Region 4 Conference Wraps Up

From July 15-17, AAMVA hosted the Region 4 Conference in Denver, Colorado. During the conference, members had the opportunity to network and attend sessions on hot topics, including industry trends and technology, vehicle sales and titling, impaired and at-risk drivers, workplace culture, and more. View photos of the event by visiting our Flickr page. Presentations are available for download on the AAMVA website (only for AAMVA members). If you attended the conference, please don't forget to provide feedback via the survey on our mobile app. Thank you to our sponsors and exhibitors who made this event possible!

Managing Data Privacy Working Group Surveys

AAMVA's Managing Data Privacy Working Group needs your input to help jurisdictions implement best practices aimed at strengthening privacy, while addressing the operational data sharing responsibilities. To assist the Working Group, we request your agency's input with two surveys. One survey focuses on agreement with other organizations that request data, data governance and personnel. The second survey focuses on data requests and audit & accounting procedures. Please respond to these surveys by July 31. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Knittle. Thank you for your assistance.

Rep. Lori Ehrlich Files Legislation to Protect Keyless Vehicle Drivers From Carbon Monoxide Poisoning (Massachusetts)

HD.4366 is aimed at operational safety for keyless ignition technology and would require manufacturers, dealers, and rental companies to ensure vehicles include auto-stop technology...Once a luxury feature, keyless ignition technology is now standard in more than half of the 17 million vehicles sold annually in the U.S. A rising number of carbon monoxide poisoning cases and deaths are attributed to vehicles with keyless ignition devices left running...Read more at northofboston.wickedlocal.com.

New Hampshire Has a Dirty Mind When It Comes to Rejected Vanity License Plates

Figuring out why certain vanity license plates have been rejected by the New Hampshire Department of Motor Vehicles can be obvious or perplexing, depending
AAMVA's Regional News for July 19, 2019

11-12 | **2019 September State to State User Group Meeting**
Orlando, FL

**SYSTEMS TRAINING**
*Register for the following training sessions HERE.*

AUGUST

20 | **UNI Basics** (basic)
21 | **UNI Advanced A** (advanced)
22 | **SPEXS Bulk Load (Intermediate)**

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**OUR WEBINARS**

JULY

23 | **NMVTIS State Web Interface (SWI) – Instant Title Verification Using the VIN Search Feature**
24 | **NMVTIS Suspense Resolution for Online States (Web Service Version) – Part 2**
25 | **AAMVA Secure File Transfer Protocol Infrastructure Migration**
30 | **AAMVA Secure File Transfer Protocol Infrastructure Migration**

AUGUST

1 | **AAMVA Secure File Transfer Protocol Infrastructure Migration**
7 | **Vehicle Identification Number Locations and Inspections**
13 | **NMVTIS State Web Interface (SWI) – Understanding the Administrative Features**
14 | **NMVTIS Suspense Resolution for Online States (Web Service Version) – Part 1**
20 | **NMVTIS State Web Interface (SWI) – How to Correct Title and Brand Data on the Central Site**

on the message. A Loudon driver, for example, requested 'PRO420,' a reference to marijuana. It did not pass the decency test...The rules for New Hampshire vanity plates are set by the legislature and enforced by the DMV. Among things that can't be referred to 'in any language, whether read forward, backward, by mirror image or by phonetic spelling' are 'intimate body parts or genitals,' 'sexual or excretory acts or functions,' 'profanity,' 'violence,' 'illicit activities,' 'drugs,' 'gangs,' and 'hatred or bigotry.' Read more at concordmonitor.com.

**New Hampshire Will Allow a Nonbinary Gender Option on State Licenses**
New Hampshire residents who identify as nonbinary will now be able to take advantage of a third gender designation when they apply for or renew their driver's licenses. Gov. Chris Sununu (R) has allowed a bill allowing for an 'X' gender marker on state-issued IDs to become law without his signature. The bill, which passed both chambers on a voice vote, will take effect on Jan. 1, 2020. Read more at metroweekly.com.

**Cars Significantly More Dangerous Than Guns in New York, New Data Shows**
New York is the safest big city in the country — unless you're near a car. Motor vehicles are significantly deadlier than guns in New York, new NYPD data shows. Crashes involving cars, vans, trucks and buses killed 111 people on city streets during the first six months of 2019, public data shows. During the same period, 61 people died in shootings, the NYPD says...Motor vehicles are also deadlier than guns in car-loving major metros like Los Angeles, Houston and San Diego, data shows. Read more at nydailynews.com.

