

WRAP BRINGS WINNING FIGHT AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING TO ANNAPOLIS & RICHMOND

Focusing on the third tenet of WRAP's approach to combating impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area (education, enforcement and legislation), WRAP again this spring successfully championed public policies creating effective deterrents to both drunk driving and teen drinking. What follows, is a summary of WRAP's 2003 legislative highlights in Maryland and Virginia.

MARYLAND

"I think the public wants us to leave Annapolis and not come back for a long time, especially based on this performance," said Maryland Senate President Mike Miller to *The Sun* (4-8-03) as Maryland's 2003 General Assembly adjourned this past April.



WRAP's President, **Kurt Gregory Erickson** (at podium), helps unveil 2003 anti-drunk driving legislation at a State House news conference in Annapolis. Behind Erickson are Maryland legislators (l to r): **Delegate O'Donnell**, **Delegate Nancy Stocksdales**, **Senator Jimeno**, **Senator Brinkley**, **Delegate Amedori** and **Delegate Bronrott**.

In short, and as anticipated in this budget-focused, transitional year in Maryland, 2003 was *not* the year of drunk driving legislation in Annapolis.

On the positive side, however, Maryland lawmakers were successful in advancing a number of modest pieces of anti-drunk driving legislation. These measures, all signed into law by Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich (R), include those bills which will:

- eliminate community service as a penalty for drivers repeatedly found guilty of driving while under the influence (SB 405, Jimeno-D, Forehand-D);
- mandate treatment or education for convicted drunk drivers put on probation as well as for drivers put on probation after being found guilty of homicide by motor vehicle while impaired by alcohol, drugs or controlled substances (as well as allow courts the ability to mandate that these same convicted drivers have their vehicles equipped with ignition interlock devices while on probation) (SB 427, Giannetti-D);
- and disallow persons arrested for drunk driving (21-902) from operating a motor vehicle for 12 hours following their arrest (SB 383, Ruben-D).

The above first two bills were Maryland Impaired Driving Coalition (IDC) legislative priority issues for which WRAP serves as Legislative Chair.

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WRAP LAUDS GREATER WASHINGTON TEENS FOR THEIR FIGHT AGAINST UNDERAGE DRINKING

While this spring's originally-scheduled ceremony at Washington, D.C.'s MCI Center was cancelled due to both security concerns and local school systems' halting of scheduled field trips, WRAP's 11th-annual recognition of Greater Washington high school students "doing the right thing" continued in 2003 as it announced honors for six area high school student groups for their efforts in fighting underage drinking.

This spring, WRAP presented its 2003 GEICO Student Awards to:

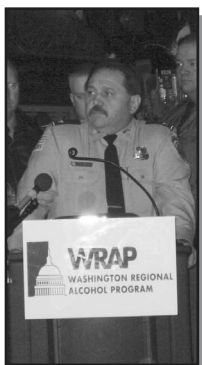
- **Bladensburg High School's** Young Latinos Leadership Council, Prince George's Co., MD
- **George Mason High School's** Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club, Falls Church / Arlington, VA

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NEW DRUNK DRIVING LAWS GO INTO EFFECT IN VIRGINIA

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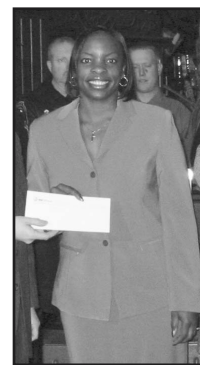
WRAP USHERS IN SAFE ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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WRAP CONTINUES WORK ON GOVERNOR'S DUI TASK FORCE

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AT&T WIRELESS DONATES \$23,000 TO WRAP

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WRAP BRINGS WINNING FIGHT AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING TO ANNAPOLIS & RICHMOND

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WRAP's President **Kurt Gregory Erickson** (far right) watches as **Virginia Governor Mark Warner (D)** signs into law two 2003 anti-drunk driving bills at a Richmond Police Training Academy ceremony.

In the negative column, the 2003 Maryland General Assembly "gutted" this year's "repeat offender" bill (SB 405, above) to apply only to those repeat violators of Maryland's DWI statute (21-902 [a]) versus those repeatedly violating the state's lesser impaired driving statutes such as driving while impaired by alcohol, drugs or controlled dangerous substances (21-902 [b][c][d]) as the bill originally intended.

"While WRAP supported this bill, the concern here is that persons charged with the higher offense will plead down to a lesser albeit similar one and receive community service rather than jail time for their repeated offenses," said WRAP's President and registered lobbyist Kurt Gregory Erickson. "In that sense, we may have replaced a loophole with a slipknot."

In addition, Maryland lawmakers this year killed legislation which sought to:

- increase penalties for drivers in Maryland convicted of driving with a .15 or higher BAC as well as for those refusing a BAC test (SB 410);
- increase penalties for drivers in Maryland refusing a chemical test when stopped for suspicion of drunk driving (HB 437);
- limit probation before judgment (PBJ) sentences for drunk drivers in Maryland (SB 94, HB 249);



WRAP President **Kurt Erickson** (far left) joins Maryland Impaired Driving Coalition's 2003 "Distinguished Legislators" following a 2003 IDC award ceremony in Annapolis. Also pictured are Maryland legislators (l to r): **Delegate Petzold**, **Delegate O'Donnell**, **Senator Forehand**, **Delegate D. Davis**, **Senator Ruben**, **Senator Jimeno**, **Senator Grosfeld**, **Delegate Barkley** and Maryland Highway Safety Office's **Annie Powell**.

- make penalties for "consuming" an alcohol beverage equal to that of "possessing" the same for those under 21 (SB 355);
- toughen Maryland's driver's license suspension provisions for repeat drunk drivers (HB 699);
- and expand Maryland's ignition interlock program (HB 542).

Prior to this year's session, Maryland's anti-drunk driving advocates were coming off a couple of banner years in Annapolis witnessing the passage of measures tied to federal dollars including the lowering the state's BAC level, disallowing open containers of alcohol in motor vehicles and increasing penalties for repeat drunk drivers. Erickson acknowledged that without the motivator of lost federal monies, they may have been without the only provenly-effective tool to advancing anti-drunk driving measures in Maryland.



