Virtual Membership Meetings
Due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, all AAMVA regional conferences and the Annual International Conference have been cancelled for the 2020 season. These conferences provide members with an opportunity to collaborate and discuss relevant driver license, motor vehicle, and law enforcement issues. As part of AAMVA's ongoing efforts to keep members connected and informed, virtual membership meetings will allow for the same great content and discussions on a different platform. All meetings will be conducted online via GoToWebinar. The regional membership meetings will include an update from the region's leadership team and AAMVA's President & CEO, Anne Ferro, as well as the annual election of the region's board of directors. The annual membership meeting will include an update from Whitney Brewster, Chair of the Board and Anne Ferro as well as the annual election of the International Board of Directors. Read more here.

AAMVA Needs Your Input for Our New Website!
As you may know, we have been working on redesigning our website, www.aamva.org. We're testing some navigation concepts for the new site and would like your feedback. It'll only take 10 minutes or less, and you don't have to be familiar with AAMVA's current website to participate. Just click here to do the exercise. We appreciate your input!

Jurisdiction Response to COVID-19
Click here to view consolidated information and see how motor vehicle administrations are handling driver licensing and vehicle registration. This document will be updated with the most current information on our homepage.

Motor Vehicle Industry Response to COVID-19 Pandemic
Below are a selection of news articles regarding the effects of coronavirus on the motor vehicle community.

COVID-19 | NATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE

- PHMSA Extends Enforcement Discretion on Transport of Sanitizing Materials for Use of Motor-Carrier Employees During COVID-19 Crisis
- Economic Recovery Threatened by COVID-19 Resurgence, Experts Say
- Work-From-Home Culture Will Cut Billions of Miles of Driving
- Mystery of BMW With COVID19 Licence Plate Takes Unusual Turn

COVID-19 | REGION 1 NEWS COVERAGE

Interested in having your logo appear here? Become a Regional News sponsor by contacting Rob Stershic, 703.908.2825.
AAMVA's Regional News for July 17, 2020

The 2020 Annual International Conference (AIC), as well as the Region 1, Region 2, Region 3, and Region 4 conferences are cancelled. Visit our website for the full cancelation list.

COVID-19 | REGION 2 NEWS COVERAGE

- Beshear Announces Limited Service Reopening of Somerset Regional Driver Licensing Office (Kentucky)
- Masks Now Mandatory at Driver License Offices (Mississippi)
- Natchez Driver’s License Center Closed Due to COVID-19 (Mississippi)
- DPS Launches Online Renewals for Commercial Driver Licenses, Extends Expiration Dates (Oklahoma)
- VA DMV Updates Online Scheduling System, Appointments Available 3 Months Out (Virginia)
- Division of Motor Vehicles Announces Extension to Sept. 30, 2020 for Several DMV Transactions (West Virginia)

COVID-19 | REGION 3 NEWS COVERAGE

- DMV Sees Surge Ahead of August 31st Renewal Deadline (Nebraska)
- Positive COVID-19 Cases Closes Two Auto Title Offices (Ohio)
- DMV Reminder: Extension on Driver License Renewal Ends July 25 (Wisconsin)

COVID-19 | REGION 4 NEWS COVERAGE

- Some DMV Employees Ask for Closures as Safety Concerns Grow (California)
- DMV Grants Automatic Extension to Seniors With Expiring Driver’s Licenses (California)
- Aurora DMV Closing for 3 Days After Employee Tests Positive for COVID-19 (Colorado)
- Parker DMV Office Closed Due to Positive COVID-19 Test (Colorado)
- Following Coronavirus Shutdown, Some Colorado Drivers May See DMV Fee
- Nevada DMV Extends Document Grace Period Through September 13
- DMV Office in Draper Will Reopen Monday (Utah)

Visit cdc.gov for more information on COVID-19, guidance, press releases, press kits, and more.

REGION 1 NEWS

They May Look Like Road Workers but They Could Be Cops (New York)

Road construction is moving ahead full speed across our region but drivers hitting those construction zones need to reduce their speed. Now, a special operation in New York’s North Country is targeting dangerous drivers. Our Kelly O’Brien hit the road to tell you about Operation Hard Hat. Read more at wcax.com.

Governor Cuomo Announces Nation-Leading Initiatives to Expand Electric Vehicle Use to Combat Climate Change
Governor Andrew M. Cuomo...announced a package of major clean transportation initiatives, including a “Make Ready” order approved by the New York State Public Service Commission to advance New York's commitment to accelerate its transition to cleaner mobility. Read more at governor.ny.gov.

Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Commissioner Wanda Minoli...announced the appointment of Anthony Facos of Montpelier as the DMV Enforcement and Safety Director. Read more at vermontbiz.com.