**PennDOT in Early Stages of Digital License Plate Pilot Program (Pennsylvania)**
Digital license plates have been given the green-light in a few states across the country. Here in Pennsylvania, PennDOT is in the early stages of a pilot program. KYW Newsradio's Suburban Bureau Chief Jim Melwert talks to one of the men behind the new tech about what it is and what it could offer. Read more at kwynewsradio.radio.com.

**‘Operation Southern Shield’ Aims to Cut Down on Speed-Related Incidents (Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, South Carolina)**
If you've been out driving, you may have noticed more police cars out. That's because Monday is the first day of Operation Southern Shield. It's a speed initiative hosted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Law enforcement officials say they chose to start the initiative this week because this is the time many people are getting their last minute traveling in before the end of the summer. This is the second year for the initiative. The five states that are the main focus are Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and South Carolina. Read more at wotc.com.

**New Study Ranks the Best and Worst Places to Drive in Florida**
We all know Florida doesn't have the best reputation when it comes to driving. That's why it may come as a surprise to some that an insurance quoting site would rank the best -- not just the worst -- places to drive in the Sunshine State. QuoteWizard's website even goes as far as to say Florida is a state that consistently 'ranks among the nation's best drivers.' The study ranked the 50 largest Florida cities, analyzing more than 400,000 insurance quotes from Florida drivers.
Ordinance Seeks to Reduce Pedestrian Accidents, Panhandling (Kentucky)
Across the city of Louisville, residents have probably noticed more and more panhandling at busy intersections. Five Metro Council members believe it’s causing traffic and safety issues. They’ve tracked 21 deaths in pedestrian-involved collisions in 2018 in Louisville and 112 pedestrians killed on those roads in the past five years. Council members plan to introduce a Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Ordinance on Wednesday during Public Safety Committee that seeks to curb jaywalking...Most complaints come from drivers who say panhandlers, who may be homeless, are leaning into their cars or crossing traffic lanes to collect money from people. Drivers complain they have had to swerve to avoid them. City officials are hearing from them. Read more at wave3.com.

Study Shows Most Motorcyclists Don't Wear Reflective Gear (Oklahoma)
Undrell Maholmes, the manager at Cycle Gear in Oklahoma City, said wearing reflective gear is very important for motorcyclists. The store has a wide variety of reflective items...A study from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows most motorcyclists don't wear anything reflective. Maholmes said this can make riding more dangerous. ‘The motorcycles we ride, they're pretty fast,’ Maholmes said. 'As a driver you can check your mirror and no one's there then the next second someone's there.' Read more at ktul.com.

How to Regain Your Driver's License Even If You Owe Court Fees (Virginia)
Since July 1, thousands of Virginians have been able to get their driver's license reinstated even if they have unpaid court costs and fees, thanks to a new Virginia law. City of Norfolk employees helped people check their status and start the process Tuesday at the city's Workforce Development Center. Department of Human Services employee Madonna Flores said her department is thrilled with the law change...Flores said the lack of a license or transportation has been a major problem for thousands of people, and now that barrier is lifted - at least when it comes to unpaid court costs. Read more at 13newsnow.com.

DMV Launches Initiative It Hopes Will Get People to Buckle Up (Virginia)
The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles launched a new campaign last month called the 'Local Heroes Seat Belt Awareness Initiative,' which partners up with local law enforcement agencies to convince people to buckle up. You may have seen social media videos with officers and deputies from Buchanan, Lee and Wise counties. Since they've been published, the videos have received more than 44,000 views on the DMV’s social media accounts, a DMV official says. Right now, the DMV’s campaign is geared towards southwest because that's where fewer people are wearing their seatbelts. Read more at wavy.com.
further into one of her claims. 'Right now, more Americans are killed in drug-impaired traffic crashes than alcohol. It's switched, from 44 to 38 percent. And a third of Iowa drug-related fatal crashes involve THC...When the Fact Checker asked Reynolds where she got the information about national drug-impaired traffic crashes, she referred us to a report from the Governors Highway Safety Administration. The 40-page report uses data from the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s Fatality Analysis Reporting System, an annual census of fatal injuries suffered in vehicle crashes across the country. Read more at thegazette.com.

