

NEWSLETTER



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Thank you to all of our speakers, sponsors, and attendees for making our conference such a success! NAWHSL continues to grow and flourish in the professional membership and participants in fulfilling our mission and making our roads safer. We look forward to a great year as we move towards our next conference in Minneapolis.

Look for more information in your inbox about where the Association will head in the future!





2025 CONFERENCE WRAP-UP



NEW BEGINNINGS

The new NAWHSL Board was elected and installed at the Luncheon Banquet on Saturday. We have some new faces and some returning officers this year! Officers from left to right:

- President: Dr. Joanne Kurt-Hilditch, Missouri
- 1st Vice President: Amy Artuso, Florida
- 2nd Vice President: Alissa Geyer, Pennsylvania
- Secretary: Julie Brewer, Tennessee
- Treasurer: Mandie Dell, Washington
- Past President: Kay Brodbeck, Mississippi

CONTINUED COMMITMENT

While some things may change, others stay the same to carry on the history and commitment to NAWHSL. Kay Brodbeck will fulfill the Immediate Past President Role. Cindy and John McKay will remain a part of the financial oversight and backing as we move forward.



A HUGE THANK YOU TO PENNSYLVANIA

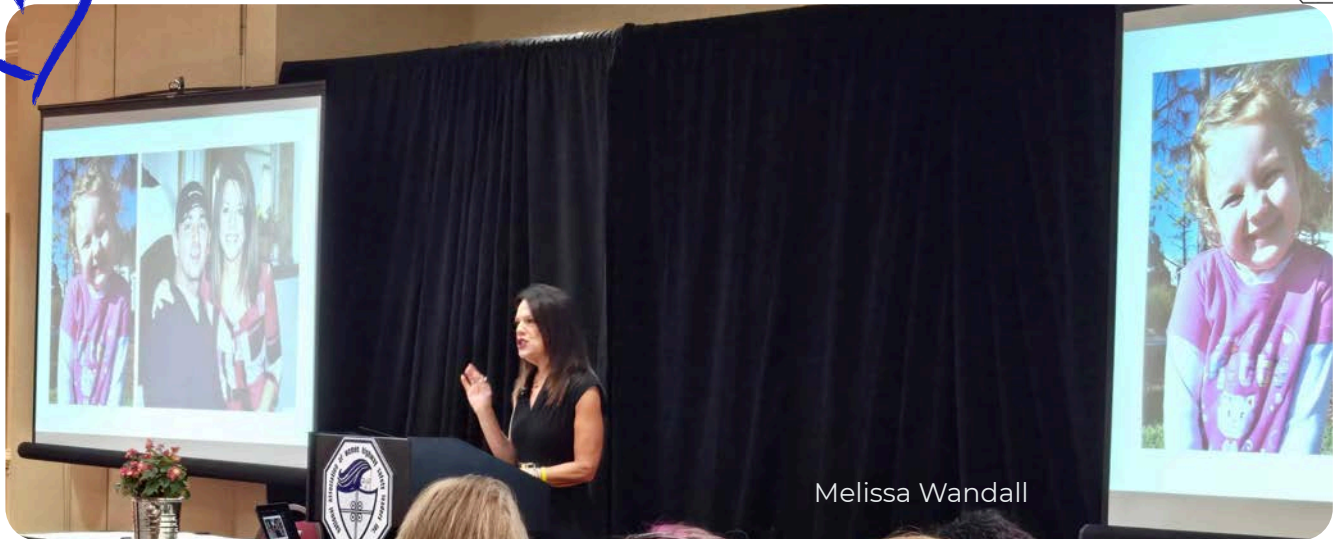
We are so appreciative of the individuals and agencies from Pennsylvania that helped us make this conference a success: The Pennsylvania State Police and the Pennsylvania Office of Highway Safety we key in supporting our efforts.



SHARING THE STATE OF THE STATES

We took a lot of time to share what's going on in our states and our territories, outlining the best of the best programs from across the nation. Was your state or area represented? If not, make sure to join us next year! Our attendees shared information about keeping drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and everyone safe on our roadways.





