

# Governors Highway Safety Association



## Prospectus & Membership Application

### **About the Association**

The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) is the states' voice on highway safety. The 501 (c)(3) nonprofit association represents state and territorial highway safety offices. Its members implement programs that address the behavior of motor vehicle drivers and road users. Areas of focus include: occupant protection, impaired driving, speed and aggressive driving, motorcycle safety, pedestrian and bicycle safety, as well as highway safety issues relating to older and younger drivers, drowsy driving and distracted driving. In addition to the behavioral aspects of driving, GHSA also represents other aspects of highway safety such as traffic records and training.

GHSA's mission is to provide leadership and representation for the states to improve traffic safety, influence national policy and enhance program management. The Association provides a collective voice for the states in working with Congress and the federal agencies to address highway safety challenges.

### **History**

The Highway Safety Act of 1966 created a unique partnership among federal, state and local governments to address the problem of unsafe highways and to provide for the nation's highway safety program. The Act established the State and Community Highway Safety Grant Program (U.S.C. Title 23, Section 402), commonly known as the "402" program. State Highway Safety Offices were created as a result of the legislation and were funded mainly with 402 funds.

In 1967, several state Highway Safety Representatives, realizing the need to share information and collectively work for national safety goals, decided to organize into a formal group and meet annually. The National Conference of Governors' Highway Representatives was born. The organization was officially incorporated in 1974 and received nonprofit status in 1976. In the ensuing years, its membership, expertise and influence grew. In 2002, the organization's name was changed to the Governors Highway Safety Association.

### **Membership/Funding**

Highway safety program managers, appointed by the governors of the fifty states, the government of the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and Northern Mariana Islands, and the territories of the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Indian Nations make up the membership of GHSA. These members are responsible for developing and implementing highway safety programs, maintaining fiscal oversight of the programs, and evaluating the programs' impact on highway safety problems.

Members pay an annual dues based, in part, on a flat fee and, in part, on a proportional formula which considers state population.

Associate membership is available to organizations, associations and businesses whose goals and interests are compatible with GHSA.

A special classification as "Member Emeritus" is available to former Governors' Representatives and Coordinators who are no longer employed by a state or territorial highway safety office but who still have an active interest in the Association and in highway safety issues.

### **Executive Board**

GHSA's governing body is its Executive Board. The Board consists of a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as representatives and alternates from 10 regions. All officers are elected by the membership and serve a term of one year. The immediate past chair is a member of the Board and there are also up to five at-large members.

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### **Committees**

Much of the work of the Association is conducted through its standing committees. Current GHSAs committees include Member Services, Finance and Operations, and Strategic Communications. The Member Services Committee is charged with organizing the annual Executive Seminar on Program Management which provides a “crash course” for new members on managing a highway safety office. The Finance and Operations committee reviews and revises Association business policies and procedures to ensure its effectiveness. Strategic Communications works to achieve maximum visibility for GHSAs positions and activities and works closely with state public information officers.

On occasion, the GHSAs Chair appoints task forces to address specific highway safety issues or concerns.

### **GHSAs Staff**

The Association maintains an office in Washington, D.C., near Capitol Hill. From this location, staff participate in the planning and review of highway safety policy by the Congress and the Executive Branch of the government. The staff works to ensure that the states’ perspective is represented to key officials, members of the media and others in the transportation and safety communities. By working with other state associations and other numerous partners, GHSAs has been an effective voice for shaping national highway safety initiatives.

### **Products and Services**

#### **Directions in Highway Safety**

GHSAs’s quarterly newsletter provides timely, comprehensive information about federal and state highway safety activities and initiatives. Members and associate members reach more than 2,000 individuals in the highway safety field by writing special columns and articles.

#### **Washington Update**

The monthly publication, available to GHSAs Members and Associate Members only, details the latest highway safety events and activities from the nation’s capital.

#### **Emails, Action Alerts and News Releases**

Timely emails notify the membership of critical issues and important legislative and regulatory developments that affect highway safety. Action Alerts encourage GHSAs members to take action on specific legislative or regulatory issues. News releases contain the latest Association activities or policy positions and are regularly covered by the national media.

#### **GHSAs Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting provides an opportunity to share information and network, learn about the latest safety developments in Washington and nationwide, and discuss new products and services with a wide variety of vendors. High-level federal leaders including the Secretary of Transportation, NHTSA Administrator, FHWA Administrator and the chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board shared their views and interacted with GHSAs members at the Annual Meeting.

#### **GHSAs Highway Safety Policies and Priorities**

The Policies and Priorities provide GHSAs member positions on a broad range of highway safety issues including the funding of federal highway safety programs, including occupant protection, impaired driving, motorcycle, bicycle and pedestrian safety, highway safety data and other issues. This publication is updated in hard copy periodically and also posted on the GHSAs website.