Virginia **Delegate Joe T. May (R)**, left, discusses 2003 primary seatbelt legislation with WRAP President **Kurt Erickson**.

"Without the threat of federal road funding this year, we were unquestionably without an effective stick to steer Maryland's lawmakers towards the carrots of tougher drunk driving laws," said Erickson. "Heaven forbid that drunk driving bills should pass on their own merits."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 290 persons were killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes on Maryland's roadways in 2001. This number of preventable fatalities was the highest in Maryland in more than a decade (1990).

For these aforementioned impaired driving and teen drinking initiatives, WRAP played a leading role in Annapolis this year by: providing numerous legislative committees with both testimony and substitute bill language; routinely meeting with Executive and Legislative branch leadership; routinely meeting also with both Senate and House members; providing resource information; and building public support for these initiatives via WRAP's regularly-issued Legislative Alerts.

In addition, WRAP again served as Legislative Chair of the Maryland Impaired Driving Coalition (IDC) in Annapolis this year. IDC is a coalition of more than 150 organizations and individuals (including AAA Mid-Atlantic, Century Council, MADD, Maryland State Police, National Transportation Safety Board, State's Attorney's Association and the State Highway Administration amongst others) teaming-up to combat impaired driving in Maryland. WRAP's leadership role within IDC provided the opportunity for WRAP to represent and testify on various impaired driving bills on behalf of the respected traffic safety coalition including serving as host of a February 13, 2003 State House news

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WRAP LAUDS GREATER WASHINGTON TEENS FOR THEIR FIGHT AGAINST UNDERAGE DRINKING

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- **Georgetown Visitation's**
Buddies Against Drinking and Driving (BADD) Club,
Washington, D.C.
- **James Blake High School's**
Students Against Destructive
Decisions (SADD) Club,
Montgomery County, MD
- **James Madison High School's**
Students Against Destructive
Decisions (SADD) Club,
Fairfax Co., VA
- **Stonewall Jackson High
School's** Students Against
Destructive Decisions (SADD)
Club, Prince William Co., VA

The GEICO Student Awards, now in their second decade, are presented by WRAP to Washington-metropolitan area high school student groups promoting alcohol and drug-free lifestyles to their peers. The popular awards — judged by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) in tandem with WRAP — are presented to just one student group in each of the Greater



GEICO Assistant Vice President & Director of Corporate Communications **Janice Minshall** (at podium) presents a 2003 GEICO Student Award to **Bladensburg High School's Young Latinos Leadership Council**.



GEICO Assistant Vice President and WRAP Board member **Janice Minshall** (second from left) along with WRAP President **Kurt Gregory Erickson** (far right) present a 2003 GEICO Student Award to **James Madison High School's SADD Club**.

Washington counties and or cities served by WRAP (Arlington, District of Columbia, Fairfax, Loudoun, Montgomery, Prince George's and Prince William).

In lieu of this spring's scuttled Washington, D.C. ceremony, WRAP conducted six, school-based presentations for those 2003 winning schools.

Student groups were judged on their leadership, effectiveness, innovation and involvement of both the student body and community in their efforts to prevent underage drinking. Activities of the winning groups included a variety of creative initiatives including: developing "contracts" between students and parents regarding the refraining from alcohol and drug use; organizing alcohol-free teen social events and forums; establishing mentoring relationships between high school and intermediate and elementary school students; and participating on town governing bodies.

Along with a ceremonial plaque, the six winning student groups received \$ 500 each from GEICO Direct to continue their efforts of keeping their peers on the right track.

"Nearly ten young people die in alcohol-related traffic deaths every day in this country," said Janice Minshall, GEICO Direct's Assistant Vice President and Director of Communications. "Today's student group winners represent the front lines in the fight against underage drinking in Greater Washington and we should commend their efforts in this far from won battle." ■

DRUNK DRIVING ON THE RISE IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

WRAP'S ANALYSIS CITES FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR INCREASE IN LOCAL ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC CRASHES

For a fifth consecutive year, traffic crashes attributable to alcohol are on the rise in Northern Virginia according to WRAP's findings this spring.

Most notably, WRAP's analysis cites that alcohol-related traffic crashes in the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William and independent cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park have increased by a collective 30-percent between 1997 and last year while alcohol-related traffic fatalities have increased by 43-percent during the same period. (See table below.)

WRAP's analysis was based on 2002 traffic safety figures compiled in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties – including the independent cities and towns contained therein – from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, Virginia State Police and Northern Virginia's individual law enforcement agencies. Specifically, WRAP's analysis included:

- **FATALS**...Following a two-year plateau, alcohol and or drug-related traffic deaths in Northern Virginia increased by 15-percent between 2000 and 2002. Including this 2000-2001 plateau, drunk driving deaths in Northern Virginia have increased by 43% between 1997 and last year.
- **CRASHES**...Alcohol-related traffic crashes in Northern Virginia have steadily increased by 30-percent between 1997 and 2002. Last year marked Northern Virginia's fifth-consecutive year of increased drunk driving crashes.
- **INJURIES**...Injuries from alcohol-related traffic crashes in Northern Virginia have increased for their second year-in-a-row from 1,439 injuries in 2000 to 1,685 last year.
- **ARRESTS**...Northern Virginia arrests for either driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while intoxicated (DWI) have steadily increased between 2000 and 2002. Last year marked the third consecutive year of increased drunk driving arrests in Northern Virginia.

More recently, this spring's released Northern Virginia analysis by WRAP found that between 2001 and 2002:

- alcohol-related traffic fatalities increased by 15-percent;
- alcohol-related traffic crashes increased by four-percent;
- alcohol-related traffic injuries increased by ten-percent;
- and DUI / DWI arrests increased by 13-percent.

Of Northern Virginia's 124 total traffic fatalities last year, 43-percent of these roadway deaths were alcohol and or drug-related. Preliminary 2002 national statistics (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) cite that 42-percent of total U.S. vehicular fatalities were reported as alcohol/drug-related.

