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:

- CHAMP Titles – https://www.champtitles.com/
- Vanguard Direct – https://www.hellovanguard.com/

Here Are Some of the 6,000 Words Maryland Won’t Let You Put on Your Vanity License Plate

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration has expanded its list of rejected vanity license plates to more than 6,000. The “Objectionable Plates List” is a decades-long collection of vulgar words and other terms Marylanders have unsuccessfully tried to put on their bumpers. The list contains words and phrases rejected by the MVA due to scatalogical or sexual meaning; curse words, epithets or obscenities; deceptive or fraudulent meanings; references to illegal acts; or messages about a race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or disability. Read more at baltimoresun.com.

New, Updated Changes for NJ Driver's Licenses, Real ID Wait Times (New Jersey)

The Motor Vehicle Commission is making weekly changes and updates to its driver's license and REAL ID system now that wait times are reportedly as long as three months. The agency also has more than twice as many places to get one – 17 – than it had a month ago. The MVC said it is expanding its services every week and adding appointments as quickly as the “next day” – not three months, according to William Connolly, a spokesman for the agency. Read more at patch.com.

NJ Transportation Officials Working on Plan to Reduce Fatal Crashes (New Jersey)

Data from the New Jersey State Police shows that 563 passengers, bicyclists and pedestrians were killed on New Jersey roads last year, compared to 624 in 2017, a drop of more than 9%. “That’s good that we’re trending in the right direction but there’s always things that we can do to make roads safer,” said Steve Schapiro, the spokesman for the state Department of Transportation, which is developing a plan to keep people safe on the roads. The department is holding 2020 Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan summits with stakeholders in transportation, law enforcement, emergency response and healthcare. Read more at nj1015.com.
Green Light Law to Take Effect (New York)
A state law allowing undocumented immigrants to apply for driver's licenses is set to take effect Dec. 14, and local clerks are warning they may be ill-prepared to handle the influx of applicants. The new law, known as the Green Light Law, will make New York one of 13 states to allow unauthorized immigrants to obtain a driver’s license. The measure, which narrowly was approved in June, remains controversial as it is set to take effect. Read more at timestelegram.com.

Clerk's Program Helps Clear Confusion About DMV Visits (New York)
A program inside the Erie County Clerk's office that began earlier this year has goals of helping senior citizens maneuver through the complexities of any visit to a local DMV. "Clerk on the Go", a program which began in February, also helps members of the local refugee community and those who don't primarily speak English...Outreach Coordinator Marge Sullivan said the program helps those unfamiliar with the inner-workings of the DMV get ready for the visit. "To find a Clerk On The Go location, we do have full listings on (our website)" Sullivan said. "You can also go to any of the senior centers in the Erie County area. They do have postings and flyers out. We also do mailers to let people know we are coming to them and can service them at an area that's convenient to them." Read more at wben.radio.com.

Uber and Lyft Want Cars to Have Front License Plates. Pennsylvania Is One of 19 States Without Them.
On Thanksgiving eve, one of the biggest drinking nights of the year, many revelers in Philadelphia ordered a ride from Uber or Lyft. The rideshare apps have recently taken to reminding users to make sure before getting in that the license plate of the car they ordered matches the one on the vehicle that arrives. Those warnings were spurred by stories like that of a New Jersey woman who in March ordered an Uber in South Carolina, mistakenly got in the wrong car, and was kidnapped and killed. But what if riders can’t easily see the license plate of the car coming to pick them up? Read more at inquirer.com.

Here’s What to Know to Avoid Waiting, Mistakes Getting a Star ID (Alabama)
A viewer called our Reality Check hotline to tell us the process can take longer than expected, so we investigated...The star signifies that your identity has been triple verified, which is why you need so many documents. Our Reality Check hotline caller reported that can be confusing...Another common mistake leads to return trips. Listen up divorcees and newlyweds. "If the name on your documents don't match the ID that you have, you will have to have additional documentation. That can be anything from a divorce decree to a marriage certificate," he added. And then it's smooth sailing. Read more at mynbc15.com.

