread the benefits of MDTSEA membership. It appears future classes will be facilitated through other groups, with MDTSEA being a prime candidate to offer training.
- MDTSEA was able to advertise itself to the industry, as most of the professional development trainers were from the board; Dave Van Dyke, Robin Bordner, Jerry Ockert, Greg Brown, and Mark Kronauer. Other super trainers included Bob Boone, Steve Brieve, and Rod Martin.
- MDTSEA bought a bulk supply of ADTSEA curriculum packages to provide to providers. MDTSEA will sell the packages for \$195, which is cheaper than buying the packages directly from ADTSEA for \$250.
- MDTSEA will assist the state in reviewing a point system and requirements for a future professional development credit system.

The MDTSEA conference was held at Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mount Pleasant, April 26 and 27, 2007. Approximately 150 people were in attendance. Highlighted presenters included Terry Kline of Kentucky University and Adele Kristiansson, representing The National Road Safety Foundation. The Department of State gave very informative presentations, and a special presentation was made by Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land.

2008 MDTSEA Milestones

MDTSEA will provide the DVD of the Parent Program "Look Who's Driving Now" to new driver education programs.

The 2008 MDTSEA Conference was held at Crystal Mountain Resort.

New officers elected for 2008-2009:

Roger Relich, President-elect
Ben Cole, Treasurer

Mary Kay Relich, Secretary

MDOS Segment I test was in place by June of 2008. Work began on the Segment II test.

MDTSEA supported the oversight and tracking of Professional Development activities by the MDOS.

To promote meaningful committee activity, President Dave Van Dyke initiated a new committee format in which all committees will meet immediately after regular board meetings.

A Senate bill was introduced to allow for home-school driver education. MDTSEA was quick to respond by sending letters of opposition to the legislature, the Governor's office, and various stakeholders.

Twenty-two (22) people participated in the National Credentialing Instructor Preparation Courses during the year.

Donn Davidson of AAA Driver Training received the ADTSEA Teacher Excellence Award.

MDTSEA sold approximately 4,000 textbooks last year (2007).

2008-2009 membership is 503 members.

During the summer of 2008, the MDOS focused on visiting all driver education programs with range instruction.

As of September of 2008, there were 2,589 approved instructors in Michigan.

The by-laws were amended to extend the term of Treasurer for 2 years.

2009 MDTSEA Milestones

The 2009 MDTSEA conference was held at Four Points by Sheraton Ann Arbor.

The MDTSEA committees were reorganized as follows:

- Budget and Auditing Committee
- Constitution, By-Laws, and Legislative Committee
- Driver Education Materials Committee
- Membership, Nomination/Awards, and Historian Committee
- National Credentialing Courses Committee
- Professional Development Committee
- State and National Conferences Committee

The MDOS will mail renewal notices 60 days in advance of each instructor's license expiration date. They also began spot-checking instructor licensees to verify that professional development requirements are being met.

In March, the Driver Education Provider Manual was updated and uploaded onto the MDOS website.

MDTSEA provided copies of the parent program, "Look Who's Driving Now," to MDOS.

2009-2010 membership is 424 members.

MDTSEA discontinued the NCC Credentialing Instructor Preparation Program.

MDTSEA developed and offered a distance learning professional development activity.

The GDL passenger restriction bill was re-introduced. MDTSEA continues to support this proposed legislation.

The State and National Conference Committee has proposed holding two one-day MDTSEA conferences instead of one 2-day conference. Modifying the format will allow more teachers to take advantage of attending a conference in order to satisfy their professional development requirements.

MDTSEA increased membership fees from \$20.00 to \$25.00.

2010 MDTSEA Milestones

The Association's first President and founding force behind the creation of the association, Lawton K. Smith, passed away on November 24, 2009. He served as president from 1956-1957.

The 2010 MDTSEA conference was held at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

New officers elected for the 2010 -2011:

Pres-elect: Greg Brown
Secretary: Robin Bordner

Awards presented at the annual conference included:

Robert Gustafson Award: Fred Vanosdall
President's Award: Sandra Maxwell
Outstanding Dealer Award: Delehanty Ford
New Driver Educator of the Year: Jeff McDonald
District Rep. of the Year: Gary Matuszak

MDTSEA reported 407 members for 2009 -2010. (some appear in multiple categories)

Membership category	Number of members
Public School	117
Private driving school	276
Other traffic safety professionals	30
Third party examiners	31
Honorary	47

During the year, a code of conduct for Executive Board Members was developed and incorporated into the association by-laws. The Code will help insure that MDTSEA is represented in the most professional light possible.

Textbook sales were promoted over the year. It was determined that the current Michigan Driver Education Student Manual contained much Michigan specific information available on the market.

MDTSEA continued to offer the Professional Development Course, "Tips for Behind-The-Wheel Instruction."

2011 MDTSEA Milestones

Past President, Dave VanDyke passed away on July 10, 2011. Dave served as President for 3 terms: 2003 – 2004, 2005-2006, and 2008-2009. Dave had the passion for always doing what was right for the students.

In 2010, MDTSEA hosted two, one-day conference/workshops instead of the normal spring conference. The conference took place at Oakland Schools Conference Center, Waterford, in March. A second workshop took place at Frederick Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids, in August.