Louisiana's Strategic Highway Safety Program "Destination Zero Deaths" wants to bring awareness to roadway departure crashes. Read more at katc.com.

Authorities in several southern states will be stepping up enforcement on the roads. Operation Southern Shield begins July 20 and lasts one week. Authorities in Tennessee, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina are all increasing speed enforcement. Read more at wbir.com.

Law enforcement officers across Arkansas are set to begin a week-long concerted speed enforcement plan next week.  The operation will be publicized across the state using a public message headline, “Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine.” Read more at nwahomepage.com.

Polk County Tax Collector Joe Tedder says his office was a victim of a data breach that impacted 450,000 people in the county. Driver’s license numbers may have been accessed, in addition to the social security numbers of anyone who has applied for a business tax receipt, Tedder told Investigative Consumer Reporter Shannon Behnken. Read more at wfla.com.

During his time as Seminole County tax collector, Joel Greenberg used information from surrendered driver’s licenses to make fake IDs with his picture on it, according to a federal indictment. Read more at clickorlando.com.

Police say a man with a history of impersonating officers in Kentucky is now doing so in Nashville. Metro Nashville Police officials say 20-year-old Chandler Moon was arrested last Thursday after they found several items used to impersonate law enforcement. Read more at newschannel5.com.

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San Antonio Isn't the City With the Worst Drivers, but It Is in the Top 10 (Texas)
A new study is saying you're wrong when you say San Antonio has the worst drivers in Texas. According to a San Antonio dealership, who surveyed 2,000 driving Texans, it's actually Arlington with the worst drivers. Read more at news4sanantonio.com.

Minnesota Updates Driver's Manual With Specific Guidance on Firearms
The Minnesota Department of Public Safety announced updates for the official Minnesota Driver's Manual, giving motorists clear guidance on what to expect during a traffic stop, including when a driver is carrying a firearm. Read more at kare11.com.

Most Motorcyclists Will No Longer Have to Wear Helmets on Missouri Roadways
Motorcyclists will soon be able to ride on Missouri roadways without a helmet after Gov. Mike Parson signed legislation on Tuesday easing the state’s helmet requirement. Under the law, a licensed driver who is 26 or older and can provide proof of health insurance could opt to go without a helmet beginning Aug. 28. Read more at stltoday.com.

Good Roads, Bad Drivers: Arizona Interstates Deadliest in Nation, Report Says
Arizona’s interstate highways are in generally good shape, but they experienced the highest rate of fatalities in the nation in 2018, according to a national report. Read more at bizjournals.com.

Temecula DMV Office Evacuated After Bomb Threat; No Device Found (California)
The state Department of Motor Vehicles office in Temecula was cleared and searched Tuesday, July 14, after receiving a bomb threat, the California Highway Patrol said. No bomb was found, and the building was declared safe about two hours after the threat was first reported. Read more at pe.com.

What Happens in California Doesn't Stay in California
California made headlines in June when it approved the world's first electric truck sales mandate, a standard that requires manufacturers to sell increasing numbers of zero emission Class 4-8 vehicles. Lesser known but equally impactful is that a growing number of states have signaled their intent to speed up the transition to zero-emission big rigs, some by adopting a regulation similar to California's. Read more at finance.yahoo.com.

Wrong-Way Driver Danger Addressed in UC Davis Study (California)
A three-year study conducted by Caltrans and the UC Davis Advanced Highway
Maintenance and Construction Technology Research Center has led to key findings and prevention measures to address the danger of wrong-way drivers on area freeways. Read more at kcra.com.

Pioneering Study Uses Traffic Cameras and AI to Predict Future, Promising to Save Lives and Money (Washington)
In an effort to prevent deaths and injuries caused by crashes between vehicles, bikes and pedestrians, the city of Bellevue, Wash., set out more than five years ago to foresee the future. The idea was to use machine learning to analyze thousands of hours of video collected by 360-degree traffic cameras already installed citywide to identify potential crash hot spots and tease out dangerous traffic patterns. Read more at geekwire.com.

New State Laws Updating WYDOT Driver Services Policies, Conservation Efforts (Wyoming)
The Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) is implementing new and updated policies for Driver Services that will clarify driver license issues and provide ways to donate to conservation efforts. Read more at wyomingnewsnow.tv.

FMCSA to Request Safety Data on Last-Mile Delivery
The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) will be taking a long look at last-mile delivery trucks' involvement in crashes, given trends revealing a jump in the use of such vehicles in interstate commerce...MCSAC will be calling on nine companies that have large fleets of vehicles that weigh 6,001 to 10,000 pounds — including Amazon — to get a better sense of their safety management practices. Read more at freightwaves.com.

