

CASE Newsletter

California Association for Safety Education Volume XII, Number 2 - Nov. 2002

President's Message

by John Knippel



This year is going to be as exciting for Driver Education as the World Series was for the Anaheim Angels. Our coalition partners are working on legislation to help with Driver Training. Our credentialing classes are getting great reviews even from people in other states who have attended simply to enrich their teaching talents and programs. CTA President Wayne Johnson has confirmed he will speak at the Palm Springs Conference as has Dr. Terry Klein from ADTSEA.

I have heard that several schools are restarting and/or are increasing the number of classroom periods of driver education. With full inclusion in full swing and CLAD and SDAIE, people are turning to us for answers because we have always had to

include these groups in our programs. I find references to driver education in many academic texts on teaching and teaching methods. We were doing authentic assessment, and multiple intelligence theory long before they became educational buzz words. Let's step up to the plate and do it again. Let's hit a home run with the bases loaded. Stay abreast of legislation. Attend this year's conference in Palm Springs, April 25,26. Participate as a speaker and share with us your wealth of great teaching ideas in the Teachers' Favorite Projects session. Invite someone to attend the conference, even if they don't currently teach driver education. There will be something for everyone.

51st Annual CASE Traffic Safety Conference April 25-26, 2003 Ramada Hotel Resort, Palm Springs



CASE has reserved a large block of rooms at the beautiful Ramada Resort & Conference Center, 1800 East Palm Canyon Drive at Sunrise Way, Palm Springs. The hotel has an excellent conference facility and a beautiful garden courtyard complete with an Olympic-size pool and hot therapy pools. It is within walking distance of shopping centers, restaurants and nightclubs. Many fine golf courses are nearby.

• Speakers will include CTA President Wayne Johnson and ADTSEA's Dr. Terry L. Kline.

• Teacher-oriented conference focusing on materials and methods as well as credentialing.

Watch for Conference Registration information in the mail, or visit www.casewebsite.org

CTA's Support Pending State Budget Improvement

by Jerry L. Gaines, CASE Past President

The CTA is committed to re-introducing legislation that could lead to restored funding by a targeted grant program for public schools that choose to offer driver training. However, the draft legislation will be held in their Curriculum and Instruction Committee of the CTA State Council until the state budget climate improves, hopefully in the coming year. Given the current multibillion-dollar deficit of California's state budget, any proposed legislation that has funding connected to it is at great risk. CTA is committed to moving this legislation at the appropriate time and will revisit it at each of their Quarterly State Council meetings.

CTA previously sponsored AB 204 (Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal and State Senator Betty Karnette, both from Long Beach) that passed the Assembly Education Committee. However, it was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee where it was placed on their Suspense File and was eventually shelved when the state's economy went into a crisis. This legislation proposed to restore driver-training funding under previous regulations statewide. However, the state energy crisis and the tragedy of September 11 made success of this legislation impossible.

In the meantime there is a need to educate the public at the local level about the inequity facing teens that do not have the financial means or live in rural areas and cannot complete pre-licensing requirements in California. Both members of CTA and CASE will be organizing an educational campaign in the coming months to do just that. Both new legislators and local level educators, students, and board members need to know about this inequity issue. More information about this campaign will be shared with CASE members and supporters in the coming months.

Drivers age 60 and older are driving with only about one-third of the light they had when you they were 20. That's because the pupil, which regulates the amount of light that reaches the retina, gets smaller as as person gets older. Older drivers should plan car travel to minimize the impact of any visual limitations. When possible, drive in familiar locations and avoid driving at night, in bad weather, and during rush hours.

Consumer Reports On Health, August 2002

Free Videos Available

Visit the Federal Highway Administration website at <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/media/video.htm> to view or download traffic safety videos.

Among the videos available are "RedLight, Green Light"—a discussion of intersection related hazards, and "Highway Grade Crossings"—a demonstration of potential consequences when signs are not obeyed in highway-rail crossings.

For a free video on how to properly maintain your tires, contact the Tire Retread Information Bureau, toll-free 888-473-8732, or by e-mail: info@retread.org. Visit the TRIB website at <http://www.retread.org>

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has videos available for downloading at its website: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/real/index.html> Video subjects include crash dummy tests and child safety with air bags.

You may also order free videos from NHTSA online through the Traffic Safety Materials Catalog: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov> Titles include the 20-minute "Crash Dynamics for Training Programs" showing automobile test crashes.

