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AAMVA Awards Program 2019 - Call for Entries
Apply now for AAMVA's Awards Program! Don't miss this opportunity to be recognized for the great work your jurisdiction does every day improving day-to-day business, reaching out to the community, and saving lives. The AAMVA Awards Program recognizes members of the motor vehicle and law enforcement community by honoring individuals, teams, and organizations who have committed their time and resources to the following categories: Safety, Service, Security, Public Affairs & Consumer Education (PACE), and International Driver Examiner Certification (IDEC).

AAMVA Awards are open to all AAMVA jurisdiction members that are in good standing. Entries submitted for the 2019 Awards must have been conducted (produced, implemented, and/or developed) between October 1, 2017 and September 30, 2018. If an entry won an award in 2018, it cannot be resubmitted in 2019 unless it has major upgrades or developments. Deadline for Entries is January 4, 2019.

DMV: Getting REAL ID Time-Consuming but Manageable (New York)
Looking to the new year, many area Department of Motor Vehicle officials are predicting a crush as people attempt to get a federal REAL ID which was adopted in 2005. Starting in October of 2020, REAL ID changes will take hold -- especially for travelers. Also, all state residents 18 and older will need the identification to cross the border into Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean. 'The next two years, 2019 and 2020, will be our biggest volume in the eight-year cycle for license renewals,' said Madison County Clerk Michael Keville in a release. 'In addition, we want to be able to provide speedy, friendly service to those who need to upgrade their New York Driver’s licenses by the October 2020 deadline.' Read the article at uticaod.com.
Group Meeting
New Orleans, LA

29-31 | 2019 January Facial Recognition Working Group
Tampa, FL

SYSTEMS TRAINING
*Register for the following training sessions HERE.

JANUARY

2 | CD31 MPR DHR (intermediate)
3 | CDLIS Resolving Broken and Missing Pointers (intermediate)
8 | PDPS Update Transactions (intermediate)
9 | PDPS S2S and NDR Generated Transactions (intermediate)
10 | PDPS Interactions (intermediate)
15 | CDLIS A Overview (basic)
16 | CDLIS B Inquiry Transactions (basic)
17 | CDLIS C Update Transactions (basic)
22 | CD01 Search Inquiry (intermediate)
23 | CD02 Verification Inquiry (intermediate)
24 | CD05 AKA Data Inquiry (intermediate)
29 | CD07 Add New Driver (intermediate)
30 | CD09 Change Data (intermediate)
31 | CD15 Update AKA Data (intermediate)

REGISTER ONLINE!

Massachusetts RMV Reduces Wait Times After Long Lines in Early 2018

Although wait times at the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles increased earlier this year as new federal rules went into place and the state updated its computer system, state officials say they have succeeded in bringing those wait times back down. 'The registry has been transparent with our customers in acknowledging that the replacement of the driver licensing and identification services of our over 32-year-old mainframe was a challenge for both our customers and our staff members to adapt to,' said Registrar Erin Deveney in an interview. Read the article at masslive.com.

Kentucky Delays Schedule for New Driver’s Licenses

Kentucky will take a little longer to let its citizens know when new driver’s licenses will be available. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet had hoped to announce this fall when each county will begin to offer a license that also can be used for boarding commercial flights, and one that can’t. But the schedule now won’t be made public until January, agency spokeswoman Naitore Djigbenou said Friday. ‘Given the scope of a program redesign this massive and all the stakeholders involved, we have needed additional time to conduct testing, consider office layouts and develop a schedule that maximizes efficiency,’ she said in an email. Read the article at wdrb.com.

Tickets in the Mail: Thousands of Uninsured Vehicles Flagged as Automated Program Launches to Find, Fine Violators (Oklahoma)

A program designed to crack down on uninsured drivers through the use of automatic license plate scanning technology has located thousands of violations in the first weeks of its deployment. About 2,100 uninsured vehicle violation notice letters will be sent to registered owners in coming days, said Amanda Arnall Couch, prosecutor for the Uninsured Vehicle Enforcement Diversion Program, a unit of the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council. The program, the first of its kind in the country, launched Nov. 1, with four vehicle-mounted plate scanners traveling “all over the state,” Arnall Couch said. Read the article at tulsaworld.com.