House Panel OKs Fiscal 2021 Transportation Funding Bill
Legislation that would increase funding for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration was approved during a hearing of the House Appropriations Committee on July 14...The bill heads to the floor for consideration. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) indicated he intends to schedule fiscal 2021 funding measures before the end of the month. Read more at ttnews.com.

Tech to Help Autonomous Vehicles Better Scan for Nearby Fast-Moving Objects
A self-driving car has a hard time recognizing the difference between a toddler and a brown bag that suddenly appears into view because of limitations in how it senses objects using lidar. The autonomous vehicle industry is exploring "frequency modulated continuous wave" (FMCW) lidar to solve this problem. Read more at sciencedaily.com.

'Hands Free': Automakers Race to Next Level of Not Quite Self-Driving Cars
Autopilot, ProPilot, CoPilot: Automakers have many names for new systems that allow for hands-free driving, but no safety or performance standards to follow as they roll out the most significant changes to vehicle technology in a generation. Read more at whtc.com.

Germany Bans Tesla's Misleading 'Autonomous' Driving Ad Statements
Germany banned Tesla from repeating what a court claims are misleading advertising statements about the automaker's vehicle capabilities — specifically, the driver assistance systems and autonomous driving — according to a ruling from a
judge on Tuesday. Read more at interestingengineering.com.

**Navistar, TuSimple Partner to Launch Self-Driving Trucks in 2024**

Truck and engine maker Navistar International Corp., and TuSimple, a global self-driving technology company, announced July 15 a strategic partnership to co-develop SAE Level 4 self-driving trucks targeted for production by 2024. It was a step one expert described as a milestone in terms of original equipment manufacturer and startup interactions. Read more at ttnews.com.

**Study: Training Helps Younger Drivers Stay as Safe as Those Retiring**

Proper training and mentoring can help ensure younger truck drivers filling the void left by those retiring from the industry develop and maintain safe driving habits, and will also help address the looming threat of a driver shortage in trucking, a new study commissioned by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration determined. Read more at ttnews.com.

**Trucks Moved Almost 12 Billion Tons of Freight Across America Last Year, ATA Report Shows**

The trucking industry generated $791.7 billion in revenue in 2019, moving 11.84 billion tons of freight, according to ATA American Trucking Trends 2020, the latest edition of American Trucking Associations’ (ATA) annual report produced by the association’s economic department. Read more at thetrucker.com.

**Truck Drivers Should Beware of CBD, Drug Policy Expert Says**

The U.S. Department of Transportation told truck drivers use of CBD oils would be at their own career risk. That warning was issued by a DOT drug policy official briefing a Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration advisory committee on July 13. Read more at ttnews.com.

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**TWITTER NEWS**

Stay on top of the chatter in the MVA and LE community on social media. You may be surprised at what you're missing! Here are a few highlights of last weeks’ activity.

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**PA Department of Transportation @PennDOTNews | View the Tweet**

It is NEVER okay to text while driving. Before you get behind the wheel, put away all distractions. Tip: Set your phone on 'Do Not Disturb' mode before driving to minimize distractions from phone alerts. #OperationSafeDriverWeek
This pie chart explains when it's okay to text while driving

- Never
- Still never
- Nope

VT State Police Traffic Safety @VSP_Traffic | View the Tweet

Crash captured on @vtsatepolice cruiser cam. Here is a 6-minute read w/ cruiser video examining why operators fail to “see” their crash coming before its too late - and what we can do about it.

Georgia_DPS @ga_dps | View the Tweet

This morning, Major Jeremy Vickery, Commanding Officer of the Motor Carrier Compliance Division, welcomed the 6th Motor Carrier School to training. Major Vickery addressed the class, advising them of why their job is so vital for the safety of our roadways. #gamccd
As Indiana gets #BackOnTrack, our associates are taking safety precautions and practicing healthy habits to protect our customers and loved ones. Who do you wear your mask for? #MaskUpHoosiers

The Kansas Highway Patrol will participate in a five-state speed and traffic enforcement with law enforcement from @NEStatePatrol, @ARStatePolice, @MSHPTrooperGHQ and @iowastatepatrol.

See media release for more information.
Wisconsin DOT @WisconsinDOT | View the Tweet

DYK: 1982 was the first year photo driver licenses were required in Wisconsin? Here's a shot of a DMV examiner taking the state's first ever photo license. #tbt #ThrowbackThursday

CA DMV @CA_DMV | View the Tweet

A message from #CADMV Director @stevepgordon on senior driver’s license extensions #COVID19 #CORONAVIRUS #COVID19Update #DMV