#### **Special Reports and Publications**

The Association produces numerous reports and publications on key issues. These include the “Survey of the States” series that examines traffic safety measures on a state-by-state basis. Among the issues the series has examined are: speeding, safety belt use, underage drinking prevention policies and aggressive driving.

GHSAs also releases timely, in-depth reports on Association viewpoints on topics such as the reauthorization of federal highway safety programs.

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### Federally- and Private Sector-Funded Products and Services

The Association has also used federal and private sector funding to develop a variety of tools for highway safety offices and the safety community. Examples of this include publications such as “Countermeasures That Work,” “Tips and Tactics for Working with State Highway Safety Offices,” the Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) – a national guideline on highway safety-related data elements –and a series of publications on reducing underage drinking. GHSA has also been the lead partner with Ford Motor Company on the multi-million dollar “Driving Skills for Life Program.” This comprehensive teen driving program has brought increased visibility to the teen issue while providing training to vulnerable new drivers.

### Website – [www.ghsa.org](http://www.ghsa.org)

Current GHSA activities and positions, publications and state law charts are posted online in an easy-to-manage format. The “Members Only” section provides access to the latest news from Washington as well as “best practices” in managing a state highway safety office. The website serves as an important resource for the membership as well as for federal contacts and media.

### Annual Awards Program

GHSA’s annual awards program showcases the nation’s best and brightest safety leaders and efforts. Members and associate members nominate an outstanding individual for the James J. Howard Highway Safety Trailblazer Award and individuals and programs for Peter K. O’Rourke Special Achievement Awards. Awards winners are honored at the Annual Meeting and receive national recognition. The entire safety community benefits by learning of these successful efforts and can emulate these successes in their community.

### Membership Categories and Benefits

#### Member Emeritus - \$100

*Available to former Governor’s Representatives or Coordinators who aren’t eligible for small business or corporate*

##### Benefits:

- *Directions in Highway Safety* newsletter
- *Washington Update* newsletter
- GHSA member listing with names and contact information
- Invitation to join GHSA Board for Brunch at the Annual Meeting

#### Small Business Membership - \$250

*Available to companies with three or fewer employees, including individual consultants*

##### Benefits:

- Member list, updated periodically
- *Directions in Highway Safety* newsletter
- News releases
- GHSA Highway Safety Policy and Priorities
- Surveys of the States
- Special reports and legislative updates
- *Washington Update*
- Discount for attending Annual Meeting
- Listing on GHSA’s website and access to the “Members Only” section
- Participation in GHSA Awards Program
- Invitation to join GHSA Board for Brunch at the Annual Meeting

#### Corporate Membership - \$750 / \$500 for tax exempt

*Available to companies with more than three employees*

All benefits of the Small Business Membership plus:

- Discount for exhibiting at the Annual Meeting
- First choice of exhibit space at the Annual Meeting
- Access to GHSA staff who have many years of experience in the highway safety field

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**GHSA Associate Member Application**

So that our board members may know more about you/your company and its objectives, please attach a brief description of you/your organization and why you/your organization is interested in becoming a member of GHSA.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant (name/title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone/Fax

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail & Website

**Check appropriate Associate Membership Category**

- Corporate (for profit) \$750       Small Business \$250  
 Tax Exempt\* (non-profit) \$500       Member Emeritus \$100

**Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Make checks/money orders payable to GHSA—Federal ID #521021004.**

- American Express     MasterCard     Visa  
 Diners Club         Discover         Carte Blanche

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

\*For tax-exempt status, you must include a copy of the IRS letter stating you are a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization along with your application and payment.

Payment must accompany each application. You will receive a refund if membership is not approved. Any organization/individual not accepted may reapply after one year. **The GHSA membership year runs in accordance with the July 1 to June 30 fiscal year.**

Joining GHSA as an Associate Member requires that the applicant agree to support the goals and objectives of GHSA. The Associate Member shall have no right or privilege to vote on Association policies or other organizational matters.

All dues paid by GHSA Associate Members are used to support the general purposes of GHSA including the cost of publications, mailings, development and implementation of training for Association members and research of specific state highway safety issues.

**Fax Completed Application to  
202-789-0946**

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### **Partial Listing of GHSAs Partners**

*The Association works with numerous organizations to achieve its goals including:*

AAA

AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators

American Association of State Highway  
and Transportation Officials

Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety

The Century Council

Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance

Federal Highway Administration

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

International Association of Chiefs of Police

Mothers Against Drunk Driving

National Conference of State Legislatures

National Cooperative Highway Research Program

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

National Safety Council

Safe Kids Worldwide

Transportation Research Board

**Do you have questions or need more information?  
Give us a call or send an e-mail!**



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