‘Trooper Bob’ Retires from S.C. Highway Patrol, Launches TV News Career (South Carolina)

When the 1,000-year flood washed out roads in 2015, the community relations team at the S.C. Highway Patrol set out to warn the public that driving around barricades could be deadly. On social media, troopers posted photos and videos of vehicles submerged in floodwater. But motorists continued to drive past barriers, a decision that cost some their lives. Lt. Bob Beres pivoted to a creative approach. He drafted a tweet using emojis — water, an ambulance, a hospital, a sad face — to illustrate the point. It garnered hundreds of “likes” and retweets. Read the article at postandcourier.com.

Judge Blocks DMV from Suspending Licenses for Failure to Pay Fines and Costs (Virginia)

A federal judge in Charlottesville has granted an injunction to prevent the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles from enforcing a state law that requires automatic suspension of driver’s licenses for failure to pay court fines and costs. The judge also required the agency to reinstate the licenses of three plaintiffs and refrain from suspending those of two others. Read the article at richmond.com.
Parents Demand Traffic Safety After 13 Students Hit by Cars (Ohio)

Several dozen parents rallied on Cincinnati’s West Side before dawn Friday to demand improved traffic safety for their children after 13 students have been hit by cars walking to school so far this school year. On Thursday alone, two students in crosswalks were hit by vehicles within an hour of each other, according to Cincinnati police. Their injuries are non-life threatening. One girl hit last week suffered a broken leg. Read the article at fox19.com.

ODOT Launches New Truck Parking Information System (Ohio)

A new system being launched along three major Ohio highways will make it much easier for truck drivers to find safe parking. The Truck Parking Information Management System provides real-time information about available parking spaces at nine Ohio rest areas. Parking information is displayed on digital signs along the highway as well as on OHGO.com and the OHGO app. Read the article at dot.state.oh.us.

Tucson Tech: UA Leads New Smart-Vehicle Group (Arizona)

The University of Arizona is partnering with state and local government agencies to help Southern Arizona become an industry leader in smart-vehicle and intelligent transportation technologies. The group, Smart Vehicles and Intelligent Transportation (SVIT), is a so-called ‘P3’ partnership — bringing together government, academia and industry — to promote the region as a hub for the nascent industry. The group will host a conference on smart vehicle and transportation tech in January at the UA Tech Park. Read the article at tucson.com.

Proof of Residency Requirements Causing Trouble for Real ID's in California

Millions of Californians got the new real ID's this year from the Department of Motor Vehicles, but the Department of Homeland Security says the DMV's application requirements aren't stringent enough. The day after Christmas was a slow day everywhere except at the DMV. The field office on Fell Street in San Francisco was packed as always. Many were there to get their real ID's. Read the article at abc7news.com.

Uber in Limited Autonomous Car Tests Again in S.F. (California)

Uber's autonomous vehicles returned to public roads in San Francisco, Pittsburgh and Toronto on Thursday, nine months after one of its self-driving cars killed a pedestrian in Arizona. In San Francisco and Toronto, Uber said, the cars will operate in manual mode, which means a human driver will be in control at all times. Even in Pittsburgh, it will begin with fewer than five cars on the road, and slowly add to that over time. The vehicles are operating at drastically reduced speeds and in less challenging environments than before, the company said, as it eases back into testing and tries to ensure people's safety. Read the article at sfchronicle.com.

Zoox Inc. Snags First California Permit to Transport Passengers in Self-Driving Cars

Self-driving cars, once a futuristic projection, have already become old news in California. More than 60 companies currently hold permits to test autonomous
vehicles, according to the state's Department of Motor Vehicles. But on Friday, California passed a new milestone when it allowed one self-driving car startup, Zoox Inc., to transport passengers for the first time. Zoox received its permit under a pilot program launched in April by the California Public Utilities Commission, or CPUC. Read the article at npr.org.

CHP Helps Seniors Stay Sharp and Safe (California)
Aging is a gradual process and seniors may not notice they are driving differently until something bad like an accident happens...That's why every year, as the percentage of drivers age 65 and older increases, many look to the California Highway Patrol to help them maintain their ability to drive safely. The CHP has implemented the “Age Well, Drive Smart” program to assist senior drivers by providing them tools to remain safe and confident on the road. Read the article at hanfordsentinel.com.

Two Different Studies Show Utah Ranks Low Across the Nation for Drunk Driving Fatalities
As people hit the roads for the holidays, the chances of being hit and killed by a drunk driver in Utah are relatively slim, according to two national studies released this week. The safety analysts at SafeWise recently released a new report identifying the states with both the highest and lowest rates of impaired driving deaths in the nation. In this study, Utah ranked fourth on the list for the fewest drunk driving deaths with 1.7 fatalities per 100,000 people. Read the article at abc4.com.

