2017 Region II Conference Wraps Up
The 2017 Annual Region II Conference, hosted by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security, was held in Chattanooga last week. There were several sessions held over four days, along with networking opportunities for both jurisdiction and associate members. Speakers from throughout the region covered topics that focused on safety, security, technology and systems, as well as communication and inter-agency collaboration. Our federal partners, sister associations, and associate members also contributed to the session discussions. Visit the Region II Conference Download Center to download presentations from the conference and view conference photos on AAMVA's Flickr Page.

Looking For Members To Lend Their Expertise!
AAMVA is looking for additional jurisdiction members to lend us expertise. Serving on a committee is an ideal way to influence policy, develop best practices and network with your peers.

The charts on the AAMVA Web site (in the "Committee Opportunities" tab) shows the specific positions that we are seeking jurisdiction members to fill on our three standing committees. If a region is indicated, the applicant chosen will be from that region. If the region is shown as N/A, the applicant chosen could be from any region. We attempt to maintain jurisdictional and regional balance on all committees and working groups.

If you would like to serve on one of our committees, please complete the Committee Application Form. All applications must be received by July 1, 2017. Even if you submitted an application previously, please submit a new application or send an email to committees@aamva.org that you would still like to be considered for a position.

If you have questions, please contact Me'Shell Drigo or Dianne Graham via email to committees@aamva.org or phone 703.522.4200.

DMV (New York) Using Facial Recognition To Keep Roads Safe
As travel ramps up for the summer season, New York State DMV is showing CBS6 News a tool it uses to keep dangerous drivers off the road. DMV says that the facial recognition technology is also catching identity theft and benefits fraud. Read more at cbs6albany.com.

REAL ID Issues For Pennsylvanians Looking To Travel
Pennsylvanians are starting to see changes to their driver’s licenses. The changes include a larger primary photo, a special laminate and the removal of the magnetic strip. But one thing remains the same: it still does not meet federal requirements. Read more at philadelphia.cbslocal.com.

Hundreds of Thousands of Veterans Have Opted For Patriotic Designation On Their Pennsylvania Driver's License, ID Card
More than 440,000 veterans have had the veterans designation added to their Pennsylvania driver's license or ID card since the option was made available in 2014. The designation — an American flag with the word Veteran beneath it — is a patriotic way for veterans to show their pride and convey to others that they served in the United States military. Read more at penndot.gov.

Pennsylvania Ranks Among Worst States For Road Rudeness
Why it required a survey to determine Pennsylvania drivers are among the rudest in the nation will be one of the enduring mysteries. Rudeness on our roads is as common as potholes. Read more at mcall.com.

Pennsylvania Teens Can Now Use A Mobile App For Drivers Ed
The worst time to learn you must check your car’s blind spot is when you’re driving — so now there’s an app for that. Read more at post-gazette.com.

Rhode Island DMV Requiring Reservations During Computer Upgrade
The Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles said customers will need to make a reservation if they want to do any business with the registry in person from July 5 to 17. Read more at turnto10.com.

Rhode Island DMV Extends Time For License, Registration Renewals
Anyone with a Rhode Island license or registration set to expire in July will have until Sept. 30 to complete the renewal process as the Department of Motor Vehicles contends with the launch of its new computer system. Read more at providencejournal.com.

Seat Belt Fines Triple In Kansas, Starting July 1
Traffic fines for seat belt violations will increase from $10 to $30. The law triples the fine for a person 18 years and older who is not wearing a seat belt in a passenger car that is in motion. Read more at kwch.com.

Virginia Supreme Court To Hear Case Challenging Police Retention Of License Plate Data
The Virginia Supreme Court has agreed to hear a challenge over how long police can keep data from automated license plate readers, which police say can provide valuable investigative information and civil liberties critics say can be used to track the movements of innocent people. Read more at washingtonpost.com.
Effect Saturday
When Iowa's texting ban went into effect seven years ago — then only as a secondary offense — motorists were given a year before law enforcement would start writing citations for violators. Read more at qctimes.com.

Ohio Licenses Would Make Travel To Canada And Mexico Easier
The Ohio Senate will now consider legislation that could make it easier for Ohioans to cross into Canada or Mexico without obtaining a passport. Read more at wfmj.com.

Ohio Law Changes Saturday For Adults Who Want First Driver's License
In the name of driver safety, Ohio lawmakers are putting more roadblocks between first-time drivers and the wheel. Read more at dispatch.com.

Proposed Bill Aims To Punish 'Data-Distracted' Drivers In Wisconsin
Three Republican legislators have introduced legislation aimed at punishing "data-distracted" drivers in Wisconsin. The bill would update and expand Wisconsin's texting while driving laws to address new technologies and electronic devices. Read more at nbc26.com.

