International Board of Directors Holds Annual Winter Meeting

The AAMVA Board of Directors held their annual January meeting last week in Florida. The Board received operational updates on key initiatives by AAMVA staff and heard briefings from numerous partners and stakeholders, including federal government agencies. The Board also approved a few key measures, including authorizing a new initiative to provide funding support for regional roundtable meetings of chief administrators and a pilot program to provide research for Committee priorities. The Board spent time discussing potential updates to the association's Strategic Framework that is due to expire in September and proactive planning measures to ensure the reliability and vitality of AAMVA's many technical systems. The Board will next meet in April in Wisconsin.

Ignition Interlock Working Group Meets

The Ignition Interlock Working Group met in Cape Coral, Florida, January 10 – 11, 2018. The working group met in the same location as the AAMVA International Board of Directors' meeting, allowing the working group and board members to mingle during breaks on off hours. The working group worked on revising the 2015 Ignition Interlock Program Best Practices Guide, particularly focusing on developing a solution for reciprocity challenges to allow ignition interlock participants to successfully comply with any jurisdiction's program requirements regardless of residency to ensure highway safety. The working group anticipates publishing the updated Ignition Interlock Best Practices Guide in August 2018.

Governor Lepage Forms Panel to Examine Issues Related to Driverless Vehicles (Maine)

Gov. Paul LePage took a step Wednesday toward regulating a rapidly emerging automotive technology that in the not-too-distant future could find self-driving cars, trucks and buses operating on Maine roads. Read the article at pressherald.com.

New Hurdles to Renew Driver's License in Maryland

At least 3.7 million drivers in Maryland will need to produce additional documents the next time they renew their driver's licenses or state IDs in order for the state to comply with the federal Real ID Act of 2005. Read the article at wusa9.com.

With a Nod Toward Greater Security, Registry to Begin Issuing Real IDs (Massachusetts)

People who want to travel on planes throughout the United States will soon need a passport or what is being called a Real ID. Beginning on March 26, the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles will offer Real IDs, although they will not be required for travel until October 2020. Read the article at milforddailynews.com.
Legislation Could Increase Your Motor Vehicle Registration Fees (New Hampshire)
A pending piece of legislation would open up potentially thousands of dollars for Concord to use to pay for its parking facilities, should it pass muster in the Legislature and, later, the city council. Read the article at concordmonitor.com.

MVC Employs New Mobile Units to Increase Customer Convenience (New Jersey)
The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) on Jan. 12 announced the launch of two state-of-the-art mobile agency vehicles that will increase customer convenience by bringing essential MVC services directly to motorists all around the state. Read the article at capemaycountyherald.com.

Immigrants Push Murphy on Promise of Driver's Licenses, Regardless of Legal Status (New Jersey)
More than 100 immigrants and allies marched in Trenton Tuesday demanding new Gov. Phil Murphy make good on his promise to grant unauthorized immigrants access to New Jersey driver's licenses. Read the article app.com.

Real ID Is a Big Deal: Not Having One Could Keep You Grounded (Pennsylvania)
A lot of Altoona travelers never intend to travel abroad, so have no need for a passport. If they wanted to visit a sick relative four states over or go to Florida for a Disney vacation, they could always use their Pennsylvania driver’s licenses to board domestic flights. Read the article at altoonamirror.com.

Drivers Deprived of Licenses After Drug Conviction Sue to Repeal Pennsylvania Law
These days, Russell Harold can get pretty depressed. ... Harold’s troubles date back to the summer, when Philadelphia police arrested him for drug possession. He had prescription pills and marijuana in his pocket while he was standing on the corner. Read the article at whyy.org.

Philly’s Electric Vehicle Task Force Report: 5 Key Recommendations (Pennsylvania)
Five months after the City of Philadelphia set up an Electric Vehicle Task Force, the committee has released its first draft of a report that’s meant to guide future policy on electric vehicles in Philly. Read the article at philly.curbed.com.

Two New England States Could Offer Third Gender Option On Driver's Licenses (Vermont, Massachusetts)
Two New England states could allow people who don't identify as male or female a new way to indicate their gender on their driver's license. The Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles is exploring the option. In Massachusetts, a lawmaker has proposed a bill to require the change. Read the article at nepr.net.