Also available from NHTSA through the catalog is "The Traffic Safety Box"—an interactive CD ROM program that delivers NHTSA's injury prevention and traffic safety messages to youth in the pre-driving and driving age groups. Powerful film vignettes feature teenagers in real life driving situations. Students make choices and accumulate points for correct answers.



CASE Calendar

April 25-26, 2003 - 51st Annual CASE Conference, Ramada Resort Hotel, Palm Springs.

July 27-31, 2003 - 47th ADTSEA Conference, Hilton Charlotte University Place, Charlotte, North Carolina. Online information @ : <http://adtsea.iup.edu/adtsea>



The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that, deep down inside, we ALL believe that we are above average drivers.

Dave Barry, Miami Herald

In Motion Magazine

Are you one of many teachers who used to use *In Motion* magazine in your classes? It used to be distributed free to schools but went out of publication last year due to lack of sponsorship by General Motors. Quaker State has been secured as the new sponsor. Plans are underway to again have this publication available sometime this fall or winter.

If you are interested in receiving a classroom set (up to 65 copies), contact the publisher by phone at (847) 205-3000 and ask to be placed on the new mailing list. You may also contact them by mail at General Learning Communications, 900 Skokie Boulevard, Northbrook, Illinois 60062-4028.

MTEA News

CASE Newsletter

Published by the California Association
for Safety Education

Richard Mikulik, Editor

25 Shelbourne Place
San Mateo, CA 94402
Fax: (650) 349-7850

E-mail: rmikulik@casewebsite.org

CASE Web Site:

<http://www.casewebsite.org>

CASE Officers

John Knippel, President

18121 Rose Ave.
Bloomington, CA 92316
(909) 877-2484
e-mail: macbeverly@aol.com

Craig Dill, Past President

2209 Atrisco Circle
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 925-2991

Ben Visnick, President-Elect

3280 Jordan Rd.
Oakland, CA 94602
(510) 336-9839
e-mail: benvisnick@mindspring.com

Bill Corliss, 1st Vice President

14883 Ave. 312
Visalia, CA 93292
(559) 798-1938
e-mail: bags42@aol.com

James Lewis, 2nd Vice President

2303 Teasley St.
La Crescenta, CA 91214
(818) 957-5264
e-mail: jlewis1118@aol.com

Larry Terrill, North Region Rep.

470-980 Wingfield Rd.
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-4220
e-mail: terrill@onemain.com

Larry Woodruff, South Region Rep.

3608 York Circle
La Verne, CA 91750
(909) 593-0563
e-mail: law561@aol.com

Tough New Helmet Law for California Kids



The toughest kids helmet law in the nation was signed September 11 by Governor Davis. The law will take effect January 1, 2003 and extends the 1994 bike helmet law for riders under 18 to include all kid-powered wheeled vehicles, including skateboards, in-line or roller skates, and non-motorized scooters. It also applies to small child passengers in bike seats and trailers.

The law amends Section 21212 of the Vehicle Code and requires that operators and passengers wear a properly fitted and fastened approved bicycle helmet while riding upon a street, bikeway, or any other public bicycle path or trail. The fine for non-compliance will be a \$25 ticket. A minor's parent or legal guardian is jointly liable with the minor for the amount of the fine. However, the court can waive the fine for first-time offenders.

Seventy-two percent of the fines collected will help fund bicycle, nonmotorized scooter, skateboard, and in-line and roller skate safety education programs through county health departments, including the purchase of helmets for low-income children either on a loan or purchase basis. The remaining 28% will go to counties and cities to cover administration costs of the new law.

The law (SB 1924) was authored by State Senator Jack O'Connell, of San Luis Obispo. It was inspired by the student council of Hawthorne Elementary School in San Luis Obispo after a youngster without a helmet was hurt falling off a scooter.

