**Region 4 Conference Wrap-Up**

From July 10-12, AAMVA hosted the Region 4 Conference in Big Sky, Montana, ending with the swearing in of the new Region 4 Board and their president, Mike Dixon (Colorado). View photos of the event by visiting our [Flickr](https://www.flickr.com) page. Also on Flickr, find photos from the event that were added by attendees using their Region 4 Conference mobile app. [View those photos here.](https://www.flickr.com) Presentations are available for download on the [AAMVA website](https://www.aamva.org) (only for AAMVA members). If you attended the conference, please don't forget to provide feedback via the survey on our mobile app. Thank you to our sponsors and exhibitors who made this event possible!

**Alert: Annual International Conference, Beware of Fraudulent Phone Calls**
If you are receiving phone calls or emails from any organization or person indicating they have a block of rooms at the Marriott Philadelphia at a lower rate, please note that they are not affiliated with AAMVA in any way. Please continue to contact the [Philadelphia Marriott Downtown](https://www.marriott.com) directly to book rooms for the Annual International Conference. Visit the [AIC website](https://www.aic-conf.com) for more details about hotel and travel arrangements, and to [register online](https://www.aic-conf.com) today!

**Washington to Join State-to-State (S2S) Verification Service**

Washington will begin using the State-to-State Verification Service (S2S) on Tuesday, September 4th. Tasks related to onboarding Washington will be conducted during the weekend of September 1st. During this process (Sunday evening to Tuesday morning), there may be periods during which the CDLIS/S2S Central Site is in inquiry-only mode or is unavailable (over and above the regularly scheduled maintenance window of 2 AM to 5 AM on Sunday, September 2nd). Following Washington, several states will be joining the S2S program throughout 2018. [Read more here.](https://www.aamva.org)

**AAMVA Attends Automated Vehicles Symposium 2018 in San Francisco**

The [Automated Vehicles Symposium](https://www.aamva.org), one of the most comprehensive AV events of the year, was held in San Francisco last week. Several AAMVA members, including AV Working Group members, were in attendance, such as Bernard Soriano, Deputy Director, California DMV and Lieutenant Colonel Richard Arnold, Michigan State Police. The agenda included 35 specialized breakout sessions and expert-led disciplinary sessions. Keynote speakers included Secretary Elaine L. Chao of DOT and Heidi King from NHTSA. Cathie Curtis, Director of Vehicle Programs, served on two panels to discuss AAMVA’s recently published [*Jurisdictional Guidelines for the Safe Testing and Deployment of Highly Automated Vehicles*](https://www.aamva.org).

**State Task Force to Steer Driverless Cars (Connecticut)**

The state’s newly formed Autonomous Vehicle Task Force began planning for a future in which driverless vehicles using artificial intelligence to navigate become common on Connecticut streets and highways. Staffed with state department heads, lawyers,
UConn researchers and lawmakers, the task force is charged with making recommendations on a variety of issues, including safety regulations, how disabled and blind people could benefit from driverless cars and how buses could be incorporated. Read the article at ctpost.com.

Delaware Roads Deaths Outpacing 2017; Cause Unclear
Roadway deaths in Delaware are outpacing last year’s numbers, and officials aren’t sure why. Citing state Office of Highway Safety statistics, The News Journal of Wilmington reports there have been 61 highway fatalities so far this year. Statistics say there were 47 roadway deaths from collisions this time last year. Read the article at washingtonpost.com.

Portland Selected as a Testing Ground for Self-Driving Car Technology (Maine)
Portland is trying to put itself on the map of the emerging self-driving vehicle industry. Maine's biggest city is one of seven places selected for a pilot project to test new software that maps out local traffic rules and restrictions for autonomous vehicles. There are no self-driving vehicle companies operating in Portland yet, but officials hope inclusion in the pilot program will give the city a leg up in attracting those companies. Read the article at pressherald.com.