"For those believing that the fight against impaired driving in Northern Virginia has been won, the numbers would prove otherwise. In 2002 alone, nearly 7,000 Northern Virginia drivers were arrested for either driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while intoxicated (DWI)," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President. "To put this sobering figure into perspective, this translates into more than 133 Northern Virginians being busted for drunk driving every single weekend last year."

Statewide in Virginia, year 2002 alcohol-related traffic deaths, crashes and injuries are all up from 2001 according to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

"These numbers should serve as a wake-up call for Northern Virginia to increase funding for enforcement, increase the use of sobriety checkpoints, increase sanctions for convicted, higher-risk drivers and increase the public's understanding that the fight against drunk driving is not yet won," said Erickson.

Since 1994, WRAP has commissioned the annual report "How Safe are Our Roads?" — a data report on the impact of drunk driving on highway safety in Greater Washington prepared by George Mason University's Center for the Advancement of Public Health. WRAP's 2002 report can be seen via the organization's web site link of www.wrap.org/info.html. This year's report featuring region-wide, impaired driving data will be available in the fall.

In the meantime – and addition to the organization's programmatic and advocacy initiatives – WRAP is playing a lead role in both:

- **Virginia Governor Mark Warner's Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs & Alcohol**...a 42-member, Governor-appointed task force scheduled to provide recommendations to the Governor this summer as to how best combat impaired driving in the Commonwealth;
- and the **Task Force on Regional Activities to Reduce Impaired Driving**...a joint venture between WRAP and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) scheduled to make similar recommendations to COG's Board of Directors this fall. ■

Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP)
Drunk Driving Statistics in Northern Virginia, 1999 through 2002

Jurisdiction	Alcohol Related Fatalities				Alcohol Related Crashes				Alcohol Related Injuries				Drunk/Drugged Driving Arrests			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
<i>Counties</i>																
Arlington	2	9	5	7	307	339	352	358	160	185	196	190	921	817	625	696
Fairfax	20	23	18	25	1,073	1,057	1,233	1,250	815	663	770	827	2,858	2,475	2,451	2,969
Loudoun	1	2	4	9	166	166	222	259	126	112	128	171	304	386	519	557
Prince William	7	9	16	10	380	430	415	443	281	317	263	284	1,967	1,517	1,571	1,525
<i>Cities</i>																
Alexandria	1	2	3	2	127	136	124	130	93	105	108	128	346	293	343	380
Fairfax	0	0	0	0	36	40	52	51	14	23	28	31	269	208	179	244
Falls Church	0	0	0	0	18	21	12	13	10	10	4	8	47	84	74	45
Manassas	0	1	0	0	48	41	50	65	28	20	28	37	208	349	276	348
Manassas Park	0	0	0	0	19	12	12	12	11	4	6	9	45	92	107	155
<i>Region</i>																
Northern VA	31	46	46	53	2,174	2,242	2,472	2,581	1,538	1,439	1,531	1,685	6,965	6,221	6,145	6,919
<i>State</i>																
Virginia	364	355	358	375	10,942	11,085	11,265	11,788	8,359	8,211	8,251	8,465	32,954	N/A	N/A	N/A

Sources: 2002 fatality, crash and injury data from Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles "2002 Virginia Traffic Crash Facts" (August 2003).

Arrest Information: 2002 information: Virginia State Police Uniform Crime Reporting Section Department's "2002 Crime in Virginia" Report (Arlington County and City of Alexandria). All other jurisdictions: Individual Northern Virginia law enforcement agencies. 1999, 2000 and 2001 information from WRAP's "2002 How Safe Are Our Roads?", Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and or George Mason University's Center for the Advancement of Public Health (November 2002).

For further information please contact WRAP at 703.893.0461, wrap@wrap.org, 1420 Spring Hill Road, Suite 250, McLean, VA 22102

WRAP REACHES RECORD NUMBER OF AREA STUDENTS THIS SPRING

While WRAP's *Alcohol Awareness for Students* (AAS) program is offered year-round, this spring the popular school-based initiative which seeks to both educate teens on the dangers of drunk driving as well as raise awareness on health issues surrounding alcohol use put some impressive numbers on the board.

In advance of many Washington-metropolitan area high schools' prom and graduation season this year, WRAP doubled the number of local students reached via the organization's AAS. In May 2003 alone, WRAP's no-cost AAS offering reached a record 1,600 teens, mostly Washington D.C. students, all of them left with a better understanding of the risks and negative impacts involved in unlawful alcohol consumption.

More poignant than the number of students reached by AAS was the level of diversity between the schools to where WRAP brought its program. This spring, WRAP presented its AAS program in schools previously not reached by such an alcohol-education outreach initiative. This dramatic increase in requests for WRAP's program and them being so well-received resulted in the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) system arranging for AAS to be implemented in a multitude of public schools throughout the nation's capital.

In addition to working with DCPS, WRAP has also participated in a few out of the ordinary outreach programs this spring including participating in an event at "Land Rover University" where Navy Seamen and a University of Maryland fraternity participated in a Land Rover obstacle course followed by an educational segment from WRAP. In addition, WRAP presented at a number of Parent Teacher Association / Parent Teacher Organization meetings this spring as well as arranging high school assemblies with WRAP Board member and drunk driving victim Jeff Levy as the key speaker. ■

RECORD RIDERSHIP LIGHTS UP JULY 4TH SOBERRIDE

It may be better known as the birth of America's independence but July 4th also represents this country's fifth deadliest holiday regarding U.S. alcohol-related traffic fatalities.

However, this July 4th, WRAP made Greater Washington's roadways measurably safer as it removed a record 455 would-be drunk drivers from the region's roadways via the organization's 2003 Independence Day *SoberRide* program.

This year's level of ridership during the July 4th holiday is more than double that of last year's and, for *SoberRide*'s hours of operation this Independence Day, translates into the removal of a would-be drunk driver from our shared highways every one-and-a-half minutes.