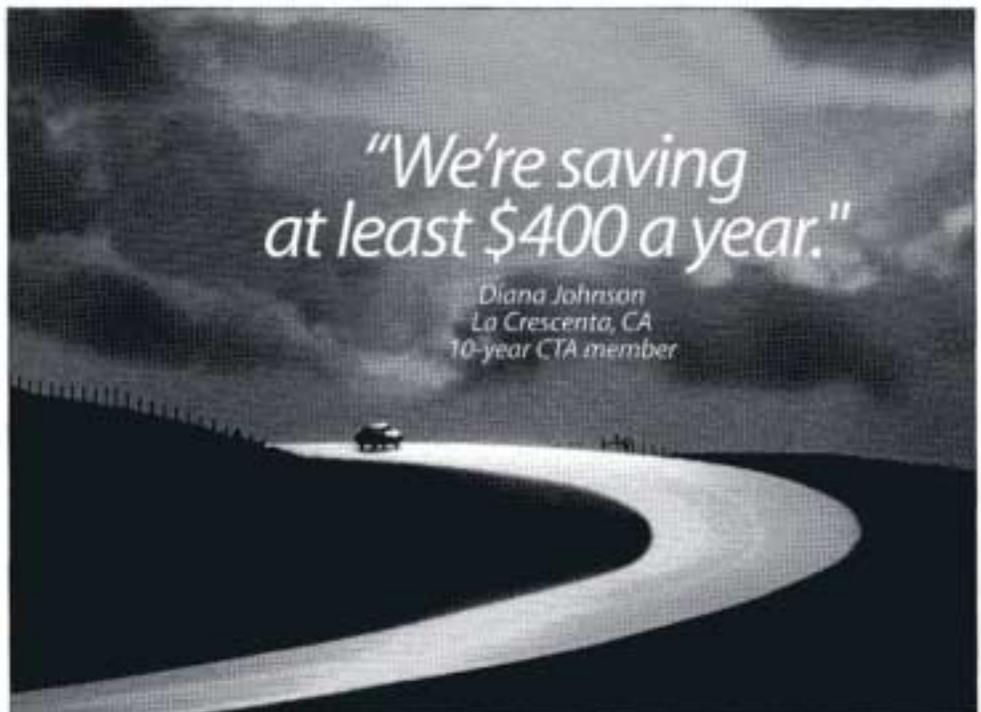
The American Academy of Pediatrics estimated in March that skateboard-related injuries cause 50,000 emergency room visits and 1,500 hospitalizations annually in the U.S. Data from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission show that non-powered scooters accounted for 9,400 emergency room visits between January and August 2000. Ninety percent of those patients were younger than 15.

A 1999 California study credited the 1994 state bicycle helmet law for reducing deaths by 31 percent and injuries by 28 percent among cyclists under the age of 15 since the law took effect.

A recent study shows that 63 percent of children ages 8-12 don't think they could suffer serious brain injury from bicycle accidents. In reality, nearly half the kids hospitalized for bike injuries suffer brain trauma, reports the National Safe Kids Campaign, which offers free downloadable materials at www.safekids.org to encourage kids to use helmets while biking.



The California Association for Safety Education is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. Since its inception, the purpose of CASE has been the promotion of traffic safety through quality instruction of beginning drivers in California secondary schools.



*"We're saving
at least \$400 a year."*

*Diana Johnson
La Crescenta, CA
10-year CTA member*

As member of California Association for Safety Educators, you qualify for comprehensive auto insurance at specially negotiated rates with *A+ Auto & Home Insurance Plus* from California Casualty. You could save hundreds of dollars each year. Call today!

 **AUTO & HOME
INSURANCE PLUS**
FROM CALIFORNIA CASUALTY

Protecting California's educators for over 50 years.



Call today for a free quote, toll-free: 1-888-744-9717.

www.APlus.com

Exclusively endorsed by CTA.

0041343

AAA Road to Infineon Raceway Traffic Safety Challenge

AAA and the Infineon Raceway (formerly Sears Point) in Sonoma have formed a partnership to encourage northern California high schools, students and communities to support safe driving. High schools earn points for participation in various traffic safety activities. High schools earning the most points will be awarded a day at Infineon Raceway for a program of advanced driving instruction.

The racetrack opens its gate each year to 400 licensed high school students from eight schools for free instruction on how to become better, safer drivers. Students are taken through a series of driving exercises, including enhanced braking and skid control under the direction of professional instructors from the Jim Russell Racing Drivers School at Infineon Raceway.

AAA Traffic Safety Challenge packages are sent to every high school in the nine Bay Area counties, Sacramento County and San Joaquin County in September. School applications are submitted to AAA in October, and reports with all documentation of activities are due in January. Judging and announcement of winners takes place in early February, and 50 licensed students from each of the winning schools participate in advanced driving instruction at the Infineon Raceway at the end of February.