MVA Introduces New REAL ID Online Lookup Tool to Customers (Maryland)
The Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) announced today the launch of its new REAL ID Online Lookup Tool, which allows customers to conveniently check to see if new documents will be required upon their driver’s license/identification card (ID) renewal. The new documents requirement is a mandate by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to maintain Maryland’s compliance with the federal REAL ID Act. Read the article at wbcradio.com.

New Jersey Mayors Convene in Support of Driver’s Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants
An assemblywoman who has introduced a bill to extend driving privileges to undocumented immigrants plans to visit California next month to see how the state implemented a similar law. “I always believe in best practices and going there to see what was done, how they did it and how we can do it better,” Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, D-Elizabeth, said Thursday during a round-table discussion in Perth Amboy with New Jersey mayors who support her bill, the Safe and Responsible Driver Act. Read the article at northjersey.com.

New Yorkers Urged to Sign Up for ‘REAL ID’ Ahead of Deadline
You'll soon need a new ID if you want to travel. In two years, a regular drivers license just won't cut it. If you take to the skies or travel the high seas after October 2020 you’ll need a suped up drivers license, called a Real ID, to travel if you don’t want to use a passport. The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles started a campaign to get people switched, saying the deadline is closer than many think. Read the article at newyork.cbslocal.com.

New App Will Allow Driver's License on Your Phone (Louisiana)
Carrying your Louisiana driver's license could become a thing of the past thanks to a new app. The LA Wallet app will allow Louisiana drivers to carry their driver's license on their phone. The app is free but activating your license will cost $5.99, and it will allow your license to stay active for up to six years. Read the article at ksla.com.

North Carolina Woman Fights Specialty License Plate Denial
A North Carolina woman says her request for a specialty license plate was denied by the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles for its “poor taste.” Amy Bright requested a license plate ‘LSBNSNLV,’ which roughly translates to ‘lesbians in love.’ She wanted to express her love of her wife. ... The Department of Motor Vehicles issued a statement in response to our inquiry that says they have the right to deny any
license plate they deem "offensive to good taste and decency." [Read article at wcnc.com.]

**How is the Money for My South Carolina Wildflower License Plate Spent?**

Question: I pay extra for my wildflower license plate so that flowers may be planted on our highway right-of-ways. What has happened to our program? Where are the flowers? Where does the money go? Answer: ... The "Keep it Beautiful" plate features a bouquet of wildflowers and at one time emphasized the state wildflower program. The focus is broader now, but funds raised by the plates still go exclusively toward beautification projects through the Highway Beautification Fund, according to the South Carolina Department of Transportation website. [Read article at greenvilleonline.com.]

**More Tennesseans are Sporting Confederate Flag License Plates than Ever Before**

The number of Tennesseans now displaying Confederate battle flag license plates is higher than at any other point in the last decade, according to state data on the controversial specialty tags. The Sons of Confederate Veterans plate, the proceeds from which benefit the organization's Tennessee division, has been issued by the state since 2004. At the end of the 2018 fiscal year in June, 3,273 Sons of Confederate Veterans license plates were active in Tennessee, a number 72 percent higher than at the end of the 2015 fiscal year when the display of Confederate flags was thrust into national debate. [Read article at tennessean.com.]

**Show Your Support with a Specialty License Plate (Texas)**

Texas drivers have the opportunity to purchase an American Quarter Horse specialty license plate through the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. These plates are the perfect way to show your love and support of America’s favorite equine breed – the American Quarter Horse. [Read article at aqha.com.]

**Texas House Bill Ensures Texans are Not Paying Twice for Vehicle Registrations**

The no-fee replacement sticker House Bill, that was filed during the 85th Texas Legislature session, went into effect September 1 of 2017. "It allows us to issue that sticker without having to charge you the $6.75 replacement fee that was mandated by state law," said Nueces County Tax Assessor-Collector, Kevin Kieschnick. A big reason this House Bill was created was the fact that registration stickers were getting lost in the mail, causing people to come to the courthouse seeking replacements. [Read article at kristv.com.]

