Welcome Associate Members!
AAMVA is pleased to welcome the following organizations to our Associate Membership Program. Follow the links below to learn more about each organization:

- Beacon Software - http://www.beaconsoftco.com
- Automotive Manufacturers Equipment Compliance Agency (AMECA) - http://ameca.org
- Driver's License Guide Company - https://www.driverslicenseguide.com

AAMVA's Facial Recognition Working Group Seeks Your Input
The Facial Recognition Working Group is charged with reviewing and updating the Facial Recognition Program Best Practices Guide published by AAMVA in 2015. The working group will update the content to reflect the most current best practice methods that are recommend to capture, review, and share facial images. Responses will provide information to help working group members understand the current facial recognition practices. The working group is expected to publish the updated best practices in the summer of 2019. Please take a few minutes to provide your input before the March 4, 2019 deadline. Click here to access the jurisdiction survey.

2019 Workshop & Law Institute - Session Spotlight
AAMVA's 2019 Workshop and Law Institute has a program packed with informative sessions! Here's just a highlight of what you can expect:

Leadership General Session
Wednesday, March 20, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Leadership requires agility. This is accomplished through effective communications and leadership skills to promote creative problem solving and effective teamwork. Hear from innovative leader Bob Kulhan, author of "Getting to Yes," about his unique approach to leadership by combining the science of communication, cognitive psychology, social psychology, and behavioral economics. His insights are sure to leave attendees with a new view on fostering a collaborative culture, active listening, and collaboration.

Concurrent Session: Advertising, Buying, and Selling Vehicles Online
Wednesday, March 20, 10:45 am - 12:00 pm
Join this session to hear about the soon-to-be published AAMVA Best Practice for the Regulation of Internet Vehicle Sales. We will also discuss some of the new vehicle sales business models that use the internet as the primary tool for advertising, buying, and selling vehicles.
Police: False Mass IDs Used to Buy Cars, Open Credit Accounts (Massachusetts)
A scam that saw illegal immigrants using stolen Puerto Rican identities to acquire fraudulent Massachusetts driver’s licenses is now being used more broadly to commit financial fraud — with the purchase of expensive cars off other unsuspecting people's credit information. James Scott, a Saugus police officer who has trained more than 1,400 officers across New England in detecting fraudulent identities, said he is now seeing the kind of crimes committed with the false IDs evolve from simple identity theft — which very often has given cover to illegal immigrant drug dealers — to new schemes that include using the stolen identities to buy luxury cars to sell or ship overseas and to open credit card accounts with large retailers or banks. Read the article at bostonherald.com.

Pittsburgh Residents Don’t Fear Driverless Vehicles, Survey Says (Pennsylvania)
Pittsburghers are – by and large – comfortable sharing the road with autonomous vehicles, bucking national trends that show most U.S. drivers distrust driverless technology. This week Bike Pittsburgh, which advocates for safe streets to bike and walk, released a biennial survey showing people feel safer sharing the road with autonomous vehicles over human drivers. “Our survey shows that the more people have exposure with this, the more comfortable they are with it,” said Eric Boerer, the group’s advocacy director. Read the article at triblive.com.

Dalton Police Warn of Email Scammers Posing as Department of Motor Vehicles (Georgia)
An email scammer posing as the Department of Motor Vehicles is targeting Dalton, Georgia, residents with a message claiming they owe money for a speeding citation. The message is bogus, according to the Dalton Police Department. Several Dalton residents reported the fake email to the police department Friday morning. The message, which was sent by the email address violations@citygovernment.co.gov, states that the recipient has been cited for a traffic violation and must pay the fine within 72 hours. Read the article at timesfreepress.com.

Odometer Fraud Is on the Rise: Why It’s Happening More Than You Think (Florida)
Odometer fraud, an age-old scam, is alive and well in the digital age. In fact, new research shows an alarming increase in the number of cars on the road with rolled back odometers. Approximately 1.5 million drivers have been scammed by criminals who take advantage of technology and loopholes in the law to ramp up sales and profit by rolling back the mileage on used cars. Read the article at cbs12.com.

Tennessee to Offer Real-ID Compliant Cards in July
Tennessee will begin offering residents the option to upgrade their driver's license starting July 1 to meet federal requirements that will affect air travel. Officials with the Department of Safety and Homeland Security told lawmakers on Tuesday that Tennesseans aren't required to get the upgraded driver's licenses. However, the Real-ID compliant-cards will be needed to fly on airplanes, go into federal buildings or enter military bases effective Oct. 1, 2020. Read the article at wjhl.com.
Texas Highway’s Safety Signs Take Jabs at Patriots and Rams
The North Texas Tollway Authority’s main goal is to bring safety to the local highways. With that in mind, it’s not afraid to have a little fun along the way. The highway has featured two Super Bowl-themed signs. One, a not-so-subtle jab at the Los Angeles Rams, read: 'If a Ram interferes with your car dial #999.' The reference, of course, is to the infamous missed pass interference call in the NFC Championship game — though theoretically, if an actual ram darted across the road and smashed your vehicle, you’d likely be encouraged do the same thing. Read the article at bostonglobe.com.