Schools can earn points by participating in activities designed to reduce crashes. There are four primary areas of focus considered key to improving young driver safety:

- **Seat belt usage**
- **Speed reduction**
- **Driver impairment education**
- **Aggressive driving reduction**

Bonus points are awarded for innovative programs that address one or more of these focus areas. Safety activities that students can create include:

- **Conduct safe driving awareness and education campaigns** (traffic safety articles in school papers, safety essay contests, etc.)
- **Submit creative work:** scripts, plays, public service announcements, human interest safety stories, photos, video, events, etc.



- **Conduct a seat belt survey** in school parking lots
- **Conduct anti-aggressive driving/road rage workshops/surveys**
- **Sponsor events at school:**
 - Every 15 Minutes
 - Road rage role play
 - Traffic Safety Assembly/Guest Speakers
 - Inbound Mercy (AAA Video)
 - Just Another Saturday Night (AAA video)
 - Sober Graduation event
- **Raise funds for traffic safety programs**
- **Form a Chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)**
- **Do community outreach:** guest speakers, middle school visits, media interviews
- **Sign a Teen/Parent safe driving contract**

A school's scoring and point total is based on creativity, project effectiveness, project organization, and student involvement. Documentation of project work is required, including all tally sheets and log books.

Student teams can choose their own traffic safety projects. Creativity is encouraged, with points awarded for originality, thoroughness, organization, student participation and impact on the high school and the community.

For more information about the Traffic Safety Challenge, contact: Kevin Kelly at (415) 565-2304 or Marcella Escobar-Mora at (415) 565-2298

Driver Education & Training Credential Programs

Commission-approved courses are being offered for (1) teachers who are currently teaching Driver Education and Training on waivers, and (2) instructors or individuals applying for a credential to teach Driver Education and Training for the first time.

In order to be credentialed by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing to teach Driver Education and Training, an instructor must take and pass a Commission-approved subject-related program (12 semester units) in Driver Education and Training.

Fresno County Office of Education/California State University Program

Courses are now being offered in Northern California as well as at the California State University Fresno campus. The Northern California site will be at the Liberty Union High School District in Brentwood. The Brentwood cluster will begin classes in January 2003. The Fresno course dates have not yet been announced.

The program consists of five courses—*The Driving Privilege (2 units)*, *Sensory Input (3 units)*, *Risk Management & Traffic Strategies (3 units)*, *Driver Instruction Program Organization & Management (1 unit)*, and *Behind-the Wheel Laboratory (3 units)*.

For an application or for more information call Jackie Gunderson (559) 265-3031 or Diane Ladd (559) 265-3005 X3252 or Dr. Larry Wilder (559) 497-3796.

University of California, Riverside University Extension Program

The program consists of the following required courses (units listed are *quarter* units): Driver Choice and Responsibility (4 units), Safety and Risk Factors in Driver Education and Training (4 units), Driver Skills and Abilities (4 units), Pedagogical/Organizational Considerations in Driver Education and Training (2 units), and Behind-the-Wheel Competencies (4 units).

Courses currently scheduled:

Education 813 - Orientation: Driver Education/Subject Matter
• January 31, 2003, 6-7pm. (.1 CEU)

Education X317.2 - Safety and Risk Factors in Driver Education and Training
• January 31, February 7, 21, 28, 6-9 pm; February 1, 8, 22, March 1, Sat. 8am-4pm.

Courses are scheduled according to student need. A class must have six students for it to be offered.

For an application or for more information call Patricia Arebalo, (909) 787-4361, ext. 11654, or mail your request to Ms. Arebalo @ University Extension Center, Education, 1200 University Avenue, Riverside, CA 92507-4596.



SAFE DRIVERS ?

They may act like they know it all, but teenagers all lack the one thing that can make them better drivers – experience. Before they get behind the wheel, it's up to you to teach them how to properly – and safely – operate an automobile.

With the Raydon Virtual Driver™ simulator and Road Tools™ multimedia classroom program, your students will become better drivers through revolutionary technology and an advanced curriculum.

Fully Interactive > The RVD is a curriculum-based simulator that provides one-on-one student instruction, feedback and scoring through cutting-edge simulation.

More Flexibility, Less Risk > The self-paced curriculum allows students to advance at their own pace while experiencing real-world situations in a safe environment.

More Driving Time, Less Cost > The RVD can increase each student's behind-the-wheel time for a fraction of the cost and liability involved with traditional driver's ed. classes.

