

VHSA Meeting Notes

VHSA Board Meeting

***Aug 7, 2019 Wednesday 9:00 – 11:00 am
District 5 Facility in Colchester***

Present: William Bohnyak, Keith Flynn, Ann Gammell, Bill Mitchell, Mitchell Jay, Lt. Kevin Geno, Karen Yacos, Doug Masson, Roger Thompson, Bruce Nyquist, Mario Dupigny-Giroux, Paul White, Bill Jenkins, Abby Beerman, Tanya Wells, Lt. Tara Thomas, Jim Baraw, Evelyn McFarlane

Phoned in: Lt. Kevin Geno

Notes: Secretary Barb Brody

Welcome Chair: Sheriff William Bohnyak

Approval of June Meeting Notes: motion to approve by Bill Jenkins and seconded by Barb. No discussion motion passed.

Partner Updates:

ADTSEA Conference: Update by Barb Brody. Spoke of highlights of the conference and thanked all VHSA Partners who attended, exhibited and participated in the hands-on activities. The NSSP students really enjoyed the outside activities especially the Distracted Driving Demo, Roll-over Demo, Evan's Race Car, Aftermath, and the No Zone large truck demo. Over 300 were in attendance for the conference.

Driver Ed Summit: The Summit will be on August 8th at St. Michaels Dion Student Center Building. The agenda was distributed.

Behavioral Unit Update: Keith Flynn

The Behavioral Safety Unit is in the process of getting Highway Safety Plan done. There were some changes in the Plan. The plan followed a data approach. The FFY2020 year is granting out only new money. There is no carry forward money. The budget is simplified. Keith also spoke of researching Vermont's low fatality rate. Vt. has 14 fatalities to date and individuals are curious about why the numbers are lower than usual this year.

The seatbelt is rate is at 89.3 % which is very good for a secondary state. Efforts in the education component of how we approach occupant protection may be paying off.

The Northeast Transportation Safety Conference is being held on October 28th & 29th at the Hilton in Burlington, VT. The State Highway Safety Office would like at least 125-150 attendees. Registration Fee: is \$100.00 for both days with a one day fee of \$50.00. The state received \$30,000 as seed money from Connecticut, who held the conference in 2017. There are many vendors signed up thus far. Discussion on this conference and how to get people interested in attending followed. Evelyn will send out notice to all VHSA partners and they will send out to their lists.

Enforcement Update: Bill

There was a discussion on the Governors Lifesaver Hero Awards. For the last three years they were awarded at the VHSA Safety Conference, but this year (since there is no VHSA conference) the discussion was to identify venues where the awards could be handed out.

The last big Click it or Ticket campaign was at the end of May to the end of June. This has been a national campaign. Vt. reached the 90 % compliance. There was a discussion of a distracted driving campaign replacing the Click it or Ticket campaign.

Many police and sheriff's departments are having trouble getting folks to be available to do overtime duty. A discussion followed.

The Drive Sober or get Pulled Over campaign runs from August 16- Labor -day.

There is an interest for the Department to have a class on Speed management. The class would have a mix of law enforcement and engineering individuals and last a day and a half. Bruce: Road design is a big part of speed management. All roads need to have an engineering component part to set the speed limits for the roads.

Keith spoke of the number of participating agencies and office participation has been declining. There are many competing assignments for overtime that officers can choose from. NHTSA overtime requires a lot of paperwork. This is a deterrent.

The hiring process is challenging. It is harder to recruit people into law enforcement positions.

Bill: Distracted driving efforts went well considering the short notice to do it. Officers do their job but see that the consequences for distracted drivers is minimal, and citations are challenged.

Note: We have a drop in fatal crashes, but our serious injuries are running the same.

Kevin asked Keith if there was any data on the % of young adults that did not take DE. There is no data on this. Discussion followed.

EMS Update: Tanya: There will be a Seat Check day Sept 21st.

Treasurer Report: Jake Elovirta not available so Evelyn gave report: There is \$39,557.88 in seed money for the Northeast Conference. There are \$2,375.00 in available funds. We will have an upcoming expense for VHA insurance of \$1,900. We need to look for donations to cover this hard cost.

VHSA Coordinator Update: Evelyn

Past Events:

- May PSA award ceremony
- Ken Millman received the Media and marketing award
- Phones Down Heads up PSA award ceremony was May 10, 2019 in the State House. The Governor gave out the awards
- Essex High/CTE Safety Fair in May
- AAA Walk to End distracted driving was Friday June 7 at State house.
- Hartford Community Coalition Event with Operation Lifesaver was July 2019.
- Lt. Al Fortin participated in a Wellness fair in Ludow, VT. It was not well attended.

- Lt. AL Fortin, Evelyn & Mario staffed the Bradford Fair July 19, 2019 with a safety booth and the rollover.
- Poutney and Proctor HS May 8, safety fair and Mock crash. Highway safety trivia and then a traffic stop. And rollover.
- Lt. Geno with Evelyn staffed a safety booth on July 14, at the RAVE event in Rutland
- NSSP program July 20, Aftermath, Distracted Driving conference. ADTSEA focus on Safety.

Dan Goodman from AAA discussed a Move over PSA they are shooting with VT.

Tanya Wells is working on a Pedestrian Safety PSA.

Presentation: Mario Dupigny-Giroux did a presentation on the “Towards Zero Deaths” conference in July.

We were handed out a report that had the Key Areas for the “Toward Zero Deaths: National Strategy on Highway Safety:

The Strategic plan started in March of 2015. The Vision zero network was developed in April 2005.

- These are the Key Strategies: Improving Driver and Passenger Safety;
- That Create a roadway environment with the least possible risks;
- Key Strategies for Improving Infrastructure Safety;
- Key Strategies for Enhancing Emergency Medical Services;
- Key Strategies for Improving Safety Management;

Each Section had a short, Mid and Long range plan and Mario highlighted what we in Vermont have done with each area, what we are doing or plan on doing and which areas we have not done anything yet

Toward Zero deaths in 2017:

Safe system Approach for four guiding principles:

Five Pillars of a safe system:

- Safe Users:
- Safe vehicles:
- Safe speeds:
- Safe roads and roadsides:
- Post crash response

Safe system approach to intersection planning and design in the US. “We wipe off most our speed during the last moments of braking”. He then showed a video of braking distance and stopping distance.

Roger Thomas was the main speaker at the conference on safe speed.

Karen Yacos: Spoke of Burlington adopting toward zero policy. Vt as a State has not officially signed on to the National Strategy on Highway Safety.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am. Next meeting is October 2, 2019 in Berlin, Dill BLDG.