NOVEMBER

9 | 2017 November State to State Governance Committee Meeting
Minneapolis, Minnesota
By invitation only

14-15 | 2017 November Joint mDL Working Group Meeting
Tampa, Florida
By invitation only

REGION 1 NEWS

No More Parking Fees At Parks In Connecticut — But DMV Will Cost $10 More (Connecticut)
The good news: Starting on Jan. 1, it will be free for Connecticut residents to park at all state parks, including at the beaches at Sherwood Island and Squantz Pond. The bad news: Residents will pay a new $10 flat tax every two years when renewing their motor vehicle registrations with the DMV in Connecticut. Read the article at westport.dailyvoice.com.

Congratulations to all the 2017 Award Winners! 2018 Submissions Will Soon Be Accepted
AAMVA received numerous outstanding award submissions in each category and through a rigorous judging process selected those that are exemplary. Awards were presented at our Regional Conferences, and at AAMVA’s Annual International Conference in San Francisco. Please join us in congratulating this year’s winners! Also, don’t forget that submissions for the 2018 Awards Program will soon be accepted. The deadline for all submissions (including the Martha Irwin Award nominations) will be December 22, 2017. Visit the AAMVA Awards Program online for a complete listing of all 2017 award winners.

Region III Information Exchange Wraps Up
The 2017 Region III Information Exchange wrapped up last week in Oak Brook, Illinois with the highest number of attendees ever - 197 total! DMV and law enforcement attendees from across the Region gathered to discuss hot topics such as autonomous vehicles, mDL, fighting fraud, auditing and interfaces and much more. Industry attendees connected with motor vehicle representatives, while law enforcement attendees in Region III received an AAMVA update on all things law enforcement. Networking opportunities were well-attended and enjoyed by all. Regional awards were presented and jurisdictional representatives had the time for an extended roundtable to discuss their activities and challenges. Presentations are available for download. Photos from the Information Exchange are available on the AAMVA Flickr Page.

Interested in having your logo appear here? Become a Regional News sponsor by contacting Rob Stershic, 703.908.2825.
Delaware DMV Announces Five-Digit Tag Release Day Will Be Nov. 7
On Nov. 7, the Delaware Department of Motor Vehicles will hold seasonal release of available five-digit license plates. On that day, a limited number of five-digit license plates will be made available to the public at the Delaware City, Dover, Wilmington, and Georgetown DMV locations on a first-come, first-serve basis. Low-number plates are a status symbol of sorts in Delaware, with the lowest numbers selling in the six figures. Read the article at delawarebusinessnow.com.

Maryland Takes Digital Driver's Licenses for a Spin
Officials at the Maryland Department of Transportation learned two things since opting into a pilot test of digital driver’s licenses: The licenses are more secure than plastic cards, and people really like the idea. Read the article at gcn.com.

Maryland Drivers to Receive Notice of Open Recalls When They Register Vehicles
Maryland drivers will soon receive notice of open recalls on their vehicles when it is time to renew their registrations under a program announced Friday by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Read the article at baltimoresun.com.

New York DMV Begins Issuing REAL IDs
The New York DMV is beginning to issue REAL ID driver's licenses on Monday. According to the DMV, on October 1, 2020, the federal government will require your driver’s license, permit or ID card to be REAL ID compliant in order to board domestic flights, enter military bases and enter certain federal facilities. Read the article at news10.com.

New York State License Plates Starting With 'F' Are Peeling
If you have one of the newer, yellow, New York State license plates and it begins with the letter ‘F’ you may have a peeling problem. There are a number of things that can cause damage or wear on your plates, but the problem with the ‘F’ plates is very specific. There was a similar problem a couple years ago with the old white New York plates that began with the letter ‘E.’ As with anything that is man-made or manufactured, unintentional errors can occur. That is why the New York State DMV is offering to replace those impacted plates for no charge. Read the article at wibx950.com.

Horrific Ontario Highway Crash Prompts Calls for More Safety Measures
A horrific and deadly accident on an Ontario highway on Tuesday night is prompting calls for a coroner’s inquest and for more action against distracted driving. The crash north of Toronto on Highway 400 — which involved multiple cars and two fully loaded fuel trucks — claimed three lives and left a scene of fire and twisted metal that one police officer described as “armageddon.” Read more at cbc.ca.

Uber Testing Autonomous Cars in Toronto (Ontario)
Two autonomous Uber cars that have been on Toronto’s streets since August are now periodically driving themselves, Uber said Friday. The ride-sharing group said that there is always a driver behind the wheel and the operation switches from manual to autonomous mode as they see fit. Read the article at thestar.com.

Legislation Would End License Suspensions for Some Non-Driving Convictions (Pennsylvania)
People convicted of drug possession, theft and a few other non-driving crimes would no longer face a suspension of their driver’s license under legislation introduced in the state House of Representatives. Read the article at abc27.com.

Uber Testing Self-Driving Semi Truck at Pittsburgh Test Track (Pennsylvania)
Uber is testing a self-driving semi truck at its test track in Hazelwood, the company confirmed. Read the article at triblive.com.
Alabama DOT, University Partnership to Pave the Way for AVs
The next evolution of driving is coming to Tuscaloosa, Ala. In a partnership with the Alabama Department of Transportation, the University of Alabama is funding the installation of technology that will, ultimately, pave the way for automated driving. Read the article at govttech.com.

Driver’s Licenses With Fresh New Look Arrive in South Florida
Florida’s new revamped driver’s license has arrived in South Florida. Service centers in Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties are now issuing the updated ID card to people who renew or change their license in person, said Alexis Bakofsky, a spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. The new license and ID cards, which have more security features, will be harder to counterfeit or fake, she said. Read the article at sun-sentinel.com.

New Oklahoma Plates Honor POWs and MIAs
There’s a new specialty license plate that’s now available to order in Oklahoma with the words “You Are Not Forgotten” at the bottom. The new plates were made to raise awareness for and honor veterans who endured being prisoners of war, or were missing in action for a time. Like any other specialty plate, they cost $38. However, $20 of that amount will be directed to the Oklahoma Department of Veteran Affairs. Read the article at kten.com.

Select Driver’s License Offices to Open Saturday to Issue Election IDs (Texas)
Select driver’s license offices will be opening throughout Texas on Saturday – including in Travis, Williamson and Bell counties – to issue election identification certificates. People can also obtain the election IDs at any driver’s license office during regular business hours. Read the article at statesman.com.

Classic License Plate Will Soon Return to Texas Vehicles
Texas license plate manufacturer My Plates is bringing back one of the state’s most popular general-issue license plate designs. Up until a few years ago, the design featuring the space shuttle and the cowboy was commonplace on Texas plates. The plate was introduced in 2000 and replaced in 2009 after more than 31.5 million had been issued. Read the article at nbcdfw.com.

DMV Announces License Plate Design Contest for Virginia Students
The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) invites Virginia high school students to enter a new license plate design contest. The “