WRAP's Independence Day *SoberRide* program was in operation from 4:00 pm on Friday, July 4, 2003 and ran through 4:00 am the following day as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

During this eight-hour period beginning on July 4th, area residents celebrating with alcohol could call the toll-free *SoberRide* phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to a \$ 50 fare), safe way home.

AT&T Wireless users could call #TAXI for the same service. Local taxicab companies throughout the Washington-metropolitan area provided this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

"People may be surprised to know that July 4th ranks as this country's fifth, deadliest holiday when it comes to drunk driving," said Emily DeTitta, WRAP's Program Manager. "Worse yet, in 2001, more than six-out-of-ten of the fatal traffic crashes on Independence Day were alcohol-related."

"The fact is that in 2001 in this country, more people were killed by drunk drivers on July 4th than during the last two

News Year's Eves combined."

SoberRide was offered in the: District of Columbia; throughout the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and throughout the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, (eastern) Loudoun and Prince William.

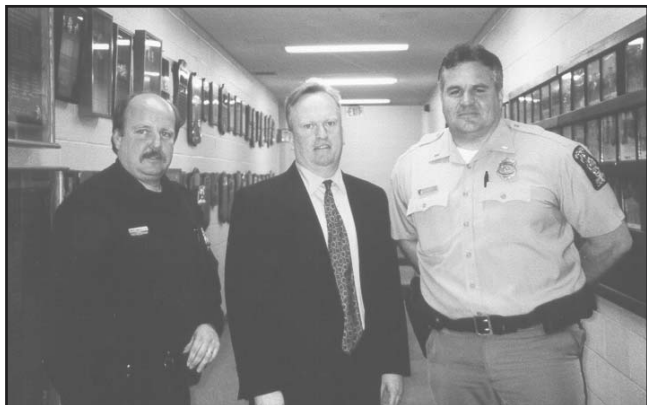
Sponsors of this year's Independence Day *SoberRide* offering included AT&T Wireless, Anheuser-Busch, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, ExxonMobil, GEICO Direct and Red Top Cab of Arlington.

Participating taxicab companies included: Alexandria Yellow Cab, Barwood; Fairfax Yellow Cab; Loudoun Yellow Cab; Manassas Cab Company; Red Top Cab; Silver Cab of Prince George's County; Taxi Transportation Services; and Yellow Cab of Prince William County.

Since 1993 alone, WRAP's *SoberRide* program has provided 22,667 free cab rides to would-be impaired drivers in the Greater Washington area. ■



WRAP *SoberRide* Committee and Board member **George Pakidis** (center) of Red Top Cab in Arlington leads a committee meeting in preparation for the 2003 Independence Day program. Also pictured are (l to r): **Karin King** (King Wholesale), **Lt. Lance Embrey** (Manassas Police Department), **Emily DeTitta** (WRAP) and **Carl Schuettler** (Silver Cab of Prince George's County).



WRAP SUPPORTS MARYLAND LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORT

WRAP stood shoulder-to-shoulder in support of local law enforcement efforts to identify and apprehend impaired drivers this spring as it served as a speaker at the Montgomery County Department of Police's (MCDP) St. Patrick's Day mobilization. Pictured above at the Maryland department's Training Academy in Gaithersburg are (l to r): MCDP **Officer William Morrison**, WRAP President **Kurt Erickson** and MCDP **Lieutenant David Falcinelli**.

VIRGINIA'S NEW DRUNK DRIVING LAWS GO INTO EFFECT THIS SUMMER

NEW LAWS CREATE MINIMUM DUI FINES & MANDATORY JAIL TIME



Virginia Senator William C. Mims (R), at podium, addresses the media at a WRAP and MADD news conference regarding Virginia's newest drunk driving laws.

In addition, Northern Virginia law enforcement agencies recorded their third consecutive year of increased DUI arrests last year.

Of Northern Virginia's 124 total traffic fatalities last year, 43-percent of these roadway deaths were alcohol and or drug-related. Preliminary 2002 national statistics (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) cite that 42-percent of total U.S. vehicular fatalities were reported as alcohol/drug-related.

Statewide in Virginia, year 2002 alcohol-related traffic deaths, crashes and injuries are all up from 2001 according to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

"These new laws continue our efforts to make Virginia's drunk driving laws the toughest in the nation," said Delegate David B. Albo (R-Springfield), chief patron of this year's underage drinking bill. "If you drive intoxicated in the Commonwealth, you will pay the price."

"We know that well enforced strong laws are the foundation for driving down the number of people killed in drunk driving crashes," said David Kelly, MADD Virginia Public Policy Liaison. "Thanks to the leadership of Senator Mims and Delegate Albo, we will continue to build on Virginia's strong foundation of tough DUI laws." ■

New Virginia laws including those imposing minimum DUI fines and mandating jail time for DUI arrests when children are in the vehicle went into effect on July 1, 2003.

At an outdoor news conference held in late June near the Fairfax County Courthouse, WRAP along with fellow Virginia anti-drunk driving advocates and members of the Commonwealth's legislative and law enforcement communities hailed Virginia's newest laws as tools desperately needed in a state where drunk driving is on the rise.

"Make no mistake about it, these new laws purposely target those Virginia drivers guilty of one of the state's most frequently committed crimes, drunk driving," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President.

Specifically, Virginia's new drunk driving laws gone into effect this July 1st include measures to:

- create minimum DUI fines including \$ 250 (1st offense), \$ 500 (2nd offense) and \$1,000 (3rd and subsequent offenses) – in addition to other penalties (SB 1019);
- mandate five-days jail time for a DUI conviction when minors were in the vehicle (SB 1019);
- and implement an administrative license suspension when drivers under 21 have a .02 or higher blood alcohol concentration [BAC] (HB 2324).

"Drunk driving is both a tragedy and a completely preventable crime," said Senator William C. Mims (R-Leesburg), chief patron of this year's minimum DUI fines and mandatory jail time legislation. "These tough new sanctions will make a difference and save lives."

According to figures released by WRAP this summer, alcohol-related traffic fatalities, crashes, injuries and DUI arrests are all on the rise in Northern Virginia. WRAP's recent analysis cited both a:

- 43-percent increase in drunk driving deaths in Northern Virginia between 1997 and last year;
- along with a 30-percent increase in drunk driving crashes during this same period.