Effective > The active learning environment gives each student significant transfer of training from the virtual roadway to real-world driving.

Take it for a virtual drive and experience the Raydon Virtual Driver firsthand.

RAYDON
VIRTUAL DRIVER™

To find out how, simply contact
Deborah Quackenbush
(386) 267-2936, ext. 315
dquackenbush@raydon.com
210 FENTRESS BLVD • DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32114
www.virtualdriver.net

Credit and Auto Insurance?

By: Janet Patrick
Director, Illinois Insurance Hotline

Most young drivers know that accidents and tickets affect insurance rates, but how about *credit*? A recent Illinois Department of Insurance study revealed that 80% of insurance companies use credit history as a rating and/or eligibility factor. Mishandling money can mean fewer auto insurance options and higher rates, an important insight for cash-poor teens.

Insurance companies are in the business of predicting losses, and success depends on the degree of accuracy to which they can do this. Companies use several variables, known as risk factors, to predict loss potential. Risk factors are characteristics that predict differences in loss behavior. Common auto insurance risk factors include age, sex, marital status, driving record, and drive-to-work mileage. Credit has emerged as another risk factor that can accurately predict future losses.

How a person handles credit reflects his/her level of personal responsibility. In general, people with good credit pay bills on time, follow rules, and refrain from overdoing things. To insurance underwriters, these traits translate to lower claim potential. When drivers follow the rules and pay attention, they have fewer accidents. In turn, those with good credit scores often pay less for insurance.



What areas of money management go into creating a credit score? Fair, Isaac & Company, a firm that develops these figures, suggests that companies evaluate five basic categories.

* Past payment history. Scores are closely tied to paying bills on time and avoiding delinquencies, collections, bankruptcy, and/or liens.

* Amount of credit. Scores consider the number and type of accounts you have, and how close you are to maxing them out.

* Length of time credit established. Scores evaluate when accounts were opened.

* New credit. Scores are based on the number and proportion of new accounts, and the number of inquiries into credit status.

* Types of credit. Scores consider the number and activity on the various types of credit used - credit cards, retail store accounts, installment loans, and mortgages.

Responsible drivers make good decisions inside and outside their cars. Auto insurance companies have acknowledged and reacted to this fact. Make sure the students in your drivers education classes recognize it too!

Don't Neglect Your Tires!

Tire Retread Information Bureau

Try driving your vehicle under any of the following conditions: no fuel, no oil, faulty brakes, damaged spark plugs, torn hoses, or a broken fuel pump. You won't get very far.

Yet, you can drive your vehicle with grossly underinflated tires, possible even for long distances. The problem is that you will probably destroy the investment you have in your tires long before necessary.

Furthermore, you may even contribute to a catastrophic accident caused when one of your underinflated tires fails, which it **WILL** do given enough time.

It's a fact that a vehicle with one of more tires underinflated to point of being considered a "run flat" **CAN** keep on moving.

If your vehicle couldn't be able to be driven with seriously underinflated tires the amount of tire debris on our highways (and tire related accidents) would be dramatically reduced.

Until that happens, there are steps you can take to make sure you are part of the solution instead of part of the problem.

■ Check the air pressure in your tires on a regular basis. Your tires should be checked while they are **COLD**, or driven no more than about one mile before checking. Ideally, this should be done at least once a week. **ALWAYS** use a properly calibrated air gauge. Don't ever trust the sound made by thumping a tire. This tells you nothing!

■ Visually check your tires daily by taking a walk around your vehicle. Look for bulges, cuts and anything else out of the ordinary. Have any problems sighted checked **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** by a tire expert.

■ Don't overload your vehicle. Tires are designed to carry a specific load. When your vehicle is overloaded to the point where the tires can't support the load, you become an accident waiting to happen.

■ Be certain you have the proper size and type of tires for your vehicle and the load you normally carry on the roads you normally traverse. Your best friend in this regard should be your tire dealer who can provide the information you need regarding the right tire for the conditions under which you operate.

■ Check your alignment regularly! This preventative maintenance step can more than pay for itself many times over.

If you pay strict attention to the five steps shown above, you will reduce your downtime, extend your tire life, increase your fuel economy and be a safer driver.

The little bit of time it takes to properly maintain your tires on a regular basis can be the best investment you will ever make in increasing your profitability and decreasing a huge Excedrin headache!

For a free video on how to properly maintain your tires, contact the Tire Retread Information Bureau, Toll free from anywhere in North America 888-473-8732, or by e-mail: info@retread.org.