State Expands Some Saturday Driver's License Office Hours (Alabama)
The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency’s Driver License Division is modifying its hours of operation in several of its examination offices across the state to provide Alabamians with additional opportunities to conduct driver’s license business...“As I have said before, we continually work to identify ways to improve and strive to meet our customers’ needs,” agency Secretary Hal Taylor said...Walk-in Saturday customers are assisted on a first-come, first-served basis for first issuances and renewals of standard driver’s licenses, non-driver IDs and STAR IDs; knowledge and road skills tests; and out-of-state transfers. Read more at gadsdentimes.com.
Florida Automated Vehicle Summit Electrifies Participants
Two weeks ago, the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority hosted the 7th Annual Florida Automated Vehicles Summit, a two-day event organized by several other IBTTA members – Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authority, Central Florida Expressway Authority, and Jacksonville Transportation Authority – as well as non-member Center for Urban Transportation Research. The event gathered more than 730 people, all with an intense interest in advancing connected, automated, shared and electric vehicles. Read more at ibtta.org.

Louisiana Highway Safety Commission Announces Anti-Drunk Driving Campaign
"Fans Don’t Let Fans Drive Drunk." That’s the name of the new campaign that the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission has kicked into effect. Executive Director of the LHSC, Lisa Freeman, was joined by state and local public safety officials announcing the “Fans Don’t Let Fans Drive Drunk” campaign at the 46th Annual Bayou Classic Press Conference Friday morning. The campaign’s objective is to remind the citizens of Louisiana to designate a sober driver. Read more at klfy.com.

Tennessee Ahead of National Average Obtaining Real ID
Tennessee’s 4.7 million valid driver’s license and state-issued identification card holders have listened to the call to have their cards replaced with a new identification card called REAL ID...“Getting a Real ID in Tennessee is optional,” according to Wesley Moster, director of communications for the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security. "With that said, Tennessee is an outlier compared to other states in terms of how many people are getting their Real ID. The national average of people getting a Real ID is 27%. Currently Tennessee is seeing roughly 33% of their residents getting a Real ID.” As of Nov. 21, the department had issued 278,943 Real IDs. Read more at johnsoncitypress.com.

For Texans Tired of Waiting for Hours at Driver’s License Centers, Here’s What the State Plans to Do (Texas)
Beginning next year, the Department of Public Safety plans to roll out an appointment system that would likely prevent the struggles Kesinger and other Texans have faced. Under that new system, people could set up appointments up to six months in advance. It is one of several changes the department is making as it tries to cut down the wait times. In September, the state Legislature provided the department with about $200 million to cut wait times, and officials have hired 563 new staffers to fill vacancies at driver’s license centers across Texas. Read more at dallasnews.com.

Airline, Transportation Officials Urge Residents to Obtain Real ID’s (Virginia)
DMV statistics show over 900,000 people have already obtained their REAL-ID’s as of December 2019. Officials say that there are still over 1.7 million people who have not...DMV officials say not to wait until later to apply, as right now is the best time to do it. “The best time to come to the Virginia DMV is the middle of the week, middle of the morning, middle of the afternoon,” said Richard Holcomb, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. “REAL-ID is about a 17-minute transaction, about five minutes longer than a regular transaction, but being prepared is going to get you through a lot quicker.” Read more at wric.com.

Blackout Continues to Sell Out (Iowa)
Throughout the state, demand is high for the change in vehicular aesthetics. The Associated Press reported in late October the Iowa Department of Transportation
IDOT issued more than 46,000 blackout plates since July. As a result, the specialty plates have exceeded the more than 30,000 University of Iowa plates in circulation today. Now, the blackout color scheme is the most popular specialty license plate design choice among Iowans. Read more at newtondailynews.com.