Study Shows Parent/Teen Conversations Can Improve Driver Safety (Iowa)
A new study from the University of Iowa finds that the use of video monitoring technology combined with parents talking to their teens about safe driving motivates young drivers to be safer. The study, by researchers in the College of Public Health, finds that in-vehicle video monitoring systems more effectively improve safety for high school drivers when paired with additional communication from parents. The study found that training parents how to improve communication with their children about safe driving reduced the probability of future unsafe driving incidents by as much as 80 percent. Read more at newswise.com.

After 20 Years, Drivers License and Plate Prices Increase (Missouri)
For the first time in 20 years, the cost of getting your driver's license and plates in Missouri is increasing...These price increases were designed to help privately operated license offices in rural areas continue to operate. Read more at ozarksfirst.com.

Missouri Governor Keeps Mandatory Helmet Law in Place
We reported on the fact that Missouri lawmakers wanted to repeal the state's mandatory motorcycle helmet law. All that had to happen was that the Governor had to sign it. He was expected to do so. However, in a surprise decision, Governor Mike Parson vetoed it. You still have to wear a helmet in Missouri. According to St. Louis Public Radio, the Governor didn't veto the bill because he disagreed with the idea that people should be able to choose to wear a helmet or not. He did so because he disagreed with another portion of the bill that was added to it. Read more at webbikeworld.com.

One Year Later, Traffic Tickets Increase After Installation of Blue Confirmation Lights (North Dakota)
The city of Bismarck installed little blue lights atop most traffic signals about a year ago. They're meant to increase traffic safety. Lieutenant Jeff Solemsas says there's been an increase of over 100 tickets given out over the year we've had the blue lights from the year before, which leads him to believe the lights are doing their job...The blue lights were initially installed for officers to have the ability to confirm when a car enters an intersection after the light has turned red. Read more at kfyrtv.com.

States With the Most License Suspensions: North Dakota Comes in First Place
North Dakota has come in first place in a new national study, but it's not for a good reason. In fact, research shows it's takes the top spot for having the most driver license suspensions in the country, with 7% of drivers having their licenses taken away...In fact, Sgt. Matthew Denault with the North Dakota Highway Patrol says the most common reason drivers have their licenses suspended in the state is because of people driving drunk. Read more at valleynewslive.com.
Ohio Extends Amnesty Program for Drivers With Suspended Licenses
State lawmakers have extended until the end of the year a program designed to help low-income Ohioans regain their driving privileges after their licenses have been suspended...The program has resulted in 6,591 people becoming eligible to drive again and tens of thousands of others closer to having their privileges restored. Altogether, nearly $60 million in fees have been eliminated. Read more at cleveland.com.

First-Of-Its-Kind Cannabis Consumer Study Shows Education and Transportation Alternatives Are Key to Reducing Impaired Driving (California)
The cannabis technology platform Eaze...released the first study of its kind in California, ‘Perceptions on Impairment: Cannabis Consumers in Focus.’ The report, which captures cannabis consumers’ transportation choices before and after consumption, shows significant gaps in consumer education about impairment. The research, done in partnership with Lyft, also reveals key opportunities to reduce impaired driving through transportation alternatives and targeted messaging...The report also emphasizes solutions, with data indicating that on-demand transportation and fast delivery can significantly deter the decision to drive. Read more at finance.yahoo.com.

How a State Police Agency Goes Viral (And Maybe Teaches People How to Drive) (Colorado)
On a given day at work, Colorado State Trooper Josh Lewis might throw down with a colleague over a box of donuts, freak out state residents by repeatedly describing weather conditions as ‘moist’ or teach drivers how to use their turn signals (using them at all would be a good start). As one of the Colorado State Patrol’s public information officers, Lewis’ main responsibility is disseminating information to journalists and members of the public. In general, the clips are lighthearted, but their purpose is serious—to convey information, yes, but also to grow the state agency’s online audience. That means officials can more quickly disseminate important information when needed, such as during natural disasters and other emergencies. Read more at routefifty.com.