New York Governor Signs Graduated Driver License Bill

New York Governor George Pataki signed a graduated driver license bill into law in October. The bill supplements New York's existing graduated driver licensing program by adding a six-month mandatory holding period for learner's permits; a restriction limiting the number of passengers under 21 to two (2); and a requirement for a minimum of 20 hours of supervised driving. After completing the supervised driving requirement, beginning drivers from upstate New York counties will be allowed to apply for a "limited license" that will relax the nighttime driving restrictions already in law. Beginning drivers in downstate counties cannot apply for this exemption. The law will take effect on September 1, 2003.

This compromise represents a step in the right direction for New York, though it still falls short of an optimal GDL system. Advocates recommend that a GDL law includes 30-50 hours of supervised driving, and that there be statewide uniformity for all the provisions in order to maximize coverage and ease of enforcement.

Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety
www.saferoads.org

Seat Belt Use by Drivers, Passengers Reaches 75 percent in U.S.

Seat belt use is continuing an upward trend in 2002, reaching 75 percent, its highest level since national surveys began in 1994, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

States with primary seat belt laws hit another milestone - 80 percent belt use - while states with secondary laws averaged 69 percent. In states with a primary seat belt law, motor vehicle occupants can be stopped and cited by law enforcement officials for failing to wear belts whether or not another violation has occurred. In states with secondary enforcement, the vehicle must be stopped for another offense before the occupant can be cited for failing to wear a belt.



The new data - drawn from a large-scale observational study conducted by NHTSA in June 2002 - show a 2 percentage-point increase in seat belt use to 75 percent since 2001. The study, known as the National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS), is conducted periodically by the agency to obtain nationwide estimates of shoulder belt use and motorcycle helmet use to support the agency's occupant protection programs. The last such survey was conducted in June 2001.

Study Shows Wide Disparity in Teenage Seat Belt Use Nationwide

A study by the Preusser Research Group using data from NHTSA's Fatality Reporting System reports that teenage seatbelt use ranges from 89 percent in California to 50 percent in Mississippi. The study found that in 2000, 4,700 drivers ages 16-19 were killed. If teenagers in the other 49 states used belts as often as those in California, 600 of those that died would have lived.

California Finally Starts to Number Freeway Exits

Although the other 49 states have been numbering freeway exits for years, California has just gotten around to doing it.

Over the next three years, Caltrans crews will attach numbers to 23,000 exit signs at 5,800 locations along 92 state and federal freeways. The numbers will be added to exit signs as Caltrans replaces worn or outdated signs. It will cost an estimated \$20 million to \$30 million.

The idea is to make it easier and safer for drivers to navigate California's freeways. The signs will help reduce last-minute weaving through traffic to get to the exit. If your exit is 140 and you're at 135, you know that you have 5 miles to go.

The numbering system is also expected to eliminate the confusion caused when more than one exit has an identical or similar name. The CHP has said that the numbers will make it quicker and easier to respond to accidents and emergencies.

Visit the CASE Website:
www.casewebsite.org



- Updates on the 2003 CASE Palm Springs Conference, including registration forms that can be printed
- An archive of *CASE Newsletter* past issues downloadable in Adobe Acrobat pdf format
- *CASE Forum* message board. Ask or respond to questions about driver education/training and related safety topics—or exchange ideas with other traffic safety educators.
- Links to other traffic safety sites on the Internet
- Questions and answers about Driver Education in California

CASE Corporate Members

Our Corporate Members are a vital asset to our organization. These companies show their support for traffic safety education by participating at our state conferences and providing financial assistance. We appreciate our special relationship and thank them for their outstanding support.

- American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
- California Casualty
- California Integrated Waste Management Board
- Doron Precision Systems, Inc
- Propulsion International, Inc.

Please help us increase our membership!

Our Membership Committee is requesting that each member do his/her part to bring in new members. Please check with the driver education professionals at your school or district to see if they are members of CASE. If not, provide them with the membership application below and discuss the importance of belonging to their professional association.



Make check payable to:
CASE
25 Shelbourne Place
San Mateo, CA 94402

Membership Application (please type or print)

Professional Memberships are **\$40.00**. New memberships are valid for one year from date of receipt.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School: _____ District _____

County: _____

Phone: School or office () _____ - _____ Evenings: () _____ - _____

Referred by (optional): _____