**IDOT, ISP Partner With Lyft to Offer Sober Rides During Holidays (Illinois)**
Illinois State Police and the Illinois Department of Transportation have partnered with Lyft to offer free ride credits in Sangamon County. From Wednesday, Nov. 27, through New Year's Day, $20 in Lyft credits will be available to provide safe rides in Sangamon County during the evening and overnight hours, when most impaired drivers are on the road. Read more at wandtv.com.

**Illinois Prepares for Influx of Real ID Applicants by Expanding Driver Services Facility Hours in 2020**
Illinois is getting ready to accommodate a growing number of residents who may need to apply for a REAL ID in the new year. Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced Monday that Driver Services facilities will change their operating hours to handle the increased volume of people looking to obtain a REAL ID. Read more at abc7chicago.com.

**Division of Vehicles Makes Mobile Driver’s License Office Available Across the State (Kansas)**
The Kansas Department of Revenue's Division of Vehicles has launched its statewide mobile driver’s license office as another avenue of convenience and added service for large groups needing to obtain a driver’s license or identification card. When a visit is set up with the mobile unit coordinator, a link is made available to individuals to schedule their visit. "The mobile unit is for locations like businesses, assisted living facilities, colleges and universities," said David Harper, director of the Division of Vehicles. “This is another way we are cutting back on wait lines and the anticipated rush of people coming into the offices as we get closer to the Real ID implementation deadline.” Read more at gbtribune.com.

**December Real ID Update: Avoid Office Visits, Pre-Apply Online (Minnesota)**
With the deadline to be REAL ID ready less than a year away, state officials are encouraging Minnesotans who apply for a REAL ID to use the online pre-application tool before they visit their local driver’s license office to ensure they have the required documents, according to a press release. Approximately 9.72 percent of Minnesota driver’s license and identification card holders are currently REAL ID ready. That's up from 7.8 percent at the end of September 2019. Read more at albertleatribune.com.

**Missouri Unveils New Temporary License Plates to Fight Fraud**
Missouri is cracking down on drivers who use fake temporary license plates with new holographic, temporary tags. The Department of Revenue this month unveiled new tags with a holographic image that can be seen in the day and night, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. The word “void” will appear if anyone tries to copy them. “We always strive to ensure proper registration and identification of vehicles operated on Missouri roadways, and anything that aids law enforcement and keeps vehicles legal and safe is a win for Missouri,” Department of Revenue Director Ken Zellers said. Read more at fox4kc.com.

**Ohio Announces Virtual Tests for Student Drivers**
It won't count for or against them, but new drivers in Ohio will now take virtual tests to provide feedback on their driving skills. The state recently announced the launch...
of “Ready, Set, Drive!” It’s a new program to administer free virtual driving assessments in Ohio’s 57 driver exam locations, along with many driver training schools in the state. “The free virtual driving systems will scientifically examine student driver preparedness and help Ohio make data-driven improvements to its overall driver education curriculum,” a release from Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine’s office states. The virtual tests will not replace on-the-road examinations. But whether or not someone passes the test, they’ll get feedback on their performance in the virtual exam after their road test. Read more at sanduskyregister.com.

**Banned Ohio License Plates: More Than 400 Requests Rejected**
The slogans some people want to display on their license plates are crude, rude and far from family-friendly, which led the Ohio BMV to give an O-H-heck-N-O to hundreds of requested vanity plates in the past 12 months. The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles determined that 408 requests for personalized plates didn’t meet the standards that prohibit offensive messages. Read more at daytondailynews.com.

**Wisconsin Seeing Fewer Traffic Deaths in 2019**
State transportation officials are hailing a drop in deaths on Wisconsin roads. The latest figures from the state Department of Transportation show the 495 fatalities as of Nov. 17. That’s down from 521 at the same point in 2018. The number of fatal crashes is also down. There were 463 as of Nov. 17, down from 467 through the same period in 2018...But Jonathan Adkins, executive director of the Governors Highway Safety Association, said the goal remains getting the total number of deaths on the roads to zero. Read more at wpr.org.

