February 9, 2018

2018 Workshop and Law Institute - Session Spotlight
We have planned a program packed with informative sessions! Here's just a highlight of what you can expect at the 2018 Workshop and Law Institute:

Guidance for Jurisdictions Regulating Automated Vehicles
*Wednesday, March 14, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm*
In this session, we will discuss the soon to be published AAMVA document, Jurisdictional Guidelines for the Safe Testing and Deployment of Highly Automated Vehicles, federal automated vehicles legislation, U.S. DOT guidance, jurisdictional trends, and the impact of automated vehicles on law enforcement.

Tools to Evaluate Cognitive Impairment
*Tuesday, March 13, 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm*
In this session, you will hear about different tools used to objectively evaluate cognitive impairment at the DMV counter and by law enforcement at roadside. Participate in the interactive discussion about the innovative approaches different agencies are taking in assessing cognitive impairment.

For more information about these and other sessions, please view our Program-at-a-Glance!

AAMVA Speaks to U.S. Air Force Fleet Managers
AAMVA's Ian Grossman gave an overview of AAMVA to the Air Force Fleet Managers gathered in Washington, DC, for the 2018 Fed Fleet Conference. AAMVA was part of an afternoon session focused on programs underway to transition service members into comparable civilian career fields. The Air Force has been working with AAMVA for the past two years to implement the 2005 CDL Test System, including training/certifying all Air Force CDL knowledge and skills test examiners so that they are held to the same training, certification and testing standards as state or third party CDL examiners. Upon conclusion of this effort approximately 125 Airmen will be certified as CDL Knowledge/Skills Test Examiners; and will administer the same knowledge and skills tests to their license applicants as those conducted by State Driver License Agencies (SDLAs). We anticipate that this will be the first step toward the even exchange of an Air Force military CDL for a comparable State CDL. Ian was joined by AAMVA's Denise Hanchulak and Karen Morton as they received a challenge coin and plaque of appreciation from the Air Force.

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:

- Thomson Reuters
- KAR Auction Services
- Accenture

AAMVA in Police Chief Magazine
Paul Steier, AAMVA Law Enforcement Program Manager, was recently published in
the IACP Police Chief on-line magazine. The article, titled "Driver's Licenses on a Smartphone: Roadside Implications for Law Enforcement" is now live online at policechiefmagazine.org. This article is open-access, so can be viewed by anyone and members are encouraged to share the link as widely as possible.

**REGION 1 NEWS**

District of Columbia DMV Computer Glitch Affects 70K Tickets; Errorneously Sends Nearly 2K to Collections
A major computer glitch has impacted 70,000 speed camera tickets issued to drivers. Roughly 1,900 of the 70,000 tickets should have been dismissed, but the DC Department of Motor Vehicles sent 1,773 of the tickets to collections. Read the article at wjla.com.

Maine Launches EMS License Plates
The Maine Secretary of State's Office will soon offer Emergency Medical Services license plates to active EMS personnel. The plates were scheduled to be unveiled Tuesday morning. Read the article at wmtw.com.

Motor Vehicle Administration Accepts Grant Applications (Maryland)
Making the roadways safer is the goal of grants through the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration. Christine Nizer is the Motor Vehicle Administrator for Maryland. She says government agencies, law enforcement, colleges, hospitals and non-profits can apply. The money comes from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Read the article at wfmd.com.

New Legislation Aims to Make Repeat DUI Offenses a Felony (Maryland)
In Maryland, legislation in both the House and Senate could make drunk driving a felony after the third offense. Currently under Maryland law, after three or more DUIs someone found guilty would only serve a maximum three years. Read the article at wmdt.com.

Maryland Issues First Autonomous Vehicle Testing Permits
The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) recently announced it is now issuing permits for the testing of connected and automated vehicle (CAV) technologies. Read the article at transportationtodaynews.com.

Maryland Lawmakers Propose Expanding the State's 'Move Over' Law
When Maryland drivers spot emergency vehicles, such as police cars or fire trucks along the side of the road, they need to move over one lane or slow down. It's the law. Read the article at wtop.com.

