

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

80 State Highway 310, Suite 1
Canton, NY 13617-1493
Phone: 315-386-2207 / Fax: 315-386-2435

Michele James
Executive Secretary

Gary J. Jarvis
Chairman

MINUTES

April 9, 2008

PRESENT: M. James, M. Davison, Undersheriff S. Bonno, L. Moore, A. Peabody, C. Ballard

ABSENT: G. Jarvis, Cpt. D. Chauvin, Lt. D. Polniak, E. Olin, R. McDougall, M. Bogart,
R. Folsom, W. Dashnaw

Michele James called the meeting to order. No corrections/additions/deletions were made to the minutes of the January meeting. Since a quorum was not present, no vote was taken for approval of these minutes.

TRAFFIC SAFETY ACTIVITIES

Mary informed the Board:

- *Have been very busy with the Parents Who Host (PWHL) project; much of the work has been completed (cards, posters to schools, set up of new website, etc.). Billboards are up outside of Gouverneur, Ogdensburg, Canton and Potsdam. A press release was issued to local media regarding the program.*
- *Attended report card night at Lisbon Central on March 18; distributed information to parents regarding prom/graduation safety.*
- *Have had continuing discussions with Undersheriff Bonno regarding the STOPPED Program. We have a few bugs to work out on how we'll target the program in the future.*
- *Continue to provide teen driver packets to the DMV as resource materials are available.*
- *Gave a safety presentation to the SADD group at Clifton-Fine School on March 12. We are planning to record some PSA's with these students and are coordinating dates/times for the recordings.*
- *Provided two road safety programs to Gingerbread Nursery in March.*
- *State Police in Massena followed up on "hot spots" in the area for Operation Safe Stop (locations where problems sometimes occur with drivers passing stopped schoolbuses).*
- *Did a press release for the County's EAP Newsletter on speeding; also one for newspapers on drinking and driving at St. Patrick's Day.*
- *Currently working on a brochure for Child Passenger Safety.*
- *Will soon be working on our safety grant applications for next year.*
- *CPS technician training will be held this summer in St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties. A Continuing Education course is also tentatively planned for this summer (technicians must recertify on a regular basis).*

Mary distributed Spring '08 Traffic Safety Newsletters to board members and noted that the address for the new Parents Who Host website is included.

TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT UPDATE

Michele reported:

- *Our Traffic Safety Grant Resolution was accepted by the Board of Legislators on April 7. Mid-Year Grant and Child Passenger Safety Reports were submitted last week. Kim is currently working on claim vouchers for the 1st and 2nd quarters.*
- *Provided 311 Parent Packets to the DMV since our last meeting.*
- *Received our Distracted/Impaired Driving Kit from Fatal Vision through Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program, which will be used in local school districts. We're currently working with several districts on spring programming.*
- *Mary has done a fabulous job with the PWHL Campaign. Monthly progress reports are being submitted to the State. An OASAS Representative will be visiting us May 16 to oversee our project.*
- *Traffic Safety Fatalities: We've already had 8 in 2008 (3 speed/weather-related, 1 alcohol, 1 pulled out in front of oncoming traffic, 2 crossed into opposite lane, 1 snowmobile by hit & run driver).*
- *2008-2009 grant applications are due by May 15 for next year's grant. We've already received several Buckle Up and STEP Grant Applications from law enforcement agencies as well as one CPS Grant Application.*
- *GTSC will hold a grant writing training for law enforcement agencies in Malone on April 23.*

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Undersheriff Scott Bonno reported:

- *1st Quarter DWI arrests are up for their department. According to Michele's most recent compilation of arrest statistics, deputies are doing well and percentage-wise are holding their own with other agencies.*
- *In 10 out of the 28 DWI arrests their department made, BAC's were over .18, so there seems to be some fairly hardcore drinking going on out there.*
- *The department has two license plate readers. One has been out of service for awhile with hardware problems, but it's back this week in working order. Both are now operational, and the department finds them extremely helpful.*
- *There are currently 3 openings in the Sheriff's Department and with retirements coming up, the department could conceivably hire 7 new people this year.*

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

No report given.

NYS DOT

No report given.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

No report given.

STOP-DWI

Michele noted as of April 3, 2008, we've had 149 DWI Arrests and 26 Felony Arrests in St. Lawrence County. As of April 18 last year, there were 158 DWI Arrests and 19 Felony Arrests.

Enforcement

- *1st Quarter Arrest Reports for 2008 by Police Agencies and T-SLED Arrests as of February '08 were handed out.*
- *Standardized Field Sobriety Training was held at the David Sullivan Law Enforcement Academy at SUNY Canton again this spring.*
- *Michele gave a presentation on Intoxication at the Law Enforcement Academy.*

Public Information

- *Radio and TV spots were done as well as newspaper articles for New Year's Eve.*
- *Displays were provided at the Colton Winterfest and SUNY Potsdam Wellness Fair.*

Administration

- *2007 STOP-DWI 4th Quarter and Annual Report was submitted to GTSC*
- *One individual completed the Victim Impact Panel Video Program for court compliance.*
- *Working on a recidivism report on DWI for the past five years looking for trends.*
- *Continue to work on fine collection from local courts.*
- *Six Mock DWI Crashes have been scheduled for this spring.*
- *Attending Drug Court where several DWI cases are being heard.*
- *Hosting a training for the STOP-DWI Foundation on May 16 on Trauma and Addiction.*

OTHER CONCERNS

Craig Ballard voiced his frustration upon hearing that a few St. Lawrence County Schools have planned their high school proms this spring at locations where alcohol is served. Discussion ensued regarding responsibility and liability issues as well as the fact that it is not only a legal issue but a moral one as well. Board members discussed what might possibly be done to discourage superintendents and school boards from approving such sites for school proms.

A motion to adjourn today's meeting was made by Allan Peabody, seconded by Scott Bonno. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, July 23, 2008 at 3 p.m. in Canton.

Respectfully Submitted,



*Kim Hayes
Recording Secretary*