WRAP President Kurt Gregory Erickson (r) is interviewed by WMAL-AM following the announcement of Virginia's newest drunk driving laws.

CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS

January 1, 2003 to June 30, 2003

The Chairman's Club

(\$10,000 and over)

Anheuser-Busch & Local Distributors
GEICO Direct

Corporate Platinum

(\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Exxon Mobil Corporation
Washington Area New Automobile
Dealers Association

Corporate Gold

(\$1,000 to \$4,999)

Diageo
Equals Three Communications
United Way

Corporate Silver

(\$500 to \$999)

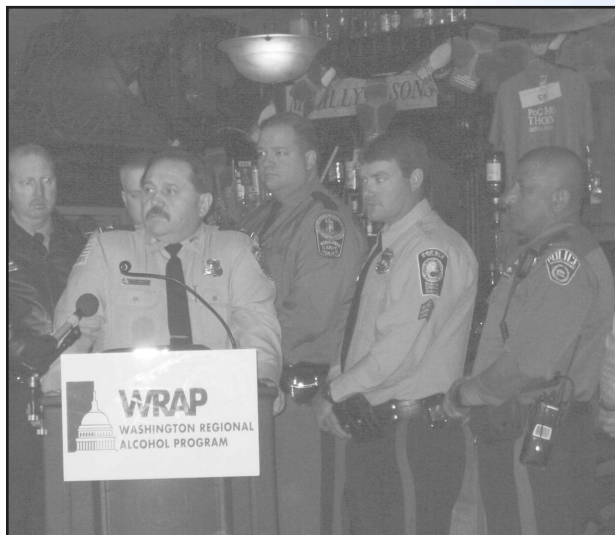
Fado

Corporate Bronze

(\$100 to \$499)

America's Charities
E. A. Green & Associates
Irelands Four Courts
Irish Times Restaurant
Mackey's Public House
McKeever's Pub
Mrs. O'Leary's Restaurant
Nautilus Communications
Rosenthal Companies

WRAP USHERS IN SAFE ST. PATRICK'S DAY



*Flanked by members of the region's law enforcement community, the District of Columbia's Metropolitan Police Department Commander **Thomas McGuire** helps launch WRAP's 2003 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide program in Fado in Washington, D.C.*

In advance of that weekend often associated with green beer and lots of it, WRAP along with its corporate and law enforcement partners kicked-off this year's St. Patrick's Day *SoberRide* offering.

"Safe Rides on St. Patrick's Day," read the headline in *The Washington Post* (3-11-03) as WRAP provided free cabs home to 275 Washington-metropolitan area residents whom otherwise may have driven home drunk.

For its total of 24 hours of operation, WRAP's 2003 St. Patty's Day *SoberRide* program removed a would-be drunk driver from Greater Washington's roadways every five minutes.

The March 2003 St. Patty's Day *SoberRide* program was in operation on both Sunday, March 16th and Monday, March 17th (St. Patrick's Day) from 4:00 pm to 4:00 am

each day as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

During this combined 24-hour period, area residents celebrating with alcohol could call the toll-free *SoberRide* phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to a \$ 50 fare), safe way home. AT&T Wireless users could call #-TAXI for the same service.

Local taxicab companies throughout the Washington-metropolitan area provided this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

Sponsors of this year's St. Patrick's Day *SoberRide* offering included AT&T Wireless, Anheuser-Busch, Baileys, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Red Top Cab and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

In addition, nine of the Washington-metropolitan area's better-known Irish restaurants also united to ensure a safe St. Patrick's Day celebration this year by sponsoring *SoberRide*. These dining establishments included: The Dubliner Restaurant & Pub (DC); Fado (DC); Ireland Four Courts (VA); Irish Times Restaurant (DC); Mackey's Public House (DC); McKeever's Pub (VA); Mrs. O'Leary's Restaurant & Pub (MD); Murphy's Grand Irish Pubs (DC & VA); and Pat Troy's Irish Restaurant & Pub (VA).

WRAP launched its 2003 St. Patty's Day *SoberRide* program at a March 14, 2003 news conference at Fado Irish Pub & Restaurant in Washington, D.C. ■



An outfitted 2003 Volkswagen convertible Beetle (loaned from Martens VW stands ready to promote WRAP's SoberRide program in Washington, D.C.'s 2003 St. Patrick's Day parade.

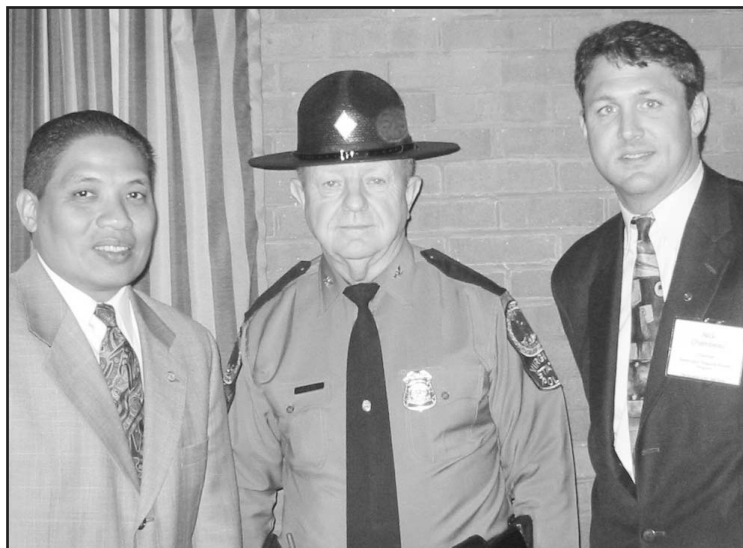
WRAP CONTINUES WORK ON VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S DUI TASK FORCE

This spring, WRAP continued its leadership role as an appointed member to Virginia Governor Mark Warner's (D) Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and Alcohol.

