March 2024

NAWHSL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HIGHWAY SAFETY LEADERS

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St. Patrick's Day Buzzed Driving Prevention

This year, St. Patrick's Day falls on a Sunday. The celebratory day is one of the biggest drinking occasions of the year, and this, unfortunately, means more drunk drivers on the roads. With St. Patrick's Day falling on a Sunday, we can expect a fairly dangerous weekend for drivers and passengers alike.

If you plan to drink, make sure you refrain from driving and make a plan to get home safely. Review these facts and share the word about the dangers of drunk driving so you can continue merry-making for all the St. Paddy's Days to come.

Then and Now

by NAWSHL President, Kay Brodbeck

March is National Women's History Month, and we celebrate half of the American population! In this federal election year, it's a good time to look at our history. Did you know that women were not given the right to vote? Key word "given". Women had to fight for the right. The 19th amendment passed in 1920 but efforts had begun half a century earlier. Leaders in the struggle such as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucrecia Mott were strong women who stayed the course.

As America entered the 20th century and following the deaths of both Anthony and Stanton, Carrie Chapman Catt picked up the mantle and led the work to open voting to women at the state level. By 1918, 16 states and the Alaska Territory extended voting rights to women. The next step was to pass an amendment to the United States Constitution in order to benefit women all across the nation. The process for the Constitution to be amended is rigorous: two-thirds of the members of each house of Congress must approve it and three-fourths of the states must ratify it.

In 1913, protestors held a massive suffrage parade in Washington D.C. and hundreds of women were injured. They staged pickets at the White House to influence President Woodrow Wilson with some members being arrested and serving jail time. By 1918, President Wilson was finally convinced and supported women's suffrage.

Then and Now (continued)

by NAWSHL President, Kay Brodbeck

Not enough Senators were convinced however and the amendment failed by two votes. It was not taken up again until 1919 and finally passed both the House and the Senate. By March of 1920, 35 states had approved the amendment, but not enough to reach the three-fourths needed for ratification.

The states first giving the vote to women were the Western states, led by Wyoming. Southern states were adamantly opposed and fell one by one. The last one to vote on the issue was Tennessee, but the legislators were in a 48-48 tie. This nail-biter of a vote was tipped by 24-year-old Representative Harry T. Burn, a Republican from McMinn County who originally opposed the amendment. He changed his vote however when his mother wrote him a letter urging his support.

On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was certified by the U.S. Secretary of State. On November 2 of the same year, more than 8 million women across our nation voted in elections for the first time! Following passage, the amendment still had to be ratified by the remaining states which took 60 years. The last one was Mississippi in 1984.

The right to vote did not extend to all women, however. Poll taxes and local laws blocked women of color from this right and they faced intimidation at the polls or when attempting to register to vote. It would take more than 40 years for all women to achieve voting equality.

"No man is good enough to govern any woman without her consent." - Susan B. Anthony

Kay Brodbeck
NAWHSL President

The Smithsonian Institution is embarking on a path for recognizing women leaders throughout history. The new American Women's History Museum will be located on the national mall in Washington, D.C. and completion will take about ten years. Leaders in the suffrage movement will undoubtedly be featured.

The Smithsonian is making a concerted effort to include forgotten figures with their inaugural digital exhibition entitled Becoming Visible: Bringing American Women's History into Focus. The museum seeks to help us "better understand our past and inspire our future".

Find more information at www.womenshistory.si.edu

Source: History.com

Strong Women on NAWHSL's Advisory Board

Featuring: Terecia Wilson

Serving on the NAWHSL Board of Advisors, Terecia Webb Wilson exemplifies strong women who stay the course. In her kind and thoughtful manner, she has helped her state and the nation make significant strides in traffic safety for over 40 years. She serves as Assistant Director of the Institute for Global Road Safety and Security at Clemson University and is a founding member of the four-person team that established the nation's first Master's Degree in the US in the management and administration of road safety programs. She wrote the originating plan for Clemson that proposed both a Bachelor's and a Master's program, with recommendations for courses to be included.

Ms. Wilson's traffic safety work includes serving as Coordinator for the South Carolina State Highway Safety Office and Director of Safety for the South Carolina Department of Transportation. Through innovative approaches she conceived and thoroughly implemented, South Carolina's mileage death rate was 3.7 in 1986 and just prior to her retirement had declined to 1.65. What an accomplishment!

Ms. Wilson led statewide efforts with the state legislature to pass important safety legislation including: both secondary and primary seat belt law, .10 BAC and .08 BAC Per Se, .02 Zero Tolerance for under 21, updated open container law, 21 drinking age legislation, Safe Routes to School, Child Passenger Safety and Booster Seats, Move Over and Ignition Interlock legislation. She also wrote the background for the Highway Safety Act of 1988.

Ms. Wilson has served on numerous National Cooperative Highway Research Projects (NCHRP) including those for Model Curriculum for Highway Safety Core Competencies, Public Transportation Response Plan for a Pandemic Guidebook in 2011 (Chair) which was needed to respond to Covid and Development of a Strategic Plan for Transforming Traffic Safety Culture (Chair).

As her history would imply, her longstanding leadership in highway safety has earned much recognition. An example of her awards are these: The President's Transportation Award for Highway Safety 2004) by AASHTO, NHTSA's National Award for Public Service (1999 and 1992), and three separate National Roadway Safety Awards for program she developed, "Let 'em Work, Let 'em Live work zone safety; the internationally renowned "Highways or Dieways" campaign; and the Crash Reduction by Improving Safety on Secondaries program.