Buckle Up For New Fight in Old Battle Over Adult Seat Belt Use in New Hampshire
Thirty-five years ago, no states mandated seat belt use. That changed in 1984, when New York passed a law requiring drivers and passengers to wear seat belts. Most states followed quickly, except New Hampshire. While it requires those under 18 to wear seat belts, it's the only remaining state in the nation not to require adults to buckle up. Read the article at concordmonitor.com.

Feds OK New York Driver's Licenses for Airline Travel Under Real ID Program
About 10 million New Yorkers will no longer have to worry about being barred from domestic airline travel with driver's licenses that had failed to meet federal security standards. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security notified Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Monday that New York is now in full compliance with the federal Real ID Act that requires states to issue new driver's licenses with security enhancements. Read the article at syracuse.com.
Pennsylvania State Police Urge Updating DUI Laws After Medical Marijuana Legalization
Medical marijuana has been legal in Pennsylvania for more than a year now. Dispensaries will soon be up and running, but police have concerns users legally prescribed the drug could get charged with DUI under current laws, even if they’re not intoxicated. Read the article at abc27.com.

Alabama Sued in Transgender Driver's License Case
Three transgender individuals filed a lawsuit Tuesday against Alabama saying the state won't allow them to change the gender listing of their driver's licenses without proof that they've undergone surgery. The American Civil Liberties Union, which is representing the plaintiffs, said the requirement to show proof of sex-altering surgery is an unconstitutional violation of privacy, free speech and a person's ability to make their own medical decisions. Read the article at usnews.com.

Arkansas Launches DMV Website Offering New Online Services
The Department of Finance and Administration's (DFA) state revenue offices, also known as DMVs, served more than 2 million in-person customers in 2017, but a new website could help Arkansans skip the trip this year. Read the article at katv.com.

Why Does ‘Race’ Appear On Your North Carolina Driver’s License? And Why Is It Blank?
On your North Carolina driver’s license, on the same line with your height and your hair color, you’ll find the word “race.” Chances are the space next to it is blank. So why is it there? It goes back to a decision by the N.C. General Assembly nearly 25 years ago to accommodate the state’s Native American residents. Read the article at newsobserver.com.

South Carolina to Roll Out REAL IDs Soon
Sometime between now and the end of March, the state Department of Motor Vehicles will start issuing REAL IDs for anyone who has gone through the process to update their driver's license in compliance with the federal mandate. Read the article at indexjournal.com.

South Carolina Dropped Eye Exams From Driver's License Tests. Now, Some Lawmakers Regret It
The S.C. Legislature last year abolished the eye exam you once needed to renew your driver’s license, but now some lawmakers aren’t sure that was a good idea. Read the article at thestate.com.

You Can Own One of the State's First Single-Digit License Plates (Texas)
If you want to own one of the state's single-digit license plates, you better place your bid! The state is auctioning the numbers 3 and 8, and the letter J. This is the first time the state’s vendor MyPlates.com has held an auction for these types of plates. Read the article at abc13.com.

When Is a License Plate More Than a License Plate? When It Has the Word “Gun” On It (Virginia)
For a General Assembly pondering big issues such as Medicaid expansion and utility regulation, a new commemorative license plate seems like an insignificant topic. Without a whisper of debate, the House of Delegates advanced bills this week to create plates honoring veterans, NASA's Wallops Island and electricity co-ops. Then along came a bill sponsored by Del. Marcus Simon (D-Fairfax) to establish a license plate bearing a slogan that some delegates found offensive: “Stop Gun Violence.” Read the article at washingtonpost.com.
Bill to Scrap One Iowa License Plate Resurfaces In Legislature
Iowa motorists would only need a single license plate placed on the rear of most vehicles under a bill that's resurfaced in the Iowa Legislature. Senate File 2122, supported by the Iowa Automobile Dealers Association, is aimed at reigniting a debate that began two years ago between law enforcement officials, who believe two plates are important for identification purposes, and car lovers, who don't want to install license plates on classic cars and other expensive vehicles. Read the article at desmoinesregister.com.

Hauck: Undo Law That Revokes Driver’s Licenses Over Fees (Michigan)
Mt. Pleasant’s state representative is taking aim at a controversial law that critics say penalizes the poor and keeps them in a cycle of lost jobs and financial crisis after getting traffic tickets. Rep. Roger Hauck’s proposal offering leniency to those with driver responsibility fees has passed the House and was discussed in the state Senate last week. Read the article at themorningsun.com.

