

**SEPTEMBER 2017 OUR 43RD YEAR**

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### *REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING:* September 6, 2017 – 10:00 AM at AAA Building, Hamilton, NJ. Speaker is Mike Geraci who heads Region 2 NHTSA. We are part of Region 2.

### *PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE*: It is hard to believe that my term as president is rapidly approaching. It was another great year for the Association, thanks primarily to the hard work and generosity of the members for which I am grateful. The head of NHTSA Region 2, Mike Geraci, will address our September 6 meeting, please make a special effort to attend. If you drive a Ford Explorer have it checked for Carbon Monoxide. There have been cases where the CO level caused Police officers to be overcome and crash their vehicles. Be Safe - Tim

***THE MOST DANGEROUS DAY TO DRIVE IN NJ:*** Most people would think 4th of July or Thanksgiving would be the worst day to drive an automobile. However, that would be wrong. The most dangerous day to drive in NJ is December 24th. This date is when there a many office parties which is likely to put more drinking drivers on the road.

***UNSAFE USED TIRES:*** A 3896 would impose a fine on a business that sells a tire that exhibits any one of several unsafe conditions such as worn-out tread, visible damage or improper repairs. NHTSA says worn-out tires are three times more likely to be involved in a crash than tires with sufficient tread depth. Their crash statistics indicate about 200 fatalities and 6,000 injuries are attributed to tire-related causes annually.  The bill says tires worn to 1/16th of an inch are considered worn-out and are dangerous because they no longer provide sufficient grip on the road, particularly under wet conditions. Tires with damage exposing steel belts or other internal components threaten a tire’s structural integrity. Improperly repaired tires can suffer loss of inflation pressure or have hidden damage that may contribute to tire failure. Tires with bulges indicate possible internal damage that can lead to tread separation.

***FEDS OVERSTATE SPEEDING IN FATAL CRASHES:*** NHTSA released the latest analysis of speeding-related traffic fatalities in the United States. The document concludes speeding was a factor in 27 percent of fatal traffic collisions but a closer look at the data show only one-fourth of these "speeders" were actually exceeding the posted limit. The US DOT Fatality Analysis Reporting System describes the actions of drivers who were involved in 32,166 fatal crashes in 2015. NHTSA took the database and used the broadest possible definition of "speeding" to arrive at the 27 percent figure. "NHTSA considers a crash to be speeding-related if any driver in the crash was charged with a speeding-related offense or if a police officer indicated that racing, driving too fast for conditions, or exceeding the posted speed limit was a contributing factor in the crash," the report explains. It turns out that only 82 individual drivers were identified as "racing" prior to a fatal crash in 2015, accounting for 0.2 percent of incidents. Only 102 speeding tickets were issued to surviving drivers, compared to 6864 tickets for non-speeding offenses. Overall, 3469 drivers were found to be exceeding the posted speed limit, or 7 percent. Federal agencies include driving below the posted speed limit within the definition of "speeding" to boost the profile of the issue.

***DAVE MARTIN:*** Dave Martin, formerly with NJDOT, is now employed by Maser Consult in Hamilton.Maser Consulting is a national multidiscipline consulting and engineering design firm serving both public and private clients. ***TRAFFIC ENGINEERING COURSE:***  September 19, 26 October 3, 10, 17, 24\* (6 Tuesdays) Ocean County Fire & First Aid Training Center 200 Volunteer Way Waretown, N.J. October 26 November 2, 9, 16, 30, December 7\*

 (6 Thursdays) Middlesex County Fire Academy 1001 Fire Academy Drive Sayreville, N.J. For more information contact Registration Information: 732-932-3640, ext. 648

As of August 18, 2017 there were 345 traffic fatalities in NJ compared to 360 during the same period in 2016.

