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## AAMVA Awards Submission Deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup>

AAMVA's Awards Program is a great way to recognize individuals, teams and organizations in the motor vehicle administration and law enforcement community for their commitment and hard work. With a February 1st submission deadline quickly approaching, you'll want to act now to give credit where credit is due. View the [2016 Awards Promo Video](#) to learn more about the awards, and visit the [Awards Page](#) on AAMVA's Web site to download the 2016 Submission and Nomination Packet and Entry Form.

## 2016 Workshop & Law Institute



AAMVA's 2016 Workshop & Law Institute is scheduled to take place in Cincinnati, Ohio, March 9-10, 2016. [Watch the promo video](#) to learn more, and visit the [Workshop & Law Institute Web site](#) to register today

## REGION I NEWS

### DMV Working to Fix Software Issue That Wrongfully Suspended Registrations (Connecticut)

The DMV says it's working to correct errors in its system that wrongfully suspended drivers' registrations for lack of insurance. [Read the full story at FOX61.com.](#)

### Lawmakers Approve Drug Offender Driver's License Bill (Massachusetts)

The Massachusetts House signed off Wednesday on a measure that would end the state's longstanding policy of automatically suspending for up to five years the driver's licenses of people convicted of drug offenses. [Read the full story at WCVB.com.](#)

### New Jersey Gets 9-Month Extension To Comply With Real ID Act

The state of New Jersey has been given a nine-month extension to have its

OUR EVENTS

JANUARY

6-7 | [Board of Directors' Meeting](#)

San Antonio, TX

6 | [Industry Advisory Board Meeting](#)

San Antonio, TX

FEBRUARY

2-3 | [DMV Investigator Integration Working Group Meeting](#)

Phoenix, AZ

By invitation only

OUR WEBINARS

JANUARY

12, 19, 26 | [NMVTIS State Web interface \(SWI\) 3.0 - Understanding the New Data Elements](#)

2:00 - 3:00 pm ET

20 | [Yeah We Do That](#)

2:00 - 3:00 pm ET

FEBRUARY

2, 9, 16 | [NMVTIS State Web Interface \(SWI\) 3.0 Understanding the New Data Elements](#)

2:00 - 3:00 pm ET

OUR SURVEYS

Please respond to these surveys from Wisconsin, Florida, Kansas, Alberta, Illinois, and Georgia.

[Paperless DMV](#) (Ends 02/12/2016)

[Third Party Testing for Non-Commercial DL](#) (Ends 01/26/2016)

[Multiple systems issuing titles](#) (Ends 01/25/2016)

[Digital License Plate Production](#) (Ends 01/25/2016)

[Driver Licence Requests from](#)

drivers' licenses meet national proof-of-identity requirements. [Read the full story at NewYork.CBSLocal.com.](#)

### Fraudsters Used Encoded Pencils, Bluetooth Headsets In DMV Scam (New York)

Eleven New Yorkers are headed to prison for their roles in an elaborate commercial driver's-licenses-for-cash scheme, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General. The fraudsters were convicted for conspiracy to unlawfully produce commercial-class driver's licenses in a scheme that involved DMV security personnel, an external test-taker, facilitators, runners and lookouts at five DMV facilities in the New York City area. Conspiring applicants paid between \$1,800 and \$2,500, in exchange for exam answers and assistance through the application process. [Read the full story at DailyCaller.com.](#)

### State DMV: Posting Pictures of Drivers' License Online Risks ID Theft (New York)

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles is warning drivers about the dangers of posting images of their new permits and licenses on social media. [Read the full story at WHCURadio.com.](#)

### Number of Traffic Deaths in New York Falls for a Second Straight Year

Despite a series of serious crashes in recent months, traffic deaths fell in New York for the second year in a row as the city continued to focus on improving street safety. [Read the full story at NYTimes.com.](#)

REGION II NEWS

### 'Scarlet Letter' DUI License Plates Proposed (Mississippi)

A Mississippi lawmaker wants "Scarlet Letter" license plates to make sure the public can spot some drivers convicted of drunken driving. State Rep. Gary Chism is introducing the bill, which proposes a yellow license plate for second-offense DUI offenders. [Read the full story at WAPT.com.](#)