**Wisconsin Hybrid Owners Are Noticing a New State Fee. Will They Pay More Overall Than Gas-Only Vehicle Owners? It Depends.**
Wisconsin has technically had a $75 surcharge on gas-electric hybrids — as well as a $100 fee for electric vehicles — for two years, but the fee on hybrids was not initially collected by the state Department of Transportation because the law was written in a way that made it difficult to determine which cars qualified. That was changed this year, in the state’s biennial budget, to make the law clearer and more enforceable. The amended language removed the distinction between a plug-in hybrid, which starts in electric mode before switching on its gas engine, and a conventional hybrid, like Dutton’s Prius. Read more at greenbaypressgazette.com.

**REGION 4 NEWS**

**Wait Times Are Dropping at the California DMV. How You Can Avoid Getting Stuck in Line**
Newly released data from the California Department of Motor Vehicles show the state making a huge dent in the wait times customers are experiencing across the state. In a report sent to state lawmakers last month, the DMV showed it has cut delays nearly in half. As of September, customers across the state without an appointment waited an average of 38 minutes, which represents a 48 percent decrease from the average time of 73 minutes customers experienced at the same time last year. According to the DMV, the drop stems from a substantial decline in the amount of time customers spend waiting just to get a number, as well as “increased staffing and season shifts in customer volume.” Read more at sacbee.com.

**CDOT Observes Older Driver Safety Awareness Week (Colorado)**
The Colorado Department of Transportation announced it is observing Older Driver
Safety Awareness Week Dec. 2-6 to help keep seniors safe on the road. The goal of the program is to promote the importance of mobility and transportation for older adults and to ensure they can remain active in their communities without transportation becoming a barrier to their mobility, a press release stated. In 2018, 129 drivers older than 65 were involved in fatal crashes. In that same year 74 older drivers died in car crashes. Older drivers are more likely to be killed or seriously injured in a crash due to the greater fragility of their aging bodies, CDOT reported. Read more at themountainmail.com.

Inside Colorado’s New State-Run Digital Driver's License App
Digital driver's licenses are currently being developed or implemented in several states, with Colorado the latest to jump on board in October. Yet, the implementation of digital government-issued IDs brings privacy and security challenges. In the latest Digital Identity Tracker, Russell Castagnaro, director of digital transformation at the Colorado Governor's Office of Information Technology, tells PYMNTS how the state’s app team used sophisticated filtering tech to limit who sees personal information — and why. Read more at pymnts.com.

Oregon DMV Aims to Get Families Talking About Aging Drivers
The Oregon DMV hopes families use the holidays to talk about issues facing older drivers. The DMV has dubbed the first week of December as “Older Driver Safety Awareness Week.” It’s meant to be a time to think about the potential changes in driving skills as people get older. December is a natural time to start the conversation, said Kristopher Kyes, the medical programs coordinator for the Oregon DMV. "We’re seeing family sometimes for the only time in a year. We’re dealing with shorter days and bad weather that impact seniors more than others," said Kyes. "It's a good time for families to be thinking about it.” Read more at klcc.org.

Oregon DMV Dropping Driver License Address-Change Stickers
The Oregon DMV is making a change that affects you when you move. If you have an Oregon driver license and you move, you have to notify DMV within 30 days. In the past, they’ve sent a sticker you put on your driver license with the new address. Oregon was one of three states that still did this. Technology now allows police to immediately look up your address from their car. The change will save over $500,000 a year. It takes effect after January 1, 2020. Read more at mycolumbiabasin.com.

‘Operation Bus Cop’ Aims to Reduce Distracted Driving in Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan continues to take a strong approach in its fight against distracted driving. SGI has teamed up with the Regina Police Service, the City of Regina and Pattison Outdoor for its annual “Operation Bus Cop.” "...It is successful. It does take some resources to do it obviously…but it does get the message across," Verbeek said. “We actually find that the passengers on the bus partake in the observation of other drivers and pointing out offenders themselves.” Read more at globalnews.ca.

