Martha Irwin Award for Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety Submissions Due April 15!

April 15th is not just tax day...it's also the last day to submit nominations for the Martha Irwin Award for Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety. This award is presented annually to an AAMVA member jurisdiction employee or other individual whose primary function is directly associated with highway and traffic safety efforts and who has had a distinguished career in this arena. The individual can be currently active or retired. One award is presented for achievement in highway safety in Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) and one for achievement in highway safety in Law Enforcement (LE). Visit the Safety Awards category of the AAMVA Awards Program for complete details about the Martha Irwin Award for Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety. Again, award submissions and accompanying materials must be received by AAMVA by April 15, 2017. All submissions should be sent to awards@aamva.org. Download the 2017 Awards Submission Packet.

Autonomous Vehicles Working Group Has Two Seats to Fill, Applications Now Being Accepted!

AAMVA is seeking to fill two vacancies on the Autonomous Vehicle Working Group with jurisdictional members. The purpose of the Working Group is to work with the AAMVA jurisdictions, law enforcement, federal agencies and other stakeholders to gather, organize and share information with the AAMVA community related to the development, design, testing, use and regulation of autonomous vehicles and other emerging vehicle technologies. Based on the group’s research, a guidance document to assist member jurisdiction in regulating autonomous vehicles will be completed.

This Working Group has been meeting for two years and is committed to at least one face-to-face meeting in 2017 and will hold several conference calls. Members of the group conduct research, draft portions of the guidance document in small groups and independently. Members may also be called upon to speak publicly about the working group.

For more information about the Working Group, please contact Cathie Curtis, (207) 395-4100. If you are interested in applying for the working group, please complete the application and send to Dianne Graham at committees@aamva.org by Friday, April 21.

Maryland Has Booted More Than 4,000 Uber Drivers for Failing the State’s Screening Requirements
Regional News - April 14, 2017

25-27 | 2017 NMVTIS Business Rules Working Group Meeting
Arlington, Virginia

26-27 | 2017 NMVTIS Law Enforcement Working Group Meeting
Arlington, Virginia

21-24 | Region IV Annual Conference
Seattle, WA

MAY

2017 Region IV Conference

JUNE

19-22 | Region II Annual Conference
Chattanooga, TN

APRIL

25-27 | 2017 NMVTIS Business Rules Working Group Meeting
Arlington, Virginia

MARYLAND HAS BOOTED MORE THAN 4,000 OF THE STATE'S RIDE-HAIL DRIVERS OFF THE ROADS SINCE DECEMBER 2015, BECAUSE THEY FAILED TO MEET THE STATE'S SCREENING REQUIREMENTS, DESPITE PASSING UBER AND LYFT'S BACKGROUND CHECKS, ACCORDING TO THE MARYLAND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION. [Read the article in washingtonpost.com]

MASSACHUSETTS RIDE-HAILING CHECKS HAVE OTHER STATES WEIGHING MORE THOROUGH DRIVER REVIEWS
The startling results of the first state-run background check of Uber and Lyft drivers by Massachusetts has some regulators in other states and cities asking if they should toughen their reviews of drivers' backgrounds. [Read the full story at BostonGlobe.com]

SETTLEMENT REACHED IN STATE'S DMV COMPUTER LAWSUIT (RHODE ISLAND)
State officials and the company installing a new computer system for the state Division of Motor Vehicles have reached a settlement in a lawsuit about the cost of the new system, state officials announced Wednesday morning. [Read the full story at ProvidenceJournal.com]

MOTION FILED TO BRING BACK LAWSUIT AGAINST DMV (VIRGINIA)
A new motion has been filed to resurrect a lawsuit over a Virginia law that suspends people's driver's licenses if they fail to pay court fees. [Read the full story at NBC29.com]

MANITOBA PUBLIC INSURANCE LAUNCHES DRIVR-X VR EXPERIENCE TO CURB DISTRacted Driving in the Province
New measures are being taken to curb distracted driving and it seems virtual reality is the next trend to educate Canadians on the risk of picking up the device. [Read the full article in mobilesyrup.com]

APRIL DEBUT EXPECTED FOR NEW LICENSE PLATES WITH SEVEN CHARACTERS; LICENSE PLATE COMBINATIONS RUNNING OUT (WISCONSIN)
Wisconsin Department of Transportation Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) anticipates the supply of regular Wisconsin license plates with six characters (123-ABC) will run out at the central office and new vehicle license plates with seven characters will be issued beginning mid April. Local DMVs and 3rd party vendors will continue to issue the 6-character plates until their inventory is exhausted. [Read the press release]

ALASKA REAL ID DEADLINE APPROACHES
Another deadline is approaching that would make Alaska driver's licenses invalid for entry to Fort Wainwright and other military installations. [Read the full article in newsminer.com]

AUTONOMOUS CARS COULD BE 25% OF DRIVING MARKET BY 2030, AS DMV GETS READY TO ENACT NEW STATE REGULATIONS (CALIFORNIA)
A new study has found that up to 25 percent of all U.S. driving could be done by
autonomous electric cars by 2030, according to the Boston Consulting Group, which was looking at how self-driving cares could help save drivers and cities money. Read the full article in bizjournals.com.

**How California Is Trying to Keep Autonomous Vehicle Development on Track**

After California's Department of Motor Vehicles recently proposed new regulations governing the testing and deployment of autonomous vehicles, many were left to wonder: Will this help retain the state's status as a testing and deployment ground for the technology, and will it make California safer? Read the full article on www.rand.org.

**End of The Road for California's Traffic Amnesty Program**

A minor traffic fine in California can escalate quickly to hundreds of dollars. For low-income drivers, that can mean license suspensions and even jail time for failing to pay or driving without a valid license, a practice the U.S. Department of Justice has warned states against. Read the full article in revealnews.org.

**DMV to Accept U.S. Passport Card for License, ID Card (California)**

The California Department of Motor vehicles will now accept a valid U.S. passport from those applying for a first time drivers license or identification card. Read the full article in visaliatimesdelta.com.

**Canada Introduces Legislation to Legalize Marijuana**

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government introduced legislation Thursday to let adult possess up to 30 grams of marijuana in public — a measure that would make Canada the largest developed country to end a nationwide prohibition on recreational marijuana. Read the full article in NYDailyNews.com.

**Tesla Just Became the Most Valuable Carmaker in America**

Tesla has inched ahead of General Motors to become the most valuable car company in America. The electric-car maker hit a market value of $50.84 billion on Monday, edging past GM (GM) at $50.79 billion. Read the article in money.cnn.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!***

AB Transportation @ABTransComm | View the Tweet
Objects in mirror are closer than they appear! #abroads #drivingtips #yyctrffic #yegtraffic #ymm #yql #yqf #GPAB #stalbert #Airdrie #shpk

IIHS @IIHS_autosafety | View the Tweet

How can we drive down alcohol-related crash deaths for all road users?
http://www.iihs.org/iihs/sr/statusreport/article/52/2/2 …