Kansas Lawmakers Preparing for Fully Autonomous Vehicles — and All the Issues That Come With Them
Kansas lawmakers have begun bracing for the day when fully autonomous vehicles could be driving on city streets and state highways. Both the House and Senate transportation committees opened two days of hearings Tuesday, taking a look at what state laws may need to change, how such vehicles could affect the economy and, perhaps most importantly, how they would affect the insurance industry. Read the article at ww2.ljworld.com.

Facial Recognition Leads to Charges for Sisters Accused of Switcheroo at DMV (Nebraska)
Two Lincoln sisters face rarely seen criminal charges for an alleged switcheroo at the
Department of Motor Vehicles, where one sister is accused of impersonating the other to help her pass her driver's license test. Read the article at journalstar.com.

Bill Easing CDL Requirements for Veterans Becomes Law (North Carolina)
Legislation that eases requirements on service members seeking commercial driver's licenses was signed into law last week. Read the article at fayobserver.com.

Military Base Access to Require Real ID Beginning Monday (North Carolina)
Marine Corps installations, including Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point, are cracking down on federal ID regulations next week. Anyone requesting base access will be required to present a Real ID driver’s license beginning Monday. Read the article at jdnews.com.

Tennessee Partnership Helps Solve Problems Surrounding Driver’s License Suspensions
A Tennessee partnership is helping residents solve problems associated with suspended and revoked driver's licenses through free legal help. Launched by the Tennessee Department of Human Services, Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services and Memphis Area Legal Services, the Cycles of Success program assesses the needs of people who lost their driver's license often due to unpaid court costs involving traffic accidents and violations. Read the article at commercialappeal.com.

Holcomb: DMV/VDH Vital Records Partnership is a Win for Virginians
When government works as it should, efficient and convenient service for citizens is a top priority. Nowhere has this been more evident than at the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), where a groundbreaking partnership with the Virginia Department of Health’s (VDH) Division of Vital Records has brought a positive change to communities across Virginia. Read the article at roanoke.com.

Bill Would Require All Passengers to Wear Seat Belts in Virginia
A bill introduced by a Virginia lawmaker would require all passengers in a vehicle to wear their safety belts. Under current law, people over the age of 18 are allowed to not buckle up while riding in back seats. Read the article at whsv.com.

Secretary White’s Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Meets in Chicago, Committee Considers Proposals to Further Strengthen Impaired Driving Laws (Illinois)
Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White’s Traffic Safety Advisory Committee met today in Chicago to examine impaired driving laws and consider measures aimed at making Illinois roads safer by reducing impaired driving crashes and fatalities. Read the press release.

Drunken Drivers Beware: Iowa Will Soon Require Ignition Interlocks to Have Cameras
Iowa will soon require all ignition interlocks be equipped with cameras, a move that will ensure drivers required to take alcohol-content breath tests don’t have someone else blow into the device, officials said. Read the article at desmoinesregister.com.

Show-Me State Can Lead with Practical Roadway Safety Improvements (Missouri)
Recently, the National Safety Council released a State of Safety Report grading all 50 states on their safety actions. The aim of the report was to spur states into action and make a dent in our rising preventable fatalities. While the report rates states, the hard work of making improvements falls to the leaders in Missouri. Read the article at stltoday.com.
DMV to Offer Federally-Compliant ID Required for Boarding Flights, Entering Military Bases (California)
The California Department of Motor Vehicles will begin offering this month a new driver's license that will soon be required to board a plane or enter a military base. Read the article at nbcbayarea.com.

'Pink Ribbon' California License Plates Now Available Online
California's newly released "Pink Ribbon" license plates, an inspiration launched by a Northern California breast cancer survivor group, now can be ordered online from the Department of Motor Vehicles, and a portion of the fees will go to the state's "Every Woman Counts" program. Read the article at patch.com.

First Digital, Connected License Plates Launching In California
Starting this year, 100,000 digital – yes, digital – license plates will hit the road in California, where such use has been approved. It's called the RPlate Pro, and well, it's a digital number plate. Read the article at motor1.com.

Colorado May Issue More Driver's Licenses to Undocumented Immigrants in 2018
Before Colorado legislators repealed the state’s “Show me your papers” law in 2013, which allowed peace officers to detain undocumented immigrants, thousands were detained and deported, many after being stopped for minor traffic infractions like driving without a license. Read the article at westword.com.