### Virginians May Sign Up for Emergency Contact Program at DMV

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is now registering customers for the commonwealth's Emergency Contact Program. The Emergency Contact Program, which was authorized by the General Assembly in 2015, gives law enforcement a way to notify a participant's family or friends in the event of a serious crash or other emergency that leaves him or her unable to communicate. [Read the DMV press release.](#)

REGION III NEWS

### One State Has Started Putting Drivers' Licenses on Smartphones (Iowa)

Imagine you've just caught the flash of red lights in your rearview mirror. As you pull over, your smartphone sends an alert, requesting permission for the police officer to view your license on a mobile device. You scan your thumb for verification, and the cop approaches. She greets you by name and, as she looks over your vehicle, sends the citation you've just received to your phone. You can

[Outside Jurisdiction](#) (Ends 01/31/2016)

[Vehicle Registrations](#) (Ends 01/22/2016)

[Waive Reinstatement Fees Based on Ability to Pay](#) (Ends 01/15/2016)

These jurisdictions appreciate your assistance with their research. If you need a Web password or have any questions about using the survey tool, please send an e-mail to [webportalsupport@aamva.org](mailto:webportalsupport@aamva.org) or call Janice Dluzynski at 703-908-5842.

All online surveys can be found [on the AAMVA Web site here](#).

enter your plea and pay the fine right on your device, the officer says, before heading back to her cruiser. [Read the full story at CarandDriver.com](#).

### **KHP Asking for Public's Input on Tattoos (Kansas)**

The Kansas Highway Patrol is short in manpower statewide. In addressing this shortage, the agency is exploring ways of attracting more applicants for its trooper and other vacant positions. [Read the KHP press release](#).

### **Draft Language from House GOP Would Push Real ID Implementation to 2018 (Minnesota)**

A proposal by a House Republican would push out implementation of the federal Real ID law to 2018, earning a rebuke Tuesday from Gov. Mark Dayton, who accused Republicans of a "failure of responsible leadership." [Read the full story at StarTribune.com](#).

### **2015 Minnesota Road Fatalities Highest Since 2010**

From motorcycle deaths to pedestrian fatalities, the lives lost in traffic crashes in 2015 made it a tragic year for too many Minnesota families. Preliminary numbers from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS) show 396 people have died so far on Minnesota roads compared with 361 for all of last year. [Read the DPS press release](#).

### **Nebraska Military Honor License Plates Available Online**

The year 2016 brings another opportunity to recognize military personnel who are currently on active duty or who are Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine, or National Guard veterans. Legislative Bill 383 passed by the 2014 Nebraska Legislature authorized the issuance of Military Honor Plates beginning January 2, 2016. [Read the DMV press release](#).

### **Ohio Highway Patrol Asks "How Am I Doing?" Through Online Survey**

The Ohio State Highway Patrol is looking for information about driver's attitudes and opinions about the patrol. Troopers are giving the public a chance to express those opinions through an online survey. [Read the full story at WFMJ.com](#).

### **State Traffic Deaths Increased by Nearly 13 Percent in 2015 (Wisconsin)**

Wisconsin ended 2015 with 556 traffic fatalities, which was 62 more than 2014 and six more than the five-year average, according to preliminary statistics from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). [Read the DOT press release](#).

### **DMV Adds New Services (Wisconsin)**

A new year means a new day of customer service at some Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) service centers. Beginning this Saturday, January 9, Madison East, La Crosse, Eau Claire (Melby Street), Wausau and Appleton DMV service centers will be open from 8:30 a.m. to noon. [Read the DOT press release](#).