Melissa Wandall

SPEAKERS & SCHOLARSHIP

Our guest speakers came from all over the United States to share their experiences, activities, calls to action, and personal stories. These presentations helped reinforce the activities we are all engaged in for traffic safety and presented new ideas in research and practical application to support our endeavors.



Chris Lingle, Highway Safety Network



Emily Burkhardt, Westat



Amy Benedick, Westat



Jessica Cicchino, IHS HLDI





Tammy McGee



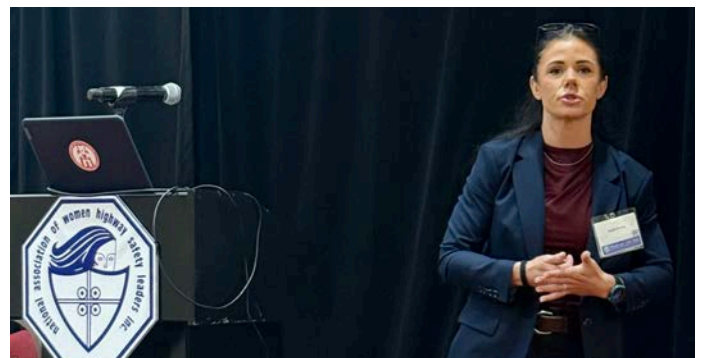
Amy Artuso, NSC



Jason Zang, PennDOT



Shandi Smith, Alliance; Nicole Barnett, Allegheny Co Health Department; Kristen Urso, PA TIPP, Terri Rae Anthony, AAA



Maggie Nunley, Pennsylvania DUI Association



Kay Brodbeck & Dr. Baraah Qawasmeh

SPEAKERS & SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Baraah Qawasmeh, Traffic Safety & Operations Engineer for the Michigan Department of Transportation, was awarded the NAWHSL 2025 National Young Women's Scholarship in Traffic Injury Prevention for her work with pedestrian crash data availability and quality using artificial intelligence (AI). Her award was presented at the Banquet luncheon on Saturday afternoon.





Mandie Dell, WA & Maura Fitzgerald, KS



Anna Thompson, WY & Kay Brodbeck, MS



Kay Brodbeck, MS, Melissa Wandall, FL, & Debra Coffey, TX

MEMBERS & NETWORKING

As NAWHSL grows, we know that many people join us through networking with colleagues and a shared sense of mission. We hope, that as we continue to identify and serve to address critical issues in highway safety, you engage and grow with us as members, State Representatives, and Regional Directors. We would love input on our future from all of you!

Please share your ideas with us at this link:

[NAWHSL Member & Stakeholder Input: Paving the Way for the Future](#)



Amy Artuso, FL & Sandy Spavone, VA



Tabitha Perkins & Joanne Kurt-Hilditch, MO



Kay Brodbeck, Mississippi



Cindy McKay, Lighting of the Memorial Candles



John McKay, Kelley Smith, Sandy Spavone, Cindy McKay



Cindy McKay, Kelley Smith, John McKay, Sandy Spavone



Tiffany Duvall, Kentucky



A BIG THANK YOU & CONTINUING THE MISSION TOGETHER

Speaking at the NAWHSL Conference in Pittsburgh was a deeply meaningful experience for me. From the moment I arrived, I felt embraced by a community of leaders who truly understand the power of connection in advocacy. What stood out most was the camaraderie, a genuine spirit of belonging that united everyone in the room. I was especially inspired by the way seasoned leaders shared their wisdom so openly, while emerging voices brought fresh and innovative ideas to the table. That exchange of knowledge and energy made NAWHSL feel unlike any other gathering I've attended, and I left feeling both supported and re-energized to continue this work.