California Lawmakers Model an Electric Car Program After the State's Successful Solar Initiative
Can California dramatically multiply the number of electric cars on its roads using lessons learned from the state’s solar initiative? A group of California lawmakers and industry advocates thinks so. They proposed new legislation, AB 1184, which seeks to use up to $3 billion in funds to offer larger rebates to California electric car buyers. Read more at greentechmedia.com.

California Drivers Will No Longer Face Suspended Licenses For Unpaid Fines
Drivers in California will no longer have their driver's licenses suspended because of unpaid traffic fines. Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation this week saying license suspensions do not help the state collect unpaid fines and only harm low-income people. Read more at ksby.com.

Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles Announces Changes To Group Special License Plate Retirement Process
The Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has re-evaluated an earlier assessment on the Group Special License Plate retirement process. Due to flexibility allowed in law, the DMV will not be retiring plates that have not met the 3,000 minimum statutory issued requirement where statute allows. Read the press release.

Montana To Manufacture 2 Different ID Cards, Driver's Licenses
The Montana Legislature passed a bill that calls for the manufacture of two separate ID and driver’s license cards in the state. Gov. Steve Bullock signed the bill into law this spring, and now lawmakers are working to implement the changes. Read more at nbcmontana.com.

Oregon Senate Moves To Create New Class Of TSA-
Compliant Driver's Licenses
The Oregon Senate voted Monday to create a new class of driver's license that would pass muster at airport security lines. Senate Bill 374 would let Oregonians pay extra for an "enhanced" driver's license or state identification suitable for boarding commercial flights or accessing secured federal facilities. Read more at oregonlive.com.

NSC Releases State of Safety Report, No State Earns an ‘A’ Across the Board
According to a new National Safety Council report, no state goes far enough to protect its residents from leading causes of preventable deaths and injuries – commonly known as “accidents” – on the road, in homes and communities and at work. Read more at claimsjournal.com.

US Lawmakers Want Feds to Steer Driverless Car Rules
U.S. House Republicans have unveiled 14 draft bills that seek to expand the federal government’s role in setting rules for road-ready highly autonomous vehicles. Read more at legaltechnews.com.

Distracted Driving Blamed for Increase in Pedestrian Deaths
Pedestrian fatality data is in for 2016 and it doesn’t look very good. The number of pedestrians killed in car accidents is rising much faster than the rate of motorist fatalities and the latest studies are attributing the rise in deaths to distracted driving. Read more at natlawreview.com.

Report Scans Marijuana Legalization's Impacts on Impaired Driving Systems
The legalization of marijuana for medicinal or recreational use at the state level has the potential to have downstream effects on the entire impaired driving system. NCREP is managed jointly by GHSA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Read the press release.

Regulators Scramble To Stay Ahead of Self-Driving Cars
Self-driving cars are only starting to navigate the nation's streets, but regulators are scrambling to catch up. In the race to deliver cars that can safely operate themselves, proponents are increasingly concerned about a fast-growing thicket of regulations and laws being proposed by states that could come in conflict with each other and threaten to hold up development. Read more at usatoday.com.

Tesla, Others Seek Ways To Ensure Drivers Keep Their Hands On The Wheel
Automakers are using tiny cameras, sensors to track drooping heads, steering wheel monitors and audible alerts to ensure drivers pay attention when using advanced driver assistance systems, like Tesla's Autopilot, that allow drivers to take their hands off the wheel. Read more at reuters.com.

Japanese Airbag Maker Takata Files for Bankruptcy, Gets Chinese Backing
Japan's Takata Corp, at the center of the auto industry's biggest-ever product recall, filed for bankruptcy protection in the United States and Japan, and said it had agreed to be largely acquired for $1.6 billion by the Chinese-owned U.S.-based Key Safety Systems. Read more at nytimes.com.
Study: Marijuana Not Linked To Rise In Auto Fatalities
According to a new study published in the American Journal of Public Health, states with legalized recreational marijuana do not have a greater increased rate of car accident deaths than states that prohibit the drug. Researchers in the study compared auto crash fatalities in states where recreational marijuana is legal, such as Colorado and Washington, and compared it to data in states where the drug is still illegal. Read more at foxla.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

On Twitter
@AAMVACConnection has been watching the twitter feed and decided to highlight some of the tweets. 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 @AAMVACConnection.

Check out recent @AAMVACConnection Twitter action.

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

NOYS @NOYSnews | View the Tweet

We get to work with some amazing young leaders who are making a difference for their peers. Having a blast at NLC17FBLA!

Roll Call @rollcall | View the Tweet
House-passed immigration bills have a murky future in Senate.

MAHighwaySafety @MAHighwaySafety  | View the Tweet

Your seatbelt is your best protection against a driver who is drunk or high, distracted, or just driving badly. #BuckleUp

FLHSMV @FLHSMV  | View the Tweet
Recently moved? FL law requires that you obtain a new DL or ID card reflecting your new address within 30 days.

Washington Post @washingtonpost  | View the Tweet
Meet the newest recruits of Dubai’s police force: Robo-cars with facial-recognition tech
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