## **REGION IV NEWS**

### **In Program's First Year, Nearly Half of California's**

## **Driver's Licenses Went to Undocumented**

California issued some 605,000 new driver's licenses last year to immigrants residing in the country illegally, surpassing expectations for the program's first year and granting more freedom for those who obtained the permit. [Read the full story at OCRegister.com.](#)

## **Scalpers Sell DMV Appointments To Undocumented Residents (Colorado)**

Colorado's Attorney General is launching an investigation into a scam targeting undocumented residents trying to get a Colorado driver's license. [Read the full story at Denver.CBS.Local.com.](#)

## **Colorado's Limping Immigrant Driver's Program Faces Many More Hurdles**

Colorado's immigrant driver's license program faces a host of new challenges heading into the new year that are threatening to further damage the already-hobbled initiative. [Read the full story at DenverPost.com.](#)

## **HDOT To Accept Applications for 'Limited Purpose' Driver's Licenses Beginning January 4 (Hawaii)**

Those who wish to drive in Hawaii, no longer need proof of legal presence to hit the roads. The Hawaii State Department of Transportation (HDOT) has announced beginning Monday, Jan. 4, 2016, the public is allowed to apply for a limited purpose instruction permit, limited purpose provisional driver's license or a limited purpose driver's license. [Read the full story at KHON2.com.](#)

## **Redesigned Driver's Licenses More Secure, But Could Soon be Rejected at Airports (Montana)**

Though Montana's newly redesigned driver's licenses and identification cards include increased security features, they still do not meet federal standards that might soon be required for air travel and access to federal buildings. [Read the full article in the Independent Record.](#)

## **New Mexico Governor, Lawmakers Haven't Sent Real ID Letter**

New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez and state lawmakers have not sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security seeking an extension on REAL ID requirements. Nearly two weeks after federal officials said New Mexico could get an extension if Martinez and lawmakers sent a letter, no agreement has been drafted amid a looming Jan. 10 deadline. [Read the full story at InHomelandSecurity.com.](#)

### **OTHER NEWS**

## **Kia Aims for Fully Autonomous Car on Sale by 2030**

Kia has announced a new sub-brand 'Drive Wise' that will focus on autonomous driving technologies with a target date for a fully autonomous vehicle promised at 2030. [Read the full story at NYDailyNews.com.](#)

## **NHTSA To Alter Vehicle Code To Prevent 3-Wheelers Like Elio**

Elio Motors is still working to put its three-wheeled, "84-mpg," two-seat car into

production, which is proving to be quite a task. [Read the full story at GreenCarReports.com.](#)

## BlackBerry Joins Self-Driving Car Race With Its Own Software

BlackBerry Ltd. laid out its plans Wednesday for building autonomous car software, jumping into a race with the likes of Apple Inc., Google and Tesla Motors Inc. to capture a piece of the ballooning industry. [Read the full story at Bloomberg.com.](#)

## Audi, Ford Expand Self-Driving Car Programs as Car-Focused CES Approaches

Two automakers announced expansions in their autonomous vehicle (AV) testing programs on Tuesday, Jan. 5, as the approaching Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas continues to put a spotlight on self-driving cars. [Read the full story at GovTech.com.](#)

## National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D.)

On January 9th, 2016, partnering organizations in support of law enforcement officers nationwide will promote National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D.). In light of recent negativity directed toward law enforcement nationally, there is a need to show law enforcement officers that our citizens recognize the difficult and sometimes impossible career they have chosen, in public service to us all. [View the release on nationalcops.org.](#)

## Lyft, GM Team Up for Self-Driving Car Development

The latest trend in the development of self-driving vehicle technology is for companies to partner with third parties to get cars road-ready faster. On Monday, Jan. 4, two big names pushed that trend forward: General Motors and Lyft. [Read the full story at GovTech.com.](#)

## US Sues VW Over Emissions-Cheating Software in Diesel Cars

The Justice Department sued Volkswagen on Monday over emissions-cheating software found in nearly 600,000 vehicles sold in the United States, potentially exposing the company to billions in fines for clean air violations. [Read the full story at SacBee.com.](#)

## U.S. Car Sales Hit Record High in 2015

Drivers in the United States bought more cars last year than ever before, a staggering turnaround for an auto industry fighting for its life half a decade ago, as low gas prices and a strengthening economy marked a banner year on American roads. [Read the full story at WashingtonPost.com.](#)

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### On Twitter

**@AAMVAConnection** has been watching the twitter feed and decided to highlight some of the tweets here. Links are provided within most of the tweets, and we have also provided a link to each tweet as well. Note that **you do not have to have an account or sign in to Twitter** to view the message posts, images associated with the post, and the reach of the message (retweets, favorited, etc.). Stay on top of "Twitter-town talk". You may be surprised at what you're missing!

