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**National Association of Women
Highway Safety Leaders**

National Conference

Hyatt Regency Minneapolis Downtown

August 27 - 29, 2026

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Navigating Our Roadways with Responsibility

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the National Association of Women Highway Safety Leaders, it is my distinct honor to invite you to the vibrant city of Minneapolis for our 2026 Annual Meeting. This year, we gather under a theme that is both a tribute and a call to action: "Navigating Our Roadways with Responsibility."

As we meet in the "North Star State," we find ourselves at a historic crossroads. This year marks the **100th Anniversary of Route 66**. While the "Mother Road" evokes a sense of nostalgia and the classic American spirit of exploration, it also serves as a reminder of how far we have traveled—and the responsibility we carry to ensure the next century of mobility is safer for everyone.

Our agenda this year is designed to address the critical intersections of modern traffic safety. We are privileged to host a number of speakers who will lead a vital dialogue on eliminating impaired driving, responding to crash investigations, supporting indigenous populations, and fostering a culture of accountability on our roads.

Safety, however, is not a one-size-fits-all solution. A core pillar of our time together will be focused on Tribal and vulnerable populations. We will explore how to better serve and protect those communities that have historically faced disproportionate risks, ensuring that our "Navigating" includes every road user, regardless of their background or mode of transport.

Furthermore, we will dive deep into the life-saving world of Traffic Incident Management (TIM). By improving how we respond to roadway emergencies, we protect not only the motoring public but also the brave first responders who risk their lives to keep our highways moving.

More topics are on hand for the conference and we look forward to solidifying our presenters!

Thank you for your tireless dedication to highway safety. May this conference provide you with the tools, partnerships, and inspiration to guide your communities toward a future of zero fatalities.

With gratitude and resolve,

Joanne Kurt-Hilditch, President

Joanne Kurt-Hilditch, President



August 27 – 29, 2026

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Navigating Our Roadways with Responsibility

Conference Agenda

Thursday, August 27, 2026

- 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM
- 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Registration

NAWHSL Board Meeting

Welcome Reception

Share Session: Traffic Safety
Highlights from across the nation

Friday, August 28, 2026

- 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
- 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Registration & Breakfast

Opening Session: Welcome to Minneapolis

Colors presented by the Minnesota State Patrol Honor Guard
Keynote: Holly Kostrzewski, Keynote Speaker

- 10:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Professional Sessions & Lunch

Featuring:

**Darrin Grondel, Senior Vice President of Traffic Safety, Responsibility.org and NASID*

**Todd Leiss, Founder, TIMHeroes.org*

**Rahya Geisler, Regional Coordinator, Northeast Toward Zero Deaths Regional
Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Transportation*

**Tammy McGee, Founder Gweedo Memorial Foundation*

- 4:00 pm – 5:15 pm

Business Meeting

Please join us for the Business Meeting. All are welcome!

Conference Agenda

Saturday, August 29, 2026

- 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Registration & Breakfast

- 8:15 AM – 8:45 AM

Sponsor Spot:

Alliance Highway Safety w/Shandi Smith

- 8:45 AM – 11:30 AM

Professional Sessions

Featuring:

**Bill Hamme, Minnesota Law Enforcement Liaison*

**Katy Kressin, Minnesota Department of Transportation*

- 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Banquet Luncheon

Keynote: John Ulczycki,

Vice President of Government Affairs, Acusensus

Guests are welcome! NAWHSL invites Minnesota residents, GHSA Attendees, state highway safety offices, NHTSA personnel and friends. You can register for attendance at the Banquet only via the NAWHSL Registration link.

State door prize giveaways

- 1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

2026 Young Women's Scholarship in

Injury Prevention Winner

PresentationScholarship Presentation

- 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Professional Session

Featuring:

**Katie Dively, Banyan Collaborative*

- 3:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Conference Wrap-Up

Invitation to Anaheim, California 2027

State Door Prizes. Closing of Conference.

Have a Safe Trip Home!

2026 NAWHSL Meeting Notes

OPENING NIGHT SHARE SESSION - 4:00 pm Thursday August 27th

Join us as we share highlights from our home states or territory.

BANQUET LUNCHEON - 11:30 am Saturday August 28th

It's a wonderful opportunity to invite others to join us. Everyone is welcome. We extend a special invitation to highway safety organizations in Minnesota, NHTSA personnel, GHSA Staff, and attendees of the GHSA Conference which is held immediately following the NAWHSL Conference.