Virginia DMV Enjoyed Successful 2018
The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles had a busy but productive 2018, highlighted by a new identification system and expanded technological options. For those who are due to renew their driver’s license in Virginia soon, a new option will provide not only a more secure form of identification, but also one that will fully comply with upcoming federal identification requirements for air travel and access to secure federal facilities...2018 was truly the year of REAL ID at DMV. This massive undertaking touched nearly every facet of the agency and I am proud of the hard work my staff committed to successfully launch this new service back in October,' said DMV Commissioner Richard D. Holcomb. 'In 2019, our work continues. We estimate that more than 2.5 million Virginians will visit us before federal enforcement of these new ID requirements begin in October [2020]. We are working hard to serve you and encourage you to visit our website before you visit an office to learn more about REAL ID and [the] documents needed to apply.' Read the article at southwesttimes.com.

REGION 3 NEWS

Indiana would legally define electric scooters as different from motor vehicles, exempting them from costs like insurance, titling and plates, in a proposal that advanced this week in the Legislature. House Bill 1649, sponsored by Rep. Sean Eberhart, R-Shelbyville, would also block local governments from making rules excluding scooters from paths designated only for bikes. 'There’s a chance that if you don’t define a scooter or some other device that may come along that you get grouped in with motor vehicles,' Eberhart told IndyStar. 'There’s a whole section that deals with motor vehicles in Indiana code, and electric scooters certainly don’t belong in that category.' Read the article at indystar.com.

Michigan Is the Deadliest State for Winter Driving, Study Finds
We all know that Michigan has some tough winters, but a new study found that the state is also the deadliest when it comes to winter driving. According to a study from Value Penguin, Michigan had the highest number of winter weather-related driving deaths between 2013 and 2017, with a huge gap between No. 1 and No. 2. The study found we had 282 fatalities due to winter weather-related crashes, which is 85 more deaths than the second-highest state, Pennsylvania. Read the article at wxyz.com.

‘Air Traffic Control’ for Driverless Cars Could Speed up Deployment (Michigan)
Combining human and artificial intelligence in autonomous vehicles could push driverless cars more quickly toward wide-scale adoption, University of Michigan researchers say. That's the goal of a new project that relies on a technique called instantaneous crowdsourcing to provide a cost-effective, real-time remote backup for
onboard autonomous systems without the need for a human to be physically in the driver's seat. The research is taking place at the U-M Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI). Read the article at news.umich.edu.

**Distracted-Driving Legislation Could Be up for Minnesota Floor Vote 'in the Next Month, Maybe Earlier'**

Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka, R-Nisswa, said Tuesday that legislation aimed at curbing distracted driving could be among the first measures passed in the Senate this session. Two proposals — one requiring hands-free devices while using a cellphone and another that would enhance penalties for texting while driving — continued a swift passage through the Senate on Tuesday, advancing after two days of hearings in the Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee and closer to a floor vote. Read the article at startribune.com.

**Traffic Deaths Rose, Then Fell, After Three States Legalized Marijuana (Colorado, Oregon, Washington)**

Traffic deaths rose temporarily in three states that approved recreational marijuana, according to a new study. This research is the latest attempt to untangle the question of whether legal marijuana makes the roads more dangerous. Currently, 33 states have legalized medical marijuana and 10 have legalized recreational marijuana. Though the public is increasingly accepting of cannabis, experts worry about negative public health effects, given a growing body of research that says marijuana impairs driving abilities and the fact that there's no accurate way to measure how impaired someone is from cannabis. A study published today in the journal Addiction found that, on average, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington state (all of which have legalized medical marijuana) had about one additional traffic death per million residents...Interestingly, the increase was temporary, and rates went back to normal after about a year. Read the article at theverge.com.

**February’s Traffic Spotlight Focused on Seatbelt Safety (Saskatchewan)**

The Saskatchewan traffic safety spotlight for February is focused on seatbelts and car seats. Police across the province will look for people not wearing a seatbelt or wearing one improperly. According to Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI), 16 people in 2017 were killed in vehicle collisions because they weren’t properly restrained or not buckled up at all. Read the article at globalnews.ca.

**SGI Says This Motorist’s Surname Is Too Rude for a License Plate (Saskatchewan)**

SGI spokesperson Tyler McMurchy said that SGI has guidelines for slogans which specify that the insurer will not approve licence plates the general public may find 'offensive, suggestive or not in good taste.' "Even if a word is someone’s name and pronounced differently than the offensive version, that’s not something that would be apparent to other motorists who will see the plate," McMurchy said in an email statement. If an individual appeals a decision to reject a personalized licence plate, a committee — composed of SGI employees — reviews the decision. Read the article at insurancebusinessmag.com.