Soon You Could Store a Digital Driver's License on Your Phone. Here's How It Works
If you've ever dreamed of presenting your phone at the airport or at a bar as proof of ID, the wait may soon be over. Phones using the premium Snapdragon 865 chip will
be able to tap into a new feature coming to Android R, the next version of Google's operating system for phones. The announcement arrived Wednesday at Qualcomm's third annual Snapdragon Tech Summit in Maui, Hawaii, where the world's largest mobile chipmaker introduces its next mobile chipsets for 2020 phones, laptops, smartwatches and VR headsets. Read more at cnet.com.

CBP Seizes Thousands of Fake IDs Headed From China to New York
Federal officers recently intercepted nearly 3,000 fake driver’s licenses and more than 3,100 blank card stocks used to make counterfeit licenses in Kentucky, according to US Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The IDs were heading from China to various locations in New York, the federal agency said, adding that the fake driver’s licenses were seized at an Express Consignment Operations hub in Louisville, Ky. The licenses were for several states, including Florida, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey and Ohio. Read more at nypost.com.

Self-Driving Cars Were Supposed to Be Here Already — Here’s Why They Aren’t and When They Should Arrive
More companies are trying to bring self-driving cars to the masses than ever before. Yet a truly autonomous vehicle still doesn’t exist. And it’s not clear if, or when, our driverless future will arrive. Proponents in the industry, including Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Waymo CEO John Krafcik and Cruise CEO Dan Ammann, touted an aggressive timeline but missed and reset their goals. Read more at cnbc.com.

'Don't Rely on It': Study Shows Driver-Assist Features Slow to React to Kids, Especially in the Dark
Pedestrian fatalities have increased nationwide over the last decade, and distracted driving has become a concern intensified by the growing popularity of smartphones and increasingly large display screens on dashboards, among other factors. As a result, vehicle manufacturers are developing automated features such as pedestrian detection sensors and auto-braking systems to assist drivers when they might not have the opportunity to react before an oncoming collision. But the effectiveness of these systems is still in question. According to a AAA study released in October, crash-prevention failure rates among certain car models featuring this technology were "alarming," the auto club said in an Oct. 3 news release. Read more at wcpo.com.

Self-Driving Cars Are Predicting Driving Personalities
In a recent study by a team of researchers at MIT, self driving cars are being programmed to identify the social personalities of other drivers in an effort to predict their future actions and drive safer on roads. It's already been made evident that autonomous vehicles lack social awareness. Drivers around a car are regarded as obstacles rather than human beings, which can hinder the automata’s ability to identify motivations and intentions, potential signifiers to future actions. Because of this, self-driving cars often cause bottlenecks at four-way stops and other intersections, perhaps explaining why the majority of traffic accidents involve them getting rear-ended by impatient drivers. Read more at hackaday.com.

Federal Government Assesses Digital Options to Ease Real ID Rollout
Less than a year away from the official rollout of the federal Real ID standard, about two-thirds of Americans don’t have a compliant license. But federal officials are looking into digital alternatives to ensure travelers can keep flying...Obtaining a Real ID-compliant license requires an in-person trip to the Department of Motor Vehicles. At least for now. The Washington Post reported last week that DHS is considering options that would allow people to apply for a Real ID online. "The department is interested in ideas and technologies that could allow applicants to submit their
required documents electronically to the DMV in addition to, or possibly in lieu of, applying in person,” a DHS spokesman said. Read more at associationsnow.com.

**Advocates Rally on Capitol Hill for Self-Driving Car Legislation**
Advocates for creating federal standards for autonomous vehicles rallied on Tuesday to spur lawmakers to move quickly on legislation to roll out and test the emerging technology. Representatives of automobile manufacturers and stakeholder groups argued forcefully for the need for federal rules to create standards around autonomous vehicles at a forum on Capitol Hill. The push comes as lawmakers are circulating draft legislation on self-driving cars among stakeholders after long delays but with no bills formally introduced in Congress. Read more at thehill.com.