NAWHSL LEADERS' MEETINGS

Pre-Conference Board of Directors: Thursday, August 27, 2026 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Post-Conference Board of Directors: Sunday, August 30, 2026 8:30 am - 10:00 am

NAWHSL MEMBERS - STATE DOOR PRIZES

Please bring a door prize from your state to add to the fun (suggested value of \$20.00).



Conference Registration Details

To pay with credit/debit card or Paypal:

Go to www.NAWHSL.org. Click on "Conference" on the top menu bar. Register & pay. You will receive a copy of your submissions by email. You may also pay your dues for State Representative or Member online.

To pay with a check:

Complete the online registration form; print form and submit with check to:
Mandie Dell, NAWHSL Treasurer, 3645 Cassie Drive, Tumwater, WA 98512

Conference Registration includes all sessions, materials, and meals.

This year we have a special registration discount of \$25.00 for all those who are also attending the GHSA conference (with registration confirmation). You will be asked on the registration link if you are attending/registering for GHSA and the discount will be applied.

Early Bird Registration: On or before July 24, 2025

Member: \$425.00/**Non-Member:** \$450.00
w/GHSA Reg: \$400.00/\$425.00

Late Registration: After July 24, 2025

Member: \$450.00/**Non-Member:** \$475.00
w/GHSA Reg: \$425.00/\$450.00

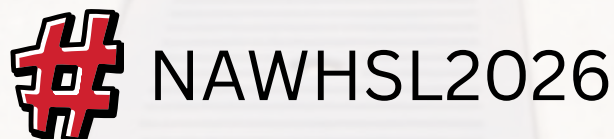
Saturday afternoon guests for banquet luncheon only: \$95.00

EXHIBITORS

Exhibitors with traffic safety resources are welcomed to this NAWHSL conference.

Exhibit fee for *Registered* Attendee: \$100.00

See Exhibitor registration at www.NAWHSL.org, Conference.



2026 NAWHSL Hotel Reservation Details Hyatt Regency Downtown Minneapolis

National Assoc. of Women Highway Safety Leaders
(August 27 – 29, 2026)

MAKING RESERVATIONS

A dedicated website is now available for attendees to book hotel rooms online.

Hotel rooms are \$150.00 per night for NAWHSL.

Reservations can be made at this web address:

Booking Website:

[HYATT REGENCY MINNEAPOLIS DOWNTOWN](#)

*Important information for those attendees who are staying for **both NAWHSL and GHSA**:*

Book the first portion of your stay with the NAWHSL link, then the remainder with the GHSA link.

For example, if you are staying from Wednesday 8/26 to Thursday 9/2 for both NAWHSL and GHSA, you will need to reserve the following:

NAWHSL block: 8/26 – 8/29

GHSA block: 8/29 – 9/2

You will essentially check out then check back in on 8/29. Please make sure to let the hotel front desk know when you check in to ensure that you are able to stay in the same room, but you **must make separate reservations.**





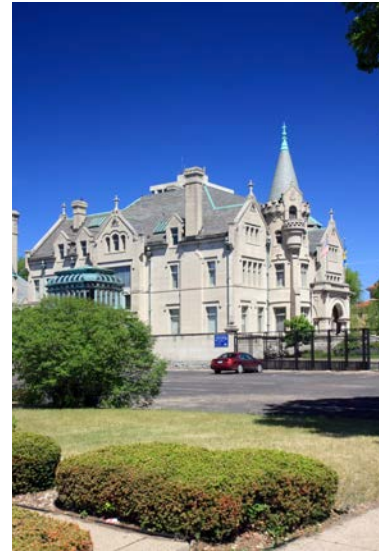
Meet **Minneapolis**
City by Nature



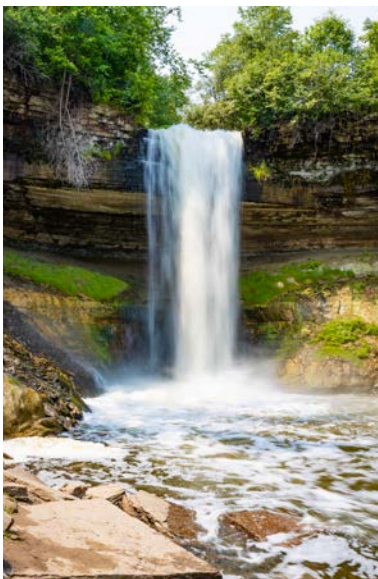
Minneapolis Institute of Art



Minneapolis Sculpture Garden



American Swedish Institute



Minnehaha Park



Minnesota Zoo



Orpheum Theatre

Things to do!