

# ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

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*Michele James*  
*Executive Secretary*

*Gary J. Jarvis*  
*Chairman*

## **MINUTES**

**October 15, 2008**

**PRESENT:** M. James, M. Davison, G. Jarvis, R. McDougall, Sheriff K. Wells, Undersheriff S. Bonno, Lt. D. Polniak, A. Peabody, Cpt. D. Chauvin

**ABSENT:** C. Ballard, M. Bogart, E. Olin, W. Dashnaw, R. Folsom

Gary Jarvis, Chair called the meeting to order. A motion to approve the minutes of the July, 2008 meeting was made by Dick McDougall, seconded by Allan Peabody.

### **TRAFFIC SAFETY ACTIVITIES**

*Mary reported to the Board:*

- Submitted an article on Halloween safety to the Office for the Aging's fall newsletter and one on pedestrian safety to the County's EAP newsletter; also sent the latest edition of our Traffic Safety newsletter to school districts and local human service agencies in the county (handouts given to board members)
- Distributed 32 bike helmets at the County Fair August 6-7 assisted by 4-H members; attended a teen youth summit hosted by the Potsdam School-Community Group
- Participated in the SUNY Potsdam Program Fair on August 19 (approx. 100 residence staff and supervisors attended)
- Provided 270 teen driver packets to local DMV's; sent an article on back to school safety reminders for motorists to local newspapers
- Hosted a CPS technician training in Gouverneur August 4 & 16 (6 participants attended); this training allowed Mary to complete necessary requirements to recertify as an Instructor
- Developed and presented a CEU Update Class on "New vs. Old" CPS curriculum; submitted a press release promoting CPS Week and our car seat events focusing on the "4 Steps for Kids".
- Hosted a car seat check in Massena on September 17 with Massena PD and Seaway Valley Ambulance
- Attended 7<sup>th</sup> Annual CPS Conference September 23-26 in Atlantic City, NJ along with Maureen Benedict, Sgt. Travis Dann and Patrolman John Holmes
- Provided Chief Currier, Massena PD with an article pertaining to our Massena child seat activities which he plans to submit to local newspapers with photos he took at our car seat check
- Participated in a teen driving webinar Sept. 10 related to "Drive Like A Friend, Ride Like You Care" Campaign
- In follow-up of Dale Petry's letter mentioned at the July, 2008 meeting... this letter was referred to DOT via Ernie Olin, who referred it to the Regional Representatives, who are taking steps to change the pattern whereby motorcycles trip traffic lights (Mr. Petry has noted that he and other motorcycle riders have noticed an improvement specifically at the light at the SUNY Canton entrance); brochures regarding SUNY Canton's motorcycle safety classes were distributed to board members

### **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Scott Bonno reported the Sheriff's Department continues to follow through with the Teen Drinking & Driving Grant they obtained with the help of their liaison from Albany, Charlie Rutherford.

Also reported was the lukewarm response received by the Sheriff's Department regarding the STOPPED Program from Edwards-Knox and Hermon-DeKalb Schools. The school boards are willing to encourage the program on a volunteer basis only but not to actively endorse to parents/students directly by their schools.

The department made 26 arrests over the last quarter.

### **NEW YORK STATE POLICE**

Cpt. Chauvin reported the State Police continue with much the same programs since his last report. They have assigned three troopers to their TIMS detail to concentrate on traffic safety enforcement. All other activity remains status quo.

### **NYS DOT**

No report given.

### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

No report given.

### **STOP-DWI**

Michele noted as of October 15, we've had 442 DWI Arrests and 74 Felony Arrests in our County. As of October 23, 2007, there were 450 DWI Arrests and 70 Felony Arrests.

#### **Enforcement**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Arrest Reports for 2008 by Police Agencies and T-Sled Arrests as of September 2008 were given to members
- ARIDE (Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement) training was held in June at the Law Enforcement Academy at SUNY Canton

#### **Public Information**

- Radio spots were done; displays/health fair materials were provided for Clarkson, Massena Central, St. Lawrence County's Government Days

#### **Administration**

- Presently working on 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Revenue/Expenditure Report for GTSC as well as the 2009 STOP-DWI Plan
- Five individuals completed the Victim Impact Panel Videos for court compliance. The DA's Office may possibly create a formal VIP for St. Lawrence County
- Working on a recidivism report on DWI and DDP looking for trends over the past 10 years
- Continue to work on fine collection from local courts
- Attending Drug Court, which is presiding over several DWI cases
- GTSC recently established an Impaired Driving Task Force to conduct a comprehensive examination of scope and causes of the problem of impaired driving and to develop recommendations for reducing crashes resulting from impaired driving. Michele was asked to be a representative on one of eight teams – the Assessment, Evaluation & Treatment Team; she attended the first meeting in Albany on October 10

**TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT UPDATE**

*Michele informed the Board:*

- *Traffic Safety Fatalities in 2008 – 11 to date (3-speed/weather, 1-alcohol, 1-pulled out in front of oncoming traffic, 2-crossed into opposite lane, 1-snowmobiler struck by hit and run driver, 1-driver rear-ended pushing car into oncoming traffic; 1-motorcycle failed to negotiate curve, 1-failed to negotiate curve at high rate of speed. There have been numerous crashes—bus crash on Route 11 near Richville, two pedestrians in Village of Canton have been struck in the past two weeks*
- *3<sup>rd</sup> quarter claim voucher has been submitted to the state; final voucher to be submitted shortly*
- *Final Grant Report was mailed to the state on October 6, 2008*
- *321 Parent Packets were distributed to the DMV*
- *Driver-Zed - Interactive program sent to all Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SSHS) school districts; also created 'Parents Who Host...' banners/posters*
- *Copies of NYSATSB newsletter given to board members*
- *Received a formal evaluation of our Drinking Driver Program from the DMV; were told we could no longer refer motorists with BAC  $\geq$  .15 for alcohol evaluations*
- *Our 402 Grant for 2008-2009 was submitted for \$89,499; it has been accepted, but we haven't yet received funding letters*
- *Our CPS Grant was approved for \$11,700 (a decrease of \$3,000)*

**OTHER CONCERNS**

*Allan noted he had just heard that Victor Green passed away today. Mr. Green was a police officer with the Gouverneur Police Department for many years.*

*Michele discussed two recent court cases regarding DWI and vehicular manslaughter.*

*Allan participated in the motorcycle ride again this year for the benefit of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Five miles of bikes completed the ride, and \$101,000 was raised for the cause.*

*Michele read a thank you letter from Rene Barchitta, our representative from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, for inviting her to our last board meeting in July.*

*A motion to adjourn today's meeting was made by Gary Jarvis, seconded by Lt. Polniak. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 3 p.m. in Canton.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*



*Kim Hayes*

*Recording Secretary*