Follow @AAMVAConnection. (<http://twitter.com/#!/AAMVAConnection>)

- **National LEL Program @nlelp | [View the Tweet](#)**  
The inaugural issue of the LEL Traffic Stop is out:  
<http://eepurl.com/bLSSDX>
- **SDPublicSafety @SDPublicSafety | [View the Tweet](#)**  
@SDPublicSafety release: Capitol lights to be blue Saturday for Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. <http://news.sd.gov/newsitem.aspx?id=19731> ...
- **IBTTA @IBTTA | [View the Tweet](#)**  
North Carolina: Vote signals Charlotte City Council support for toll lanes  
<http://buff.ly/1SCI7V9> #tollroads
- **GHSA @GHSAHQ | [View the Tweet](#)**  
@NCDOT GHSP #BoozeltLoselt did 1,578 checkpoints during holiday. 108,094 violations & criminal charges filed. <http://bit.ly/1kSAye6> ...
- **Indiana BMV @INBMV | [View the Tweet](#)**  
Sign up for a myBMV account to complete transactions at home or on the go today! Check out our How-To Video at <http://ow.ly/WvfE8>
- **Automotive Fleet @AutomotiveFleet | [View the Tweet](#)**  
Nevada Grants Mercedes-Benz E-Class Self-Driving License  
<http://bit.ly/1n87zo6> ... #fleet
- **Egghead @CoachEgghead | [View the Tweet](#)**  
Props to @GeorgiaDDS website! Shows wait times at nearby locations. Saved me hours today. #PickedKennesaw and was done in <10min! Thanks!
- **MoDOT @MoDOT | [View the Tweet](#)**  
MO is one of only 4 states that does not have an all-driver texting ban. Drive safely! Put the phone down!
- **AASHTO @aashtospeaks | [View the Tweet](#)**  
The gas tax is making news in several states - #transportation headlines via the AASHTO DTU, out now! <http://dailyupdate.transportation.org>
- **Unofficial NTSB News @UnofficialNTSB | [View the Tweet](#)**  
Booker Praises Modernization of NHTSA's 5-Star Safety Rating System - PoliticalNews.me (PR) <http://fat.ly/i9em>
- **VermontDMV @VTDMV | [View the Tweet](#)**  
Could new rules keep bicyclists safer on Vt. roadways?  
<http://ow.ly/WKAWd>
- **WV GHSP @WVhighwaysafety | [View the Tweet](#)**  
A Time for Action: Preventing Underage Drinking in West Virginia  
<https://youtu.be/PpwlahA7GD4?list=PL6F25AC126268A2B3> ... via @YouTube
- **Indiana BMV @INBMV | [View the Tweet](#)**

Print your sticker today with our 24/7 registration renewal kiosks at our Indpls-Midtown, Mishawaka, Noblesville and Beech Grove branches

- **FLHSMV @FLHSMV** | [View the Tweet](#)  
“January is Move Over month and the message is very clear - Move Over, Florida!” – DHSMV Exec. Director Terry L. Rhodes #MoveOverFL
- **Impact Teen Drivers @impactdrivers** | [View the Tweet](#)  
How do we affect long-term attitudes & behavior? By connecting with people on the emotional level, personal stories: <http://bit.ly/1TF0aHg>
- **Automotive Fleet @AutomotiveFleet** | [View the Tweet](#)  
Video: Ford Triples Self-Driving Test Fleet [ <http://bit.ly/1IRegEY> ] ... #fleet
- **VermontDMV @VTDMV** | [View the Tweet](#)  
Terrifying dashcam footage shows speeding car roll off side of mountain <http://ow.ly/WHjOy>
- **PennDOT @PennDOTNews** | [View the Tweet](#)  
Quick video explains common motorist/cyclist mistakes/misunderstandings & PA #bicycle laws: <http://ow.ly/WIDyb>
- **FleetOwner magazine @fleetowner** | [View the Tweet](#)  
#Trucking News| At CES 2016, Toyota takes a long look into the future: Vehicles that not only run on hydrogen ... <http://bit.ly/1UwoGdW>



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