Through all these professional accomplishments, family remained central in her life. She and husband George David Wilson have two sons George Patrick Wilson (Brittany) of Prosperity, SC, and Benjamin David Wilson (Cecilia) of New Orleans. She loves her four grandchildren, Madison (10 months), Luke (2), Emily (4) and Noah (5).

And we love you, Terecia Wilson, and thank you over and over for the support you give to the National Association of Women Highway Safety Leaders. We commend you for the difference you have made to save lives and prevent injuries on our nation's roadways.

LAW ENFORCEMENT PHLEBOTOMY PROGRAM MISSOURI

The Missouri Law Enforcement Phlebotomy Program (LEPP) is funded through grants with the Missouri Department of Transportation Highway Safety & Traffic Division. It has also been funded through grants received from NHTSA and GHSA. The Missouri Safety Center at the University of Central Missouri provides project activities for this grant.

The LEPP began through work with a Task Force made up of law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and highway safety professionals. The initial Task Force project worked to develop best practice templates for policies and procedures, create a Missouri LEPP Program Manual, and provide resources for agencies related to development of an LEPP. The first Pilot Policy & Training Project, funded through MoDOT Highway Safety & Traffic Division for FY2023, allowed for 11 law enforcement officers in the state to apply, be selected as candidates, and participate in educational and clinical training in Phoenix, Arizona. Funding allowed for Task Force members to attend the training at Phoenix College as well. During FY2023, nine officers attended and successfully completed the training and are now qualified to draw blood in Missouri. As of September 30, 2023, there were 55 blood draw completions by the qualified Law Enforcement Phlebotomists (LEPs). The majority (52) of these were for suspected impaired driving cases; two (2) were training draws; and one (1) was conducted during the investigation for a homicide.

The LEPP was continued through funding in FY2024. The program will be conducted at the Moberly Area Community College (MACC) site in Mexico, MO. The program at MACC has been developed with classes as close to the Phoenix College model as possible, requiring six weeks of online classes, three days of in-person class sessions, and clinical externships. LEPs must complete 100 successful blood draws during their externships prior to being allowed to draw blood for their agency(ies). Bringing the program to Missouri will allow for less time away from the officer's agency while still maintaining the highest level of training for clinical standards.

In FY2024, it is anticipated that 24 additional officers will be trained through MoDOT Highway Safety & Traffic Division funds, while also adding seven (7) more officers to the training through GHSA funding. By the end of FY2024 it is anticipated that 40 trained LEPs will be available throughout the state to assist in reducing the number of impaired drivers on our roadways.

HIGHWAY SAFETY PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

HANG TIME PROGRAM CONNECTICUT

In continuing efforts to ensure all children travel safely on Connecticut roadways, NAWHSL member Juliet Little wanted to reach out to parents/caregivers who have been incarcerated and are getting reacclimated back into the community. After having a conversation with one of their CPS instructors, Juliet was informed about a program called Hang Time. Once she learned about the program, she didn't have to reinvent the wheel but partner with their organization to educate and provide car seats to those in need.

I know you're wondering what is Hang Time? It's a Community Support Group Social Service Navigation hub with a focus on reintegration of formerly incarcerated citizens back into our communities. It started out with re-entry but has expanded to additional community members (underserved) needing support & healing. "We never over promise or under deliver" CO-ED gatherings with "real talk." Attendees are promised three things: A hot meal, respect to truly speak their mind, education of something they didn't know before you attended the meeting. There is also Her Time, which is women-only meetings that support each other in a safe and trusted environment.

Hang Time was created in 2014 by Charlie Grady & Asst. US Attorney Mark Gustafson and eight gang members from Bridgeport. Members of Hang Time contact their Regional Program Directors to receive proper paperwork to prepare before the meeting. That paperwork is provided so that specific education is provided for each child or children in their care. Members are vetted to ensure their participation in Hang Time / Her Time meetings.

The meeting is scheduled at the beginning of Hang Time / Her Time meetings. An "awareness training" explaining basic safety & educating the parents/caregivers on many elements of Child Passenger Safety. Parts of a car seat, seatbelts & retractors, rear-facing rules vs. forward-facing rules, airbag education, CT laws re: car seats objects within vehicles & aftermarket products. Afterward, the members receive a new car seat(s) to use for the child or children they care for.

Car seats from 10/2022 thru 9/2023

- 22 car seats provided
- 32 car seats inspected

Car seats from 10/2023 thru 1/2024

- 8 car seats provided
- 12 car seats inspected

SAVE THE DATE!

2024 NAWHSL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

"Revving up Community Engagement - Getting to the Finish Line"

September 5 - 7, 2024
Indianapolis, IN

You can expect to be informed and invigorated! Sessions include Indiana legislators, Vision Zero, coalition building, vulnerable road users, Indiana and Regional MADD programs and progress, Occupant Protection, DRE and more.

Agenda and registration information will be shared as it becomes available in 2024.

We hope you will plan to join us!

NAWHSL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN HIGHWAY SAFETY LEADERS

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To serve as a resource to all who are dedicated to creating a culture for which traffic fatalities and serious injuries are no longer acceptable. NAWHSL was founded by women, with a goal of serving and empowering all.

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