Idaho Supreme Court Strikes Down Vague Car Temp Tag Rules
Idaho lawmakers need to go back to the drawing board and re-draft the rules for displaying a temporary vehicle registration on newly purchased cars. The state Supreme Court last week declared the current law to be unconstitutionally vague after considering the case of Samantha Nicole Cook. Cook was driving on Highway 53 in rural Kootenai County on October 29, 2016, when sheriff's deputy Ryan Jacobson noticed her car had no front license plate. He did not see a temporary permit, and as he passed going the opposite direction he saw no rear license plate, either. He decided to pull her over. Once they had come to a stop on the side of the road, he did notice a piece of paper in the rear window, which was hard to read because of the condensation from the 39 degree weather conditions following rain earlier in the evening. He wiped away the condensation and could see it was valid...Prosecutors insisted that it was not readily legible because the officer could not read it until he came up close to it and wiped the rear window with his hand. Read more at thenewspaper.com.

Fatal Car Crashes Down in June (Nevada)
Fewer people died in car crashes on Nevada roads in June than they did a year earlier, according to state data. The Nevada Department of Public Safety reported
16 deaths from 16 crashes in June, which is almost half as many deaths as were reported in June 2018. The Las Vegas Review Journal reports that 2018 was a record year for deadly crashes, with 331 deaths reported. That was the largest number in a decade. So far, 125 people have died in crashes on Nevada roadways through June. Safety officials say it’s promising that Nevada roads appear safer this year. But they’re waiting to see what happens through August. Read more at kdwn.com.

TriMet Is Testing out Bright Warning Lights Atop Dozens of Buses to ‘Improve Visibility’ (Oregon)
TriMet installed bars of distracting, bright lights atop dozens of buses earlier this year as part of what it is calling a safety program designed to make the 40-foot-long buses more visible to drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. The transit agency quietly rolled out the ‘amber safety lights’ in April, and so far, 30 buses are equipped with the light bar. It’s considering installing the devices on all of its buses. Read more at oregonlive.com.

Marysville Mother Urges Drivers to Be Vigilant After Son’s License Plates Get Switched (Washington)
A Marysville mother is urging all drivers to be more vigilant after the license plates on her son’s 1989 red Bronco were stolen and replaced with someone else’s. Jane Downey has no idea when the thief or thieves switched out her son’s license plates or where it happened, she said. Downey says her husband noticed last Tuesday the license tabs on their son’s Bronco were expired...He quickly realized through a conversation with an employee that his son’s license plates had likely been switched. Read more at komonews.com.

Motorcycle Drivers Must Have Liability Insurance Under New Law That Goes Into Effect July 28 (Washington)
Consider this your 10-day warning, motorcycle drivers. As of July 28, 2019, you will no longer be exempt from Washington state’s mandatory auto insurance law. Under a bill signed into law earlier this year, motorcycle drivers must obtain liability coverage and carry proof of insurance – long required of other motorists. If you operate a motorcycle or other vehicle without the required insurance, you could be cited for a traffic infraction and receive a hefty fine. Further, if you’re at fault in a collision and you don’t have insurance, your license may be suspended if you fail to pay the resulting damages and/or injuries. Read more at licensingexpress.wordpress.com.

OTHER NEWS

Annual Blitz Targets Speeding This Week
Law enforcement teams are placing a particular focus on speeding this week as the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) recognizes Operation Safe Driver Week from July 14-20. The blitz is meant to highlight behaviors of every sort, such as distracted driving, following too closely, and improper lane changes. But speeding is the most common driver-related issue – leading to the event’s theme of ‘late won’t kill you, speeding will.’ Read more at trucknews.com.

Driverless Cars Could Make You a Worse Driver
It is hailed as the future of motoring, but cars controlling themselves may be having an adverse effect on people behind the wheel. New research has found that using a driverless car may make you a worse driver. A study was conducted earlier this year at the University of Nottingham into ‘conditional automation’ cars capable of self-driving on motorways and in traffic jams, expected to be available on the UK market in the next few years. Read more at metro.co.uk.
FMCSA Imposes Lifetime Ban on Truckers Convicted of Human Trafficking
The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has announced a final rule that permanently bans commercial motor vehicle drivers who have been convicted of human trafficking. The rulemaking, announced July 16, specifically disqualifies drivers who use a truck to commit a felony involving human trafficking. The crime, which involves the use of force to obtain labor or a commercial sex act, exploits about 25 million people, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking. The final rule gives states three years to come into compliance with this regulation, which may involve conforming their licensing statutes. Read more at ttnews.com.