**Lawmakers Balk, for Now, at Plan to Allow Cars to Run Red Lights When the Coast Is Clear (Utah)**

Lawmakers tapped the brakes Tuesday on a bill to allow cars to run red lights legally, if the coast is clear at times of extremely low traffic. Amid sirens of warning from the Utah Highway Patrol and state Department of Transportation, the House Transportation Committee decided to hold HB151 for more work — before possibly...
giving it a green light later. Its sponsor, Rep. Ken Ivory, R-West Jordan, said the bill aims to handle situations where lights aren’t cycling properly, often late at night or in the early morning. Read the article at sltrib.com.

**Safety Groups Urge Caution as Another Possibly Unconscious Driver in Moving Tesla Is Caught on Camera**

Video of yet another possibly unconscious person in the driver’s seat of a Tesla that looks like it is driving itself on a highway in Autopilot mode has surfaced. The clip posted to Twitter on Thursday was at least the third like it that was shot in January, and shows a driver slumped into the seat of a Model 3 as it cruises along in the fast lane of State Route 118 north of Los Angeles. The exact condition of the driver, or whether Autopilot was engaged has not been confirmed...The video is similar to one from near Las Vegas that was posted to Jalopnik on Tuesday and another from Southern California reported on by Electrek earlier in the month. Read the article at foxnews.com.

**Self-Driving Cars Could Increase Traffic by Avoiding Parking, Study Says**

Self-driving cars could make urban traffic worse, according to a new study published by Transport Policy. The study claims autonomous cars could drive around in circles without passengers onboard to avoid paying fees at street-parking meters or private parking garages. Adam Millard-Ball, an associate professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz, used game theory and traffic simulations to reach that conclusion. Even factoring in wear and tear on the vehicles, Millard-Ball estimated that it would cost just $0.50 per mile to keep a car on the move, making that option cheaper than parking most of the time. Read the article at thedrive.com.

**ELD Adoption Fails to Reduce Truck Accidents, Study Says**

ELDs were supposed to reduce driver fatigue and make roads safer, but a recent report suggests that any benefits may have been offset by an increase in unsafe driving behaviors. Alex Scott, assistant professor of supply chain management at the D’Amore-McKim School of Business at Northeastern University, led a team that evaluated inspection and crash data from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and found that widespread adoption of ELDs in the trucking industry has so far had no measurable impact on the number of accidents. The report, 'Did the Electronic Logging Device Mandate Reduce Accidents?', looked at large and small fleets and compared accident rates before and after the ELD mandate. What it found was that, among small carriers, which are where ELD adoption saw the largest increase from 2017-2018, there was no significant difference in the number of accidents. Read the article at truckinginfo.com.

**NHTSA Scraps Plan to Require Event Data Recorders in Cars and Trucks**

The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said on Tuesday it is withdrawing a 2012 Obama administration proposal to require event data recorders in all new cars and trucks because it says automakers have voluntarily installed the devices in nearly all vehicles. The agency, known as NHTSA, had proposed requiring the devices, sometimes known as 'black boxes' in all vehicles, but had not finalized it. Read the article at autoblog.com.

**Nearly One Billion People Have No Form of Legal ID. Going Digital Could Change That**

In the United States, people often take identification for granted. There’s typically
little difficulty in establishing who you are or getting access to crucial benefits so long as you have a driver's license or passport. But for the nearly one billion people around the world who have no form of legal identification, that's not the reality. Without legal identification, they are denied access to government aid, health care, financial services, the labor market, the ability to secure property rights and the ability to register a business. The good news is that, as more of our economic, social and political activity shifts online, governments and businesses around the world are implementing digital ID — identification that can be verified remotely over digital channels. Though, so far, they've had mixed results and adoption levels, new research from the McKinsey Global Institute finds that when carefully designed, digital ID can add 6% growth to an emerging economy's GDP in 2030 and 3% to an advanced economy's GDP. Read the article at cnn.com.

**TWITTER NEWS**

@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 the chatter in the MVA and LE community. You may be surprised at what you're missing! Follow @AAMVACoNNECTION.

Check out recent @AAMVACoNNECTION Twitter action.

***Thank you for the @AAMVACoNNECTION mentions!***

**MD_MVA @MD_MVA | View the Tweet**

MDOT MVA is here at the @BaltAutoShow discussing REAL ID requirements and our safety recall pilot program! Come visit us at the Baltimore Convention Center Feb 7-10. #MDOTScenes

**NC Public Safety @NCPublicSafety | View the Tweet**

Col. Richard Holden was not only one of the first African-American cadets to enter the Highway Patrol's Basic School, but also the first African-American commander of NCSHP. #BlackHistoryMonth #ThrowbackThursday #FunFacts
IllinoisStatePolice @ILStatePolice | View the Tweet
A quick poem in the rain!

Indiana BMV @INBMV | View the Tweet
Our Clarksville team has grown and is ready to help you! We are thankful to all of our teams members for their hard work serving Hoosiers.

KansasDOT @DriveSafeKansas | View the Tweet
Thanks to students in Holton for participating in Rev It Up last week. The interactive gameshow is aimed at improving traffic safety knowledge for teens.

#RevItUp @WeAreHolton