New officers elected for 2010 – 2011

President-elect: Mary Kay Relich
Secretary: Christine Meddaugh
Treasurer: Ben Cole

Awards presented at the annual meeting:

Robert Gustafson Award: John Stimac, Paw Paw
Silvernale Award: Dale Ritzel, Illinois
New Driver Educator of the Year: Gabriel Scott, Kalamazoo
District Rep. of the Year: Ben Cole, Addison
Distinguished Achievement Award: Sgt. Lance Cook, Saginaw

2010-2011 membership is 396 members.

MDTSEA began discussion on changing to an electronic newsletter.

MDTSEA's Educational Review Committee reviewed Segment I test questions and sent revision requests to the MDOS.

2012 MDTSEA Milestones

2013 MDTSEA Milestones

- MDTSEA membership ranged from 225 members in June to 300 members in December.
- MDTSEA Officers: Christine Meddaugh, President; Ben Cole, Treasurer; & Dale Litten, Secretary
- The Parent's Supervised Driving Guide, developed by MDOS & Safe Roads Alliance, was released and to be given out at SOS offices to new Level 1 license receipts. The guide was created to provide the tools & information to help parents / coaches work with teens in continuing to develop good, safe driving skills. Furthermore, a free mobile app was created to help Level 1 drivers keep a driving log of completed driving hours.
- Through the efforts of a number of MDTSEA members, "MDTSEA Worksheets" were created to correspond to the chapters of our textbook. The worksheets will be uploaded to the website next year and available for free to textbook customers.

2014 MDTSEA Milestones

- MDTSEA membership was at 350 members in June.
- MDTSEA Officers: Sandra Maxwell, President; Christine Adams, President-Elect; Ben Cole, Treasurer; & Dale Litten, Secretary.
- Annual MDTSEA Conference was held at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Conference Center in Mt. Pleasant. Two of the guest speakers were Bonnie Raffaele, mother of Kelsey Raffaele – "Kelsey's Law", and Joel Cooper PhD., from Precision Driving Research. The following awards were presented:
 - Silvernale Award: Dan Patterson, President of SMARTER
 - Dave VanDyke Distinguished Achievement Award: Greg Lantzy, MDOS
 - Dr. Robert E. Gustafson Award: Larry Thompson, Saugatuck Public Schools
 - New Driver Educator of the Year Award: Jamie Prough, Coach B's Dri. School
- A panel from The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) came to Lansing in the Spring to review Michigan's Driver Education Program and compare it to the Driver Education National Standards. Those who spoke with the panel included Michigan Secretary of State officials, MDTSEA board members, public and private driver education instructors, law enforcement officials, parents, students, and others. Michigan came away with high marks at the conclusion of the assessment with a number of recommendations made by the NHTSA panel. The recommendations included requiring a parent to attend some sort of a parent meeting / seminar, requiring documentation of the 50 hours of supervised driving practice, incrementally increasing hours of instruction, and other suggestions.
- Letters from MDTSEA were sent to House & Senate members and the Governor's office opposing SB1029. This bill would have allowed home schooling of driver education in Michigan. The bill did not get out of committee.
- On October 14th, Governor Rick Snyder signed Public Act 317 of 2014 into law. This bill was also

known as "Nathan's Law" in memory of Nathan Bower, a 19 year old motorcyclist killed in a motorcycle-vehicle crash in 2009. The new law mandated that driver education curricula must "include information concerning the laws pertaining to bicycles and motorcycle and shall emphasize awareness of their operation on the streets, roads, and highways of this state." This new law, however, did not mandate any changes to the driver education curriculum but did bring public awareness to this very important issue.

It is also worth noting that this bill (HB5438), when first introduced, included language which would have allowed online / Internet-based driver education. MDTSEA worked with elected officials to remove the language from the bill which would have allowed this and basically codified current practices.

2015 MDTSEA Milestones

- MDTSEA membership was at 311 members in December.
- MDTSEA Officers: Mary Kay Relich, President; Mary Kay Relich, President-Elect; Kim Robertson, Treasurer; & Sandra Maxwell, Secretary
- The annual MDTSEA Conference was again held at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant. Guest speakers included Scott Schuelke, an Autism Safety Specialist; Christine Adams, MDOS; Sergeant Jill Gleason, Michigan State Police – Training Division; and Sue Falletich & Rachel Wilson, AAA Driver Training.
- The Professional Development Committee was dissolved and removed from the group's bylaws. Research was presented to the MDTSEA board which showed that PD programs over recent years had been developed not by the committee but rather by individuals.
- MDTSEA revised its Code of Conduct regarding board member responsibilities.

2016 MDTSEA Milestones

- MDTSEA membership was at 267 members in September.
- MDTSEA Officers: Mary Kay Relich, President; Harold R. Tarzwell, President-Elect; Kim Robertson, Treasurer; & Joan Kirkman, Secretary
- The annual MDTSEA Conference was held at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant. Guest speakers included Tom Bryant & Christine Adams, MDOS; Roger & Mary Kay Relich, Robin Bordner from MI Traffic Safety; and Sgt. Lance Cook – Administrative Sergeant with the Michigan State Police.
- Discussions begun on how to proceed on the next edition of our textbook and its format – hard copy textbook, e-book, etc.