

Hello STORM Members,

There have been some significant changes in the way STORM Conferences will be funded in the upcoming 2012 – 2013 fiscal year. Please read the remainder of this letter and pay close attention to the details because EVERYONE who attends STORM WILL be affected.

As of October 1, 2012; STORM will no longer receive federal funding in the form of a Mississippi Office of Highway Safety grant. For the past few years STORM has applied for and received approximately \$23,000.00 annually to cover the cost of speaker fees, daily registration items, as well as the Wednesday night Awards Banquet. At the completion of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's grant review process, it was determined based on information from that review that it would be in the best interest of the Organization to NOT go forward with the request for funding.

As a result of not seeking OHS funding, effective for the upcoming fall conference, STORM will be responsible for paying all speaker fees, any cost associated with the meeting rooms etc. At this time the Board Members have decided to cancel the Wednesday night banquet and move the awards ceremony back to Thursday to negate the extra cost of the meal which was approximately \$3,000.00. An additional \$3,500.00 deduction in expenditures has also been decided by foregoing the purchase of any daily registration promotional items for attendees.

If you have been awarded a grant from OHS, related to impaired driving, the cost of the STORM Conference is an allowable expenditure. **If you are grant funded YOU ARE REQUIRED to utilize grant funds to pay for all costs of the conference.** The Conference will be held at the Rainbow Hotel and Casino located at 1380 Warrenton Road Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180 (phone number 601-638-7111). **Grant funded Officers will be responsible for calling and reserving your own rooms at the hotel.** Be sure to tell them you are a STORM attendee so that you will receive the discounted \$78.00 a night room rate. If attendance at the STORM Conference is not in your grant, or if it was removed from your initial request, please contact your Program Manager at the Office of Highway Safety no earlier than noon on Monday October 1, 2012. Each Program Manager is aware of the situation and will be available to assist you if possible in making changes to your current grant.

For those of you who are **not grant funded** your hotel rooms will be covered through a grant from the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University and you **do not call and book rooms at the hotel.** The MSU rooms will be booked double occupancy just like previous conferences, so be sure to include your choice of roommate when you complete your online registration.

EVERYONE INCLUDING GRANT AND NON-GRANT FUNDED ATTENDEES MUST REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE. PLEASE BE SURE TO NOTE ON YOUR REGISTRATION THAT YOU WILL OR WILL NOT NEED A MISSISSIPPI STATE FUNDED ROOM!!!! REGISTRATION MUST BE COMPLETED ON THE WWW.MSSTORM.NET WEBSITE!!!! DO NOT MAIL OR FAX IN REGISTRATIONS!!!!

Tammy Moore; Past President / Co-Conference Manager