OTHER NEWS

Autonomous Vehicle Makers Want to Set Their Own Standards
Automated vehicle technology is moving fast — too fast to regulate, some would argue — but there are ways the industry can collaborate to ensure safety without stifling innovation. The big picture: Tech and automotive companies are developing proprietary AV driving systems and strategies, from robo-taxis to delivery pods to heavy-duty trucks. If each shared their own critical safety data collected during testing, experts say they could use it to define standards and practices to guide future development. Read the article at axios.com.

Ottopia’s Remote Assistance Platform for Autonomous Cars Combines Humans with AI
The burgeoning autonomous vehicle (AV) revolution seems to crank up a notch every other week, with Waymo recently unveiling its first commercial driverless car service, Volvo announcing its first commercial autonomous truck, and countless companies working on the underlying technology that will bring self-driving transport to the mainstream. But full autonomy that involves millions of cars traversing busy thoroughfares completely devoid of human oversight will likely be some time away. With that in mind, one Israeli startup is setting out to serve as a bridge to 100 percent autonomy. Read the article at venturebeat.com.

Will Digital License Plates Drive Us Forward or Leave Us Fuming?
At first glance, they look like traditional license plates: alphanumeric tags with blocky letters, posted on the back of cars and trucks. But these new digital displays—already in use in California—are a far cry from their analog counterparts. Battery-powered and customizable, the reflective tablets display an identification number when the car is in motion and become a static billboard when parked, opening a range of possibilities for motorists while raising new privacy concerns. Read the article at smithsonianmag.com.
How to Help Travelers Prepare for Real ID
By October 2020, travelers won’t be able to board planes in the United States if they don’t have the correct form of ID...Travelers who are unaware of Real ID’s requirements and fail to obtain updated or alternate forms of identification by the deadline may show up at airports wanting to fly but unable to board. This could lead to mass confusion, long lines, and angry passengers at TSA security checkpoints in the days after the rollout. Read the article at traveldailynews.com.

Japan to Launch Study into Possible Cyberattacks on Autonomous Cars – Reports
Japanese authorities intend to launch a study on cybersecurity threats that could target self-driving vehicles in order to prepare the country’s police to deal with attacks of this nature, should they take place, NHK reported on Monday, citing the country's National Police Agency. According to the NHK broadcaster, the study will be aimed at analyzing the risks of possible cyberattacks targeting self-driving cars, which need Internet access for navigation, in order to eventually work out special methods for investigating these kinds of crimes. Read the article at sputniknews.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!***

MaineDOT @MaineDOT1 | View the Tweet
Here are some of the highway safety messages you'll see out on the road this holiday season. Keep your eyes out for these and a few others that aren't on social media! #SafeTravels
#TBT from last week as our Executive Team brought holiday cheer in the form of sugar to all of our dedicated staff at our Glen Burnie headquarters.

Two months after opening its doors, our newest agency in #Delanco is up-and-running and ready to serve you! Stop in and experience your new MVC at work. P.S. No Lines!
Ontario Ministry of Transportation @ONtransport | View the Tweet
Starting Jan. 1, penalties for distracted driving are going up. You will face licence suspensions, demerit points and fines. #PutDownThePhone

VermontDMV @VTDMV | View the Tweet
Last week @GovPhilScott stopped by our office as we celebrated the retirements of five of our best employees.
We say goodbye to Judy and Russell (QC unit), Johanne (Dealers & Inspection Unit), Carol (Finance) and Dan (Auditor).
Iowa State Patrol @iowastatepatrol | View the Tweet
From District 1 – Des Moines
High speed pics from the east mix – wet pavement and late for work.
Slow down, put the phone down, and buckle up!!!

Oregon State Police @ORStatePolice | View the Tweet
From the Troopers to Dispatchers and everyone in between, Happy Holidays from our entire #OSPFamily to yours.
#StaySafe & #BeKind
#YourOregonStatePolice #MerryChristmas #HappyHolidays
Freezing rain means slippery conditions across Sask. Your car doesn't look this cute sliding around - here's a refresher on SGI's winter driving tips: https://www.sgi.sk.ca/handbook/-/knowledge_base/drivers/winter-driving

Drive slowly, accelerate & brake gently, skip the cruise control & use small, smooth steering movements.

GIF
Winter weather is definitely in the forecast! Take a minute to watch Trooper Bova go over some easy steps to get you and your vehicle ready for winter driving. More info: http://bit.ly/2Cjnbgm