Fact Sheet: Automatic Voter Registration Facts (Guam)
Automatic voter registration registers eligible citizens as voters upon registering for an ID or driver’s license with the Division of Motor Vehicles at the Department of Revenue and Taxation. Read the article at guampdn.com.

Washington State Will Require Court Order to Release Driver's License Info to Immigration Authorities
The Washington State Department of Licensing will no longer release personal information to federal immigration authorities without a court order unless required by law, the agency announced early Monday. Read the article at oregonlive.com.

U.S. Transport Chief to Unveil Revised Self-Driving Car Guidelines
The Trump administration plans to unveil revised self-driving car guidelines this summer as the government sets out to rewrite regulations that pose legal barriers to robot vehicles, U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao said on Sunday. Read the article at reuters.com.

Safety Advocates Say Not So Fast on Driverless Cars
Highway safety advocates are urging lawmakers to pump the brakes on the development of driverless cars. The group, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, is calling on Congress and federal officials to strengthen safety regulations related to autonomous vehicle technology following the release of a public opinion poll, which shows that Americans –regardless of age, political preferences or geographic locations – want increased safeguards. Read the article at govtech.com.

With Gas Taxes in Peril, More States Study Alternatives
After more than a decade of watching Oregon and a handful of other states test alternatives to traditional gasoline taxes, more states, with the help of federal money, are now joining the quest. Read the article at governing.com.
Car Hacking Remains a Very Real Threat As Autos Become Ever More Loaded with Tech
Automakers and suppliers are making progress in protecting vehicles from cyber attacks, but the car-hacking threat is still real and could get increasingly serious in the future when driverless vehicles begin talking to each other. Read the article at freep.com.

Automakers, U.S. Lawmakers Hope for Progress on Self-Driving Car Bill
Automakers and lawmakers expressed hope on Tuesday that U.S. Congress would soon pass a stalled bill aimed at speeding self-driving cars to market, even as safety advocates argued for more performance requirements. Read the article at reuters.com.

New Report Calls for Lowering Blood Alcohol Concentration Levels for Driving, Increasing Federal and State Alcohol Taxes, Increasing Enforcement, Among Other Recommendations
Despite progress in recent decades, more than 10,000 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities occur each year in the U.S. To address this persistent problem, stakeholders -- from transportation systems to alcohol retailers to law enforcement -- should work together to implement policies and systems to eliminate these preventable deaths, says a new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Read the press release.

On Twitter
@AAMVAConnnection 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 @AAMVAConnnection.

Check out recent @AAMVAConnnection Twitter action.

***Thank you for the @AAMVAConnnection mentions!***
Motorcycle Ohio 2018 training schedules and enrollment will be available at 9:00 a.m. on January 22, 2018 at http://www.motorcycle.ohio.gov/

Nevada DPS @NevadaDPS | View the Tweet
More Nevada DPS Retweeted NHP Headquarters
#NHP & @IdahoStPolice join forces in a PSA against texting & driving. We may be rivals on the court but we are united in our efforts to save lives on our roads.
@NevadaHoops vs. @BroncoSportsMBB 1/20 #Reno @KOLO8 @KTVN @KRNV @rgj @fox11reno @RNRtwits @NewsTalk780KOH

Road to Zero @RoadToZeroUS | View the Tweet
Thank you Chief John R. Batiste @WAStatePatrol for your organizations @targetzero belief that deaths from vehicle collisions should not be acceptable and developing data-driven strategies/goals to move us toward zero fatalities by 2030.
@AAMVAConnection

Eric Holcomb @GovHolcomb | View the Tweet
Day 2 of our northeast Indiana roadtrip. We’re opening the first ever BMV Connect, a self-service 24/7 @INBMV branch!
“Senate panel rejects stricter seat-belt law for Virginia”
(http://www.fredericksburg.com/news/local/senate-panel-rejects-stricter-seat-belt-law-for-virginia/article_d3850a7d-cd0d-5c11-9d0f-043bab759ff5.html …) In a crash, an unbelted rear-seat passenger becomes a missile. #PhysicsForDummies