Driverless Cars Becoming a Reality Despite Safety Concerns (Michigan)
Ready or not, driverless cars are becoming a reality, and already hitting the streets in Michigan thanks to a first-of-its-kind state law allowing fully autonomous vehicles on all public highways. But there are still major safety concerns. Read the article at abc57.com.

Nebraska Lawmakers Pass 18 Bills, Including License Plate Privacy Measure
Nebraska lawmakers passed a bill Thursday to rein in government use of automatic license plate readers. Legislative Bill 93, sponsored by State Sen. Matt Hansen of Lincoln, sets limits on how law enforcement and other agencies can gather and share information collected by the technology. It passed 47-0. Bus drivers: School bus drivers no longer would have to get a special permit from the Department of Motor Vehicles under LB 347, introduced by Sen. Suzanne Geist of Lincoln. The bill passed 48-0. Read the article at omaha.com.

‘We Shouldn’t Have to Wait Years:’ Car Owners Left Waiting for Replacement of Dangerous Air Bags (Wisconsin)
They’re supposed to keep you safe, but could actually put you in harm’s way -- so why are some Wisconsin drivers being forced to wait years to have these potentially dangerous air bags replaced? Read the article at fox6now.com.

Arizona DPS Working to Develop New Policies for Driverless Vehicles
The number of driverless vehicles on Arizona roadways are growing, but some unanswered questions still remain. For example, who gets ticketed for moving violations? That is what the head of the Department of Public Safety is trying to work out. Read the article at ktar.com.

ICE Contract Sparks License Plate Reader Backlash From Cities (California)
Last night in Alameda, California, the city council gathered to talk about surveillance. On the docket was a new proposal to spend up to $500,000 for thirteen fixed-location license plate readers to complement the mobile readers already mounted to four of the city's police cars. Read the article at theverge.com.

Safety Numbers on Autonomous Cars Just Don’t Add Up (California)
The California Department of Motor Vehicles has released its annual "disengagement reports" documenting each time a human "safety driver" had to take control of an autonomous test vehicle on the state's roads. Once again, the reported numbers are
California Wants More Electric Cars. The Trump Administration Doesn't. Automakers Are In the Hot Seat

An intensifying clash between California and Washington over getting cleaner, more fuel-efficient vehicles on the road has put auto companies in a bind as they contemplate what cars they should be rolling onto showroom floors. The signals to automakers couldn't conflict more: California, with the nation's largest auto market, is stepping up pressure to stay on track with the state's ambitious climate goals. Read the article at latimes.com.

California Drivers Are – Believe It or Not – Putting Down Their Cellphones

Faced with a tough year-old cellphone law, more California drivers are putting their devices aside entirely when behind the wheel, a new study shows. The study by the state Office of Traffic Safety found that fewer than 4 percent of drivers appear to be picking up and using their cellphones, a notable drop from a year ago when the same analysis found that nearly 8 percent of drivers were on their cellphones. Read the article at sacbee.com.

Legislators Try Another Bill To Bolster Colorado’s Hobbled Immigrant Driver’s License Program, Despite Earlier Failures

A group of Colorado lawmakers, including two Republicans, are again trying to ease the application logjam and fix a document glitch for the state's long embattled driver’s license program for people living in the U.S. illegally. Read the article at denverpost.com.

Get Your License Plates By Mail, DMV Urges Motorists (Colorado)

Getting new wheels doesn't necessarily mean that the first place you take them is the Motor Vehicles department for new plates, the Mesa County Clerk's Office says in a new video. The video is the second in a series aimed at reducing the number of people doing business in person at Mesa County Clerk's Motor Vehicles Division. Read the article at gjsentinel.com.

Glitch in Washington’s Motor-Voter Program Prevented Thousands From Being Registered To Vote

For years, a glitch in a Washington Department of Licensing (DOL) system caused thousands of people to be left off the state's voter rolls. The software issue prevented thousands of registrations in the motor-voter program from being transmitted to the Secretary of State’s Office, officials for the two agencies said Tuesday. Read the article at seattletimes.com.