**Don’t Lose That Decal: New License Plate Production to Start Aug. 15 (Kansas)**

Kansans should not expect to walk out of the tag office with a new, embossed license plate in hand anymore. Starting Aug. 15, digitally-produced license plates will be created on demand in Wichita at Center Industries using a digital printer that prints the tag information on a background, then bonds the background material to the metal plate. [Read article at kansas.com.]

**Minnesota Unveils New Driver’s Licenses, with Vertical IDs for Those Under 21**

Minnesota driver’s licenses and identification cards will soon have a new look, featuring a canoeist on the Mississippi River and vertical cards for people younger than 21. The state unveiled the new designs Monday and will begin issuing the IDs Aug. 6. [Read article at startribune.com.]

**Debate Continues Over Arizona Motorcycle Helmet Law**

It’s a simple question that often solicits long responses: should all motorcyclists in
Arizona be required to wear a helmet? Under Arizona law, only motorcyclists under the age of 18 are required to wear a helmet. According to the Governors Highway Safety Association, 19 states require all motorcyclists to wear a helmet. Arizona is among the 28 states that require motorcycle helmet use for specific riders. Read the article at abc15.com.

**She Used Her DMV Computer and Stolen Mail to Commit ID Theft. Now She’ll Do Prison Time (California)**

A clerk inside the California Department of Motor Vehicles who was accused of using her computer access to commit bank fraud and identity theft was sentenced in federal court in Sacramento to three years and three months in prison. Sarah Laray Sandoval, 40, of West Sacramento pleaded guilty in May to three counts of bank fraud and one count of aggravated identity theft and was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Troy L. Nunley. Read the article at sacbee.com.

**Complete Your Driver’s License Application from Home (California)**

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is offering customers a convenient way to complete a driver license or identification (ID) card application before visiting a field office. The easy-to-use online application guides applicants through the process of filling out the required fields for a driver license or ID card. When customers arrive at a DMV field office, technicians can quickly access the completed form. Read the press release.

**Real ID Is Not Required Until October 1, 2020 (California)**

Real ID is not required until Oct. 1, 2020, but there are already long lines in many California DMVs, which started accepting applications in January of 2018. “Federal government will require Real ID if you want to use it to get on domestic flight, or to enter many federal facilities and a military base,” said Armando Botello, Deputy Director from Office of Public Affairs of DMV. Read the article at theepochtimes.com.

**California Ballot Initiative to Reverse Illegal Immigrant Driver’s License Law**

An initiative to stop undocumented immigrants from obtaining a driver’s license in California is being led by a father whose son was killed in a collision with anillegal immigrant. Donald Rosenberg told FOX Business that the ballot measure would reverse a law that allows driver’s licenses for illegal aliens because it has failed to make the roads safer. Read the article at foxbusiness.com.

**'Desert Tortoise' License Plate Available at Nevada DMV**

The "Desert Tortoise" license plate is now available to Nevada motorists. The Clark County Desert Conservation Program's plate is available at Nevada Department of Motor Vehicle offices across the state. Proceeds from the sale of the plate will support conservation measures of the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and promote education about the conservation of desert tortoises. Read the article at fox5vegas.com.

**Real ID Free Legal Fair Will Help People — Safely (New Mexico)**

Fast-forwarding after the passage of the Real ID Act, there have been many issues. People are stuck in lines, filling out paperwork, paying court fees, and feeling uncertain about how to meet the Real ID requirements. As a majority-minority state with diversity among immigrant and native populations, New Mexicans have a different reality in regards to a seemingly simple part of one’s identity. The names of many Hispanics were anglicized during the English-only movement. Read the article at santafenewmexican.com.