**These Are the 10 Most Stolen Vehicles in Canada**
Owners of Ford F-series pickup trucks should take extra care to lock their vehicles because it appears they’re a primary target for thieves. Once again, Ford F250 and F350 trucks from the 2000s topped the Insurance Bureau of Canada’s annual ranking of the most stolen vehicles in Canada. In 2019, Ford pickup trucks took up eight of the top 10 spots on the list with the 2007 Ford F-350 claiming the unenviable title of most stolen vehicle for the year. It’s unsurprising news for anyone who has been following the IBC’s annual ranking, which is based on insurance claims data collected from “nearly all” automobile insurance companies in Canada. Read more at ctvnews.ca.

**Australia Rolls out Tech to Catch People Using Cell Phones While Driving**
Authorities in New South Wales, Australia, have launched a detection camera program that aims to stop people illegally using their smartphone while driving. During the first three months of the new system, which went live Sunday, drivers caught by the technology will be sent a warning letter. After this, offenders will be given five demerit points and a fine of 344 Australian dollars, which equates to around $235. The fine rises to 457 Australian dollars in school zones. It is illegal to hold and use a cellphone while driving or riding a vehicle in New South Wales. Read more at cnbc.com.

**TWITTER NEWS**

@AAMVACtion 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 @AAMVACtion.

Check out recent @AAMVACtion Twitter action.

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

**Hartford Business @HartfordBiz | View the Tweet**

Magubane cuts down DMV wait times
MD_MVA @MD_MVA | View the Tweet

DYK? Since January, our outreach team has attended over 140 events to discuss #RealID and answer your questions. Is there somewhere you’d like us to visit? Let us know!

NH Highway Safety @nh_ohs | View the Tweet

Commissioner Quinn opens up our annual NH Highway Safety Conference. Today we talk about reducing fatalities on the roadways through valuable partnerships between our state, local and private organizations. #GetHomeSafely
Many thanks to John Johnson from @BergenCountySo and @NJ_MVC’s own John Mastropietro at #Wallington for taking prompt lifesaving measures to help a customer in distress earlier today. Public service is a public trust. We are so grateful.

Hosting #OlderDriverSafetyAwareness event today with @PennDOTNews. A lot of excellent information and resources here today!
Georgia DDS (DMV) @GeorgiaDDS | View the Tweet

Team DDS had the opportunity to volunteer at the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Team members sorted 4,138 donated items and 12,000 lbs of food; that’s enough food to provide 8,796 meals to families in need. #DDSCARES #Partnership

TxDMV @TxDMV | View the Tweet

Members of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Board and Executive Director Whitney Brewster show support for #EndTheStreakTX, the Texas Department of Transportation (@TxDOT) campaign to decrease traffic fatalities. Learn more at https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/media-center/psas/end-streak.html …

Richmond Airport RIC @Flack4RIC | View the Tweet

REAL ID press conference in progress with (left to right) @AskTSA FSD Chuck
Burke, Airport CEO Perry Miller, and @VirginiaDMV Commissioner Rick Holcomb. #Check4TheStar

ICBC @icbc | View the Tweet

We're pleased to partner with the New Directions English Language School, which allows us to provide resources on driver licensing, claims and road safety material to newcomers in BC.

TSAmedia_Lorie @TSAmedia_Lorie | View the Tweet

Excited to be working with @CA_DMV to talk about REAL ID at @nbcla and @telemundo52 today. Tune in starting at 4 pm. Call with questions and get them answered. Federal enforcement of REAL ID begins on Oct. 1, 2020.
SGI @SGItweets | View the Tweet

The SGI Not-Ready-For-Christmastime Singers subjected unsuspecting shoppers in #yqr to our vocal stylings as we belted out impaired driving-themed versions of some classic holiday songs. See the whole show: https://www.facebook.com/SGIcommunity/videos/607495933353155/ …