**A DECREASE OF 15 DEATHS.**

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| **COUNTY** | **2017** | **2016** | **CHANGE** | **COUNTY** | **2017** | **2016** |  **CHANGE** |
| Atlantic  | 20 | 25 | -05 | Bergen  | 14 | 21 | -07 |
|  Burlington  | 24 | 22 | +02 | Camden  | 23 | 21 | +02 |
|  Cape May  | 07 | 08 | -01 | Cumberland  | 12 | 18 | -06 |
|  Essex  | 27 | 26 | +01 | Gloucester  | 25 | 19 | +06 |
|  Hudson  | 11 | 14 | -03 | Hunterdon  | 05 | 08 | -03 |
|  Mercer  | 15 | 10 | +05 | **Middlesex**  | **24** | **34** | **-10** |
|  Monmouth  | 24 | 28 | -04 | Morris  | 16 | 13 | +03 |
|  **Ocean**  | **30** | **21** | **+09** | Passaic  | 09 | 15 | -06 |
|  Salem  | 11 | 11 | -0- | Somerset  | 17 | 11 | +06 |
|  Sussex  | 02 | 08 | -06 | Union  | 21 | 17 | +04 |
|  Warren | 08 | 10 | -02 |   |  |  |  |

**Deaths:** Driver 198/205 Passenger 49/54; Pedalcyclist07/07; **Pedestrian 91/94.** Crashes325/342

***ROADSIDE MEMORIALS: O***fficials are concentrating on the need to set standards for roadside memorials. Their concern is memorials will become eyesores or traffic hazards. A bill making its way through the state legislature would allow a victim's relative to pay for a sign honoring the person who died and set certain specifications for the markers. Some residents have questioned the move, saying this is a personal issue that government leaders should stay away from, unless there are overwhelming public safety concerns.

***NJ COURT DECISION****:* The NJ Supreme Court ruled thatDashboard camera recordings and use-of-force reports generated in connection with the fatal police shooting of a man who led the officers on a high-speed chase through several northern New Jersey communities are public records subject to disclosure.

***AVOID VEHICLE THEFT****:* In 2015, nearly three-quarters of a million vehicles were stolen in the United States, and vehicle theft costs vehicle owners $5 billion annually. But you can protect your ride. Nearly half of vehicle theft is due to driver error, such as leaving your keys in the vehicle. Closing windows and locking doors. Park in well-lit areas, never leaving valuables in your vehicle, never leave the area while your vehicle is running, keeping your vehicle in your garage, if possible. Vehicle thefts happen once about every 45 seconds in America. .
***MINNESOTA IGNITION INTERLOCK:***  A group conducted an evaluation of the ignition interlock program in Minnesota. They attempted to examine the effectiveness of the ignition interlock program and to provide a comprehensive report to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety. Program participants experienced fewer arrests for DWI and moving violations while in the program compared to the comparison group. Program participants were less than half as likely to commit a new DWI offense compared to a matched group of non-participants. The evaluation also showed that participation in the Minnesota program reduced the long-term risk of recidivism by 39% overall. Those for whom this was a first DWI violation see a further 12% reduction in risk of recidivating. The findings from this study are consistent with other national interlock evaluations with regard to recidivism.

***DISTRACTED CRASHES:*** NHTSA says distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system—anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving. . Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed. You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing. In 2015 alone, 3,477 people were killed, and 391,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.  ***DASHBOARD CAMERA DECISION:*** Dashboard camera recordings and use-of-force reports generated in connection with the fatal police shooting of a man who led the officers on a high-speed chase through several northern New Jersey communities are public records subject to disclosure, the state Supreme Court recently ruled.

***ALCOHOL CRASHES:***Every day, 28 people in the United States die in an alcohol-related vehicle crash—that's one person every 51 minutes. Drunk driving fatalities have fallen by a third in the last three decades; however, the chance of being in an alcohol-impaired crash is still one in three over the course of a lifetime. These deaths and damages contribute to a cost of $52B per year. There were 10,265 deaths in 2015 due to alcohol.

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