**Red-Light Cameras Don't Reduce Traffic Accidents or Improve Public Safety: Analysis**

Red-light cameras don't reduce the number of traffic accidents or injuries at intersections where the devices are installed, according a new analysis by Case Western Reserve University. Touted by supporters as a way increase public safety by
ticketing drivers who continue through red lights, the cameras actually shift traffic patterns: More drivers tend to brake harder and more abruptly, increasing fender-benders and other so-called "non-angle" collisions. Read the article at phys.org.

Digital License Plates are the Ultimate in Vanity Tech
Apparently, it's not enough that vanity plates are a thing — new digital license plates are making their way into multiple states from California to Arizona. These additions are perfect for the tech hungry that wants to show more personality on their vehicles. They're also definitely not cheap — dealerships are charging $699 on top of installation fees and a monthly of up to $7 for plates, called Rplates, made by Reviver Auto, a company based in California, which we recently chatted with at CEWeek. Read the article at gearbrain.com.

Self-Driving Cars Finally Get an Easy-to-Read Rule Book
For a species that would like to see self-driving cars stick to the letter of the law, we humans don’t make things easy. We let lane lines fade and stop signs fall down. We fail to mark speed limits and flag pop-up construction sites. For the most part, humans can handle this lack of clarity. For robots, it can be baffling. So consider the AV Road Rules Platform a helping hand. The new effort, launched today by transportation analytics firm Inrix, is a tool that lets cities pull together all the rules they expect human drivers to follow, and translate them into a computer-friendly format that any self-driving developer can fold into its software. Read the article at wired.com.

Audit Faults NHTSA for Poor Tracking of Takata and Other Recall Repairs
A federal audit released Wednesday criticizes the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for not doing enough to ensure that automakers follow through on safety recalls, finding that the public might not be getting critical safety information. The Office of Inspector General for the Department of Transportation examined NHTSA's recall oversight over several years when the number of recalls and vehicles involved skyrocketed. This includes the Takata airbag recall, the largest and most complicated campaign in U.S. history. Read the article at consumerreports.org.

Trucking Industry Favors Teen Drivers Over No Drivers
A renewed push is underway to put older teens behind the wheel of big rigs on interstate highways. The move comes amid fear of a driver shortage, and trucking industry representatives along with some politicians believe that changing federal safety rules by lowering the legal age for interstate truck drivers is a solution. But there are ongoing safety concerns about the higher crash rates of younger drivers. Previous efforts to change the rules also have failed. Read the article at trucks.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!***

Road to Zero @RoadToZeroUS | View the Tweet
The estimated cost of motor-vehicle deaths, injuries, and property damage so far this year through May was $157.7 billion, a 2% increase from 2017. Read more about the @NSCSafety Motor Vehicle Fatality Estimates >>> [https://goo.gl/YcpJrS](https://goo.gl/YcpJrS)

MN State Patrol @MnDPS_MSP | [Visit the Tweet](https://twitter.com/MnDPS_MSP/status/1018851287240413696)

We are competing in the national best looking cruiser contest. Vote by clicking "like" on our photo ("love" doesn’t count) in this Facebook album: [http://ow.ly/j7Ra30l201F](http://ow.ly/j7Ra30l201F)

MI OHSP @MIOHSP | [View the Tweet](https://twitter.com/MIOHSP/status/1018851287240413696)


VirginiaDMV @VirginiaDMV | [View the Tweet](https://twitter.com/VirginiaDMV/status/1018851287240413696)
No matter where you're moving, in state or out-of-state, don't forget to update your address with #DMV to receive important DMV mail. [http://ow.ly/aYS230kT0Lu](http://ow.ly/aYS230kT0Lu)

The Regional News e-newsletter is developed and distributed by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA). This message was intended for INSERT_EMAIL. If you would like to stop receiving this message, [click here to unsubscribe](http://ow.ly/aYS230kT0Lu).

To manage all your AAMVA subscriptions, [click here](http://ow.ly/aYS230kT0Lu).

4401 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22203