FMCSA Proposes Two-Year Delay of Entry-Level Driver Training Rule Due to IT Glitches
Federal trucking regulators have proposed a two-year delay for compliance with certain provisions in the Entry Level Driver Training rule to allow more time for development of the secure electronic transfer of information to the certified training provider registry and state driver licensing agencies. 'The proposed two-year extension would delay the date by which training providers must begin uploading driver-specific training certification information into the Training Provider Registry, an electronic database that will contain entry level driver training information,' the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration announced July 18 in the Federal Register. 'It would also delay the date by which state driver licensing agencies must confirm that applicants for a commercial driver’s license have complied with ELDT requirements prior to taking a specified knowledge or skills test,' the agency said. Read more at ttnews.com.

How a Memory Lapse Can Cause You to Leave a Child in a Car; Child Safety Advocates Explain
When Raelyn Balfour speaks to parent groups, she’ll sometimes ask her host to tell the audience nothing about her own life story. She starts by asking the audience how many of them have lost their keys. Left their cell phone or medication behind even though they needed it. Most of her listeners admit they have. 'If this has ever happened to you, you can absolutely forget your child,' Balfour tells them. She speaks from experience. In March 2007, Balfour’s infant son died after being left in her car for several hours, on a day she was convinced she had dropped him off at daycare. Read more at courierpress.com.

Older Non-Drivers Lonelier Than Those Who Drive, According to Study
Older people who are able to travel independently have better mental health and greater social networks compared to those being driven by family or friends or taking taxis, according to new research. The greatest benefits are experienced by those driving themselves, the report from the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) at Trinity College Dublin says. Cars were the most frequently used mode of transport (88 per cent) of adults aged 50 and over. The research also found driving decreases with increasing age, but that this is more evident in women. Read more at irishtimes.com.

Safety Groups Warn Against Under-21 CDL Proposal
More data should be studied and made public before federal regulators allow a pilot project aimed at getting interstate commercial driver’s licenses (CDLs) in the hands of those under 21 to go forward, according to several high-profile truck safety groups. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMSCA) asked for public comment on whether to move forward on a pilot program for all drivers under 21 – as it is doing currently for those with military driving experience – on May 15, as a means of addressing what the agency considers a ‘chronic shortage’ of drivers willing and able to enter the industry. FreightWaves has learned that a 30-day
extension of the July 15 comment period deadline, requested by the American Trucking Associations (ATA), was likely to be granted to allow the association to continue to gather safety and performance data. Read more at freightwaves.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!***

Eyewitness News @wchs8fox11 | View the Tweet

NHTSA @NHTSAgov | View the Tweet
Always lock your car and keep keys out of reach! A car can look like a playground to a young child. #HeatstrokeKills #CheckForBaby
People are leaving their cars unlocked with keys and fobs inside, making it way too easy for car thieves. That's a problem. #WednesdayThoughts #WednesdayWisdom

NJSP - State Police @NJSP | View the Tweet

7 Ways to Prevent Auto Theft

- **Always lock your car.** Car thieves can tell if your vehicle is unlocked just by looking at it.
- **Remove keys** from your car.
- Never leave **valuables** in the car.
- Don’t leave your **car running.**

Be Prepared...
VermontDMV @VTDMV | View the Tweet
Dozens of children die every year because they're forgotten in hot cars. Consumer Reports explains the science behind why this could happen to anyone.

Georgia DPS @ga_dps | View the Tweet
Today, #OperationSouthernShield brought Georgia and Florida Troopers together. They want you to #SlowDown and #ArriveAlive. @MyFDOT_Safety @FLHSMV @FHPGainesville @gohsgeorgia

MoDOT @MoDOT | View the Tweet
Hakuna Matata... it means no texting. Or something like that.

#BUPD 🦁
Tennessee Highway Safety Office @TNHSO | View the Tweet
It's #WorldEmojiDay, but let's keep Tennessee roads safe—leave your phone alone when you're behind the wheel! 📱 #HandsFreeTN

IllinoisStatePolice @ILStatePolice | View the Tweet
If I were a Trooper for a day I would write more tickets for___________!

KCCI News @KCCI_News | View the Tweet
◆◆ INTENTIONAL CRASH ◆◆School transportation directors gathered in Des Moines on Monday to watch an intentional bus crash. They hope to determine if seat belts should be required in Iowa school busses.
Wisconsin DOT @WisconsinDOT | View the Tweet

When the temperature gets hot, keep your cool. Please remember to drive the speed limit and don't tailgate. #SlowDown #wiwx