Why Cops Won’t Need a Warrant to Pull the Data Off Your Autonomous Car

For now, law enforcement in one major hub of AV development and testing seems to have few clear ideas as to how they will integrate these vehicles into their traffic enforcement practices, much less their investigative process. But AVs could soon become—absent a notable change in the law—a TiVo-on-the-ground. Read the article at arstechnica.com.

Canada Not Ready for Driverless Cars, Senate Report Says

Driverless cars are already a reality and will become common on our roads in the near future. But a new report from the Senate Committee on Transportation and Communication says this country is not prepared for the new technology and measures must be taken to ensure safety. Read the article at cbc.ca.

Digital Driving License Begins Limited Finnish Trial

Smartphones are pretty much everywhere these days, packed with apps designed to
make everyday life more fun, more productive or just plain easier. Finland's Transport Safety Agency, Trafi, is looking to tap into this ubiquitous nature so that drivers no longer need to carry a plastic driving permit, instead using a digital version accessed from within an app. Read the article at newatlas.com.

**Ford's China Joint Venture to Recall More Than 500,000 Vehicles**
Ford Motor’s China joint venture will recall more than half a million vehicles due to brake-related issues, an additional headache for the U.S. carmaker as it faces rising challenges in the world's top auto market. Read the article at reuters.com.

**U.S. Governors' Focus on Traffic Safety Praised**
Today, the National Governors Association (NGA) releases its State Strategies to Reduce Highway and Traffic Fatalities and Injuries: A Road Map for States. The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) is proud to have assisted in the development of this important report and pleased to participate in today's launch. This project elevates the profile of traffic safety and provides concrete recommendations that have tremendous potential to improve safety outcomes. Read the GHSA press release.

**Driven to Distraction: Light Penalties Await Most Caught Texting While Driving**
The victims include a 23-year-old highway construction worker in Washington state, a 13-year-old Michigan boy riding in his older sister’s car and a Minnesota school bus driver picking up the morning newspaper in front of his home. Read the article at mcclatchydc.com.

**Self-Driving Cars Use Crazy Amounts of Power, and It's Becoming a Problem**
Today's self-drivers don't need extra engines, but they still use terrific amounts of power to run their onboard sensors and do all the calculations needed to analyze the world and make driving decisions. And it's becoming a problem. Read the article at wired.com.

**AAA: Drowsy Driving Plays Larger Role In Accidents Than Federal Statistics Suggest**
Drowsy driving plays a role in nearly eight times more severe accidents than federal estimates suggest, according to study released Thursday by the car and travel group AAA. By studying dashboard video from 700 accidents, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that 9.5% of all crashes involved drowsy drivers, based on the portion of time the drivers’ eyes were closed in the minutes before a crash. Read the article at usatoday.com.

**On Twitter**
@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!***

GHSA @GHSAHQ | View the Tweet
At least seven states are considering lane-splitting bills for motorcyclists. GHSA Consultant Richard Retting weighs in on this potentially risky behavior:

http://bit.ly/2BjXbnD  @JBergal

NorthAmericaTraffic @NATSsignals | View the Tweet

Among the favorite accounts for the #TrafficSafetyLeader to follow are those from the Departments of Transportation of various states. On this #FF, we salute: @iowadot @MichiganDOT @myARDOT @La_DOTD @WisconsinDOT @nevadadot @NYSDOT @MyFDOT @PennDOTNews @ArizonaDOT & @ColoradoDOT

AAA @AAASafety | View the Tweet

Skipping sleep? Missing just 2-3 hours can more than quadruple your risk for a crash, which is the equivalent of driving drunk! 3 in 10 drivers admit to driving when they are too tired to drive safely. #DrowsyDriving #SafeDriving

Julie Zomar @vbjuls | View the Tweet

@AAMVAConnection Region I conference has begun. @MorphoTrust is here in Booth #39 this week w/ #ElectronicID #mDL and #MFA demos.

ABC 13 News - WSET @ABC13News | View the Tweet

The @VirginiaDMV has chosen their top 8 high school finalists for their license plate contest. MORE details on when you can vote: http://bit.ly/2nQu8Qg