I am profoundly grateful for the people I met and the encouragement I received throughout the conference, and I hope that I, too, became a source of encouragement. As a proud NAWHSL member, I am thankful to belong to a community that uplifts one another while working toward a shared vision. The experience reminded me of the message I shared, that change happens when passion meets purpose and when we stand together to bridge the gap. I look forward to carrying these lessons forward while staying connected with the incredible NAWHSL members, whether through future speaking opportunities or continued conversations on LinkedIn and social platforms. Together, we can keep building momentum toward safer roads and stronger communities.

*Most grateful,
Melissa Wandall*

Connect with me on LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/melissa-wandall-1995442a/>

Book me to speak at your next event:

[Work With Me - Melissa Wandall - Advocacy Consulting](#) or email Marketing@MelissaWandall.com

Find me on Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/m3_motivateme/

Follow me on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MelissaWandallAdvocate>

Join me on X:

<https://x.com/MelissaWandall>

Thank
you



TAMMY MCGEE THOUGHTS ON THE CONFERENCE

I'm so grateful I joined NAWHSL and had the chance to attend their conference. Coming together with inspiring women from across the country was truly empowering, knowing we're all united in the mission of making our roads safer. It was such an honor to serve as the lunch keynote speaker, share Conner's story, and highlight the four pieces of legislation we've passed in Virginia to help save lives. ❤️ I truly believe it's worth every bit of the expense and time, and I hope those who couldn't make it this year will join us next year—you won't regret it!

*Driving change together with purpose and passion,
Tammy
#connersmom*

[Conner Gweedo Memorial Foundation](#)

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[IfYouSeeSomethingSaySomething.org](#)

Follow us on: [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#)





FUN WAS HAD BY ALL IN THE CITY OF BRIDGES

Despite there being so much great learning and networking going on, we hope everyone was able to get out and enjoy the sites and sounds of Pittsburgh. No matter who you met, it was a great adventure!



**JOIN US IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
THE CITY OF LAKES**

AUGUST 27 - 29, 2026

HYATT REGENCY MINNEAPOLIS

DETAILS COMING SOON!

2025 THE NEW NAWHSL BOARD - A QUICK INTRODUCTION



PRESIDENT JOANNE KURT-HILDITCH

Dr. Joanne Kurt-Hilditch is the Senior Director of the Missouri Safety Center and oversees a number of grants related to impaired driving and traffic safety. She also serves as the Missouri State Rep and Region 7 Director.



1ST VICE PRESIDENT AMY ARTUSO

Amy Artuso, Director of Mobility Safety Programs at NSC, has worked in injury prevention for 20+ years and is ABD with a DrPH degree in Advanced Practice Leadership.



2ND VICE PRESIDENT ALISSA GEYER

Alissa Geyer is a Program Manager with PennDOT's Behavioral Traffic Safety Unit. Outside of work, she enjoys traveling, hiking, and being with friends and family.



SECRETARY JULIE BREWER

Julie Brewer directs the TN Occupant Protection Center at TN Tech University, providing resources and training to partners and child passenger safety technicians. She is a passionate advocate for occupant and traffic safety and injury prevention.



TREASURER MANDIE DELL

Mandie Dell is a Program Manager at the Washington Traffic Safety Commission. In her spare time, Mandie enjoys running, gardening, music, travel, and spending time with her family.



PAST PRESIDENT KAY BRODBECK

Executive Director of Mississippi Safety Services for 39 years, providing Defensive Driving Courses of the National Safety Council statewide. Past winner of GHSA's Peter K. O'Rourke Special Achievement Award and Traffic Safety Champion Award for Mississippi. Kay holds a B.S. from the University of Illinois.



BECOME A NAWHSL MEMBER

If you are interested in becoming a NAWHSL member, join us via the NAWHSL website. We are looking for members, State Representatives and Regional Directors!

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)



SCHOLARSHIP

Do you know a young woman in the traffic safety field who is deserving of a scholarship and free registration to the next conference? Visit the website to find out more!

[SCHOLARSHIP INFO](#)



MORE INFORMATION

Learn more about NAWHSL and be a part of us as we grow!

[LEARN MORE ABOUT NAWHSL CLICK HERE](#)