The Governor's appointed task force, which is charged with "assessing current efforts in combating driving under the influence and making recommendations for new strategies including initiatives that address high-risk populations," included representation by WRAP in the form of the organization's Chairman, Nick Champeau.

In addition, WRAP was unofficially well represented on this 42-member task force (which includes several General Assembly members) as organization friends also appointed by Governor Warner included WRAP's Immediate Past Chairman Lon Anderson (AAA Mid-Atlantic) amongst other WRAP friends. Both Anderson and WRAP's President, Kurt Erickson, served as co-chairs of one of the task force's three leadership committees.

This summer, and after providing an interim report prior to Virginia's 2003 General Assembly session, Virginia's Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and Alcohol will provide its final report to the Governor. ■



WRAP Chairman Nick Champeau (r) joins Virginia's Secretary of Public Safety John Marshall (l) and Virginia State Police Superintendent Colonel Gerald Massengill at a luncheon meeting of Virginia Governor Mark Warner's (D) DUI Task Force in June 2003 in Fredericksburg.

WRAP TOURS RENOWNED CRASH FACILITY

Adjunct to Virginia's 2003 Annual Conference on Transportation Safety in Charlottesville, Virginia, members of WRAP's staff had the unique opportunity to tour the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety's esteemed Vehicle Research Center.

The eleven-year-old, world-class research facility with its 21,600 square foot crash hall is an icon to many due to the research center's much publicized vehicle crash worthiness tests. The tests are but one of the consumer research tests performed at the central Virginia facility.

Pictured in the Vehicle Research Center's Display Hall are WRAP staff members **Kurt Erickson** and **Emily DeTitta**. ■



The WRAP Reporter is the biannual newsletter of the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), an award-winning, public-private coalition formed in 1982 to fight drunk driving, drugged driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area.

Spring/Summer 2003 Issue
Nick Champeau, Chairman
John Undeland, Vice Chairman
Kurt Gregory Erickson, President
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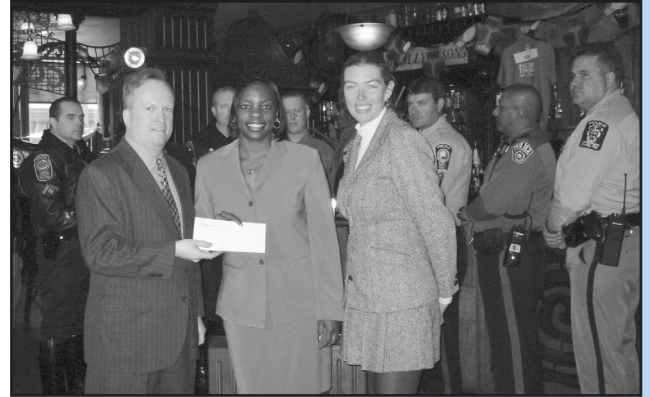
AT&T WIRELESS DONATES \$ 23,000 TO FIGHT DRUNK DRIVING IN WASHINGTON-METRO AREA

On a day often associated with green beer, AT&T Wireless spread a little green of their own by contributing \$ 23,000 to WRAP at the launch of its 2003 St. Patrick's Day *SoberRide* Program.

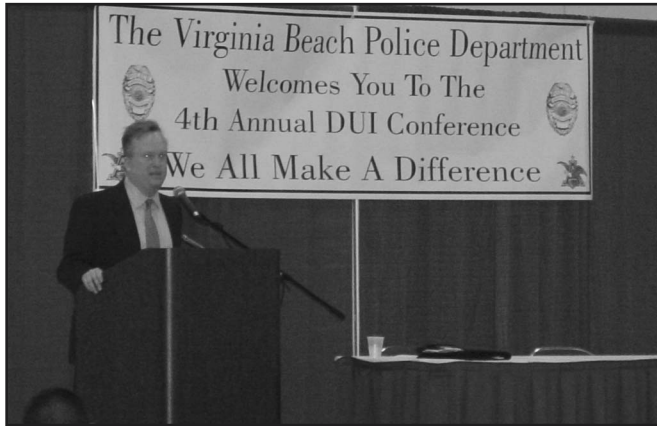
Pictured are WRAP's President **Kurt Erickson** accepting AT&T Wireless' contribution from the telecommunication company's Field Marketing Manager **Lynee Crowley** (center) and National Media Relations representative **Alexa Kaufman**.

"AT&T Wireless is proud of its long and rewarding partnership with WRAP," said Crowley. "Our working partnership has translated into the long-term reduction of drunk driving fatalities in the Washington-metropolitan area and safer roads for all of us."

"Today's investment in the fight against drunk driving recognizes that community-based alcohol awareness and education programs such as *SoberRide* clearly work and that we want to do more." ■



WRAP PRESENTS AT REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE



Presenting a symposium entitled "Relationships with Coalitions and Community Groups," WRAP reached law enforcement professionals from around the mid-Atlantic region at the Virginia Beach Police Department's popular DUI Conference this May.

This fifth-annual conference served as a venue for WRAP's President, **Kurt Erickson** (left), to share WRAP's success to more than 200 attendees while simultaneously advocating for the strengths and benefits of community coalitions in the fight against impaired driving. ■

LOCAL AUTO DEALERS DONATE \$ 7,500 TO FIGHT DRUNK DRIVING

New auto dealers in the Washington-metropolitan area continued their support of the fight against impaired driving and underage drinking this spring by donating \$ 7,500 to WRAP.

Pictured are Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association President, **Gerry Murphy** (right), presenting a \$ 7,500 check to WRAP President **Kurt Erickson**.

"The Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association and WRAP have proven to be an effective team in combating drunk driving in Greater Washington," said Nick Champeau, Vice President of the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association (WANADA) and WRAP's Chairman. "Last year alone, and via WANADA's support of WRAP's *SoberRide* initiative, more than 2,500 potential drunk drivers were removed from our local, shared roadways." ■



WRAP URGES SAFETY DURING MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

In advance of that holiday weekend known as the deadliest amongst all U.S. holidays when it comes to drunk driving in this country, WRAP engaged the region's media in urging area residents to be aware of the "local terror threat" of drunk drivers this past Memorial Day holiday weekend.

"Memorial Day is the most deadly of all holidays when it comes to drunk driving in this country," said Nick Champeau, WRAP's Chairman. "The fact is that eight times as many Americans are killed by drunk drivers during the Memorial Day holiday than on New Year's Eve."

According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration figures, 284 persons in the U.S. lost their lives during the 2001 Memorial Day holiday weekend in alcohol-related traffic crashes. This level of traffic fatalities surpasses that same year's drunk driving death toll during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and Labor Day holidays.

"In the Washington-metropolitan area, 28-percent of all traffic fatalities are alcohol-related. Nationally, that figure increases to 42-percent," said Champeau. "However, during Memorial Day in this country, more than half (55.1%) of all roadway deaths are alcohol-related."

As a means of reducing what WRAP labels as "100-percent preventable" alcohol-related traffic incidents this Memorial Day, the organization urged residents that weekend to:

- Plan ahead and designate a driver if you're celebrating with alcohol.
- Use alternative transportation like taxi cabs.
- Be a responsible host. (Visit www.wrap.org/corpguide_03.pdf for party tips.)
- Report drunk drivers. (Maryland and Virginia law enforcement professionals both encourage the use of the "#77 feature" on wireless telephones for motorists to report suspected drunk drivers. In D.C., dialing "311" is encouraged for the same.)
- Wear your seatbelt.

"Wearing a seatbelt may not be widely viewed as a tool in this effort but the wearing of a seatbelt may be your best defense against a drunk driver," said Champeau. "The bottom-line is that the routine wearing of seatbelts is the single most effective measure to reduce crash-related deaths and injuries."

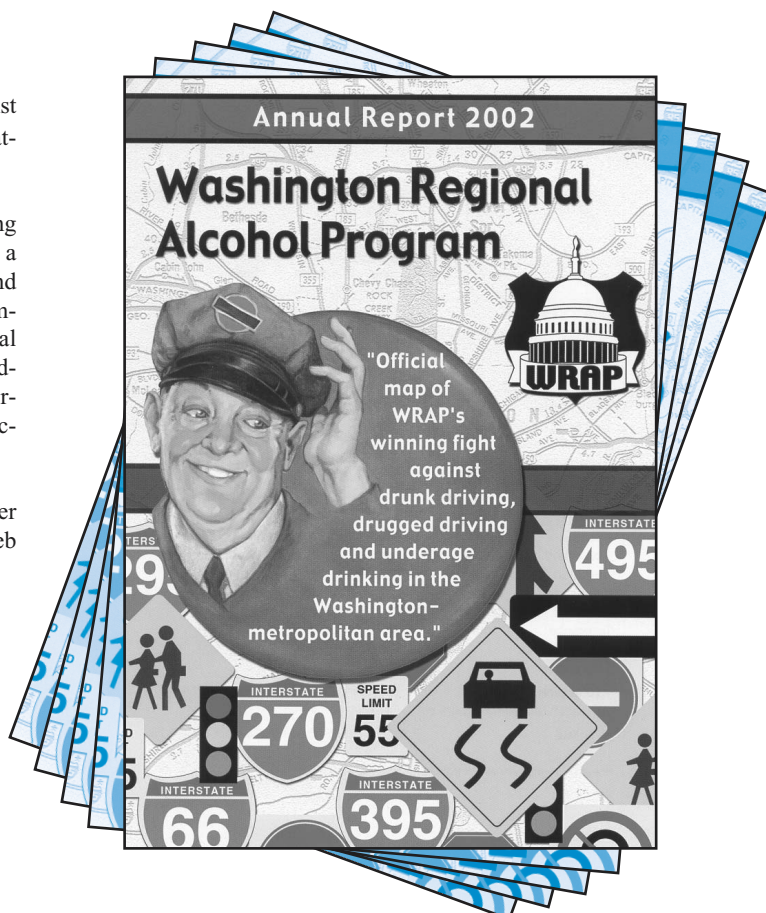
Alcohol and or drug-related traffic deaths in the Washington-metropolitan area have increased by 36-percent between 1998 and 2001. 2001 (the latest data available for the Washington-metro region) marked the third consecutive year increase in such fatalities. In addition, local traffic crashes attributed to alcohol and or drugs increased by 20-percent between 1997 and 2001. 2001 marked the fourth consecutive year increase in such incidents. ■

WRAP HIGHLIGHTS SUCCESSES IN 2002 ANNUAL REPORT

This spring, WRAP released its "official map" of its winning fight against impaired driving and underage drinking by releasing the organization's latest annual report.

WRAP's 2002 annual report, presented in a road map format and detailing the organization's "banner fiscal year" ending on September 30, 2002, is a multi-paneled, four-color publication including numerous photographs and highlights including WRAP's: historic 2002 *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign; landmark, legislative successes in Maryland's 2002 General Assembly session; removal of 2,508 would-be drunk drivers from area roadways via WRAP's popular *SoberRide* program; and the organization's heralded, tenth-annual GEICO Student Awards initiative, amongst other successes.

Copies of WRAP's 2002 annual report are available upon request at either 703 / 893-0461, wrap@wrap.org or viewable as a pdf file via WRAP's web site, www.wrap.org. ■



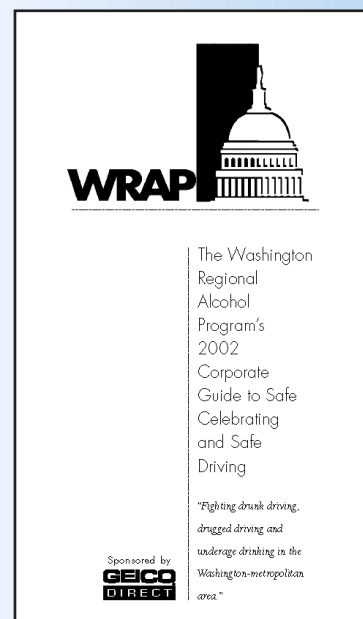
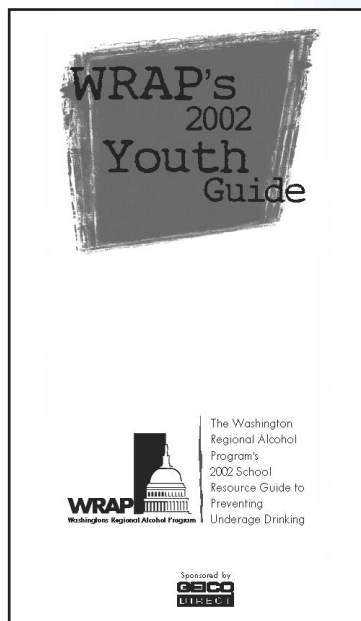
2003 CORPORATE AND YOUTH GUIDES NOW AVAILABLE

WRAP's 2003 "Corporate" and "Youth" Guides are now available. Comprised of Maryland, Washington D.C. and Virginia's current laws and statistics on drunk driving and underage drinking, WRAP's popular guides (funded by partner GEICO Direct) are intended to aid educators and employers in raising awareness on the health issues surrounding alcohol use.

The 2003 *School Resource Guide to Preventing Underage Drinking* provides a focus on teens and young adults addressing the issues of underage drinking, fake ID's, consequences and underage drinking current laws in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

The 2003 *Corporate Guide to Safe Celebrating & Safe Driving* emphasizes smart party planning, the dangers of drunk driving and also lists current laws and penalties for impaired driving.

If you are interested in receiving free copies of either publication, please contact WRAP's Program Manager, Emily DeTitta, at either 703 / 893-0461 or at emily@wrap.org. Both publications are also viewable as pdf files on WRAP's web site, www.wrap.org. ■



WRAP BRINGS WINNING FIGHT AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING TO ANNAPOLIS & RICHMOND

(Continued on Page 2)

conference with legislators announcing this year's drunk driving legislation.

VIRGINIA

Called a "grim legislative session" by the *Roanoke Times & World News* (2-25-03), Virginia's lawmakers left Richmond this past February concluding the Commonwealth's 2003 General Assembly session.

As predicted, 2003 was never going to be the year of drunk driving legislation in Virginia.

A six-and-a-half week, fiscally-dominated, election year session – combined with the ongoing work of Virginia Governor Mark Warner's (D) 2002-appointed Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and Alcohol (of which WRAP is a member) – only confirmed this.

However the 2003 Virginia General Assembly session wasn't totally without merit.

On the plus side, and officially announced by Governor Warner at WRAP's 2002 Law Enforcement Awards, Virginia lawmakers were successful in advancing two pieces of anti-drunk driving legislation which were integral to the Governor's 2003 traffic safety agenda. These measures, which became Virginia law in July 2003, included bills which will:

- implement an administrative license suspension when drivers under 21 have a .02 or higher blood alcohol concentration [BAC] (HB 2324, Albo-R);
- and create minimum DUI fines including enhanced penalties (mandatory jail time) for DUI arrests when children 17 and under are in the vehicle (SB 1019, Mims-R).

In the negative column, however, 2003 Virginia General Assembly members killed measures which sought to:

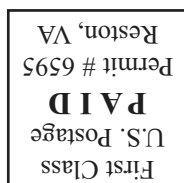
- ban open containers of alcohol in the passenger area of motor vehicles (HB 1379 and HB 2252);
- lower the blood alcohol concentration threshold (from .20 to .16 BAC) to receive enhanced penalties under Virginia's "high BAC" statute (HB 2265);
- mandate continuously served jail time (versus allowances for weekends, etc.) for Virginia's convicted high BAC or "super drunk" drivers (HB 1401).
- and create new penalties for those drivers convicted of having consumed defined illegal drugs (cocaine, opium, hallucinogens, etc.) (HB 1806)

Equally disappointing was this year's Virginia General Assembly's failure to pass legislation mandating the use of seatbelts by all front seat passengers (SB 1325 and HB 2711).

"The fact is that wearing a seatbelt may be your best defense against a drunk driver," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President and registered lobbyist. "Failing to wear a seatbelt contributes to more fatalities than any single traffic safety-related behavior including drunk driving."

According to the latest official figures from Virginia's Department of Motor Vehicles, the numbers of persons killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes in Virginia increased between 2000 and 2001. So, too, have the number of alcohol-related traffic crashes as well as the number of persons convicted of DUI in the state.

For these aforementioned impaired and teen drinking initiatives, WRAP played a leading role in Richmond this year by: providing numerous legislative committees with both testimony and substitute bill language; routinely meeting with Executive and Legislative branch leadership; routinely meeting also with both Senate and House members; providing resource information; and building public support for these initiatives via WRAP's regularly-issued Legislative Alerts. ■



Washington Regional Alcohol Program
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Calendar of Events

October 23

WRAP Annual Meeting (11:30 am – 2:00 pm, Washington, D.C.)

WRAP 2003 Annual Meeting / Luncheon to commemorate FY 2001-02 accomplishments and bestow 2003 WRAPPY Awards at Maggiano's Little Italy in northwest Washington, D.C.

October 31

WRAP 2003 Halloween SoberRide Kick-Off (10:00 – 10:30 am, TBD)

WRAP kick-off and news conference launching Halloween SoberRide program.

October 31

WRAP 2003 Halloween SoberRide (8:00 pm – 4:00 am)

Call 1-800-200-TAXI or # TAXI on AT&T Wireless phone for a free taxi ride home, up to a \$50 fare.

December 11

WRAP 2003 Holiday Campaign Kick-Off (10:00 am – 11:30 am)

WRAP 2003 Holiday SoberRide program launch and 2003 Law Enforcement Awards, Greenbelt Marriott, Greenbelt MD. Registration begins at 9:30 am.

**Dec. 12 –
Jan. 1, 2004**

WRAP 2003-04 Holiday SoberRide (8:00 pm – 4:00 am each day)

Call 1-800-200-TAXI or # TAXI on AT&T Wireless phone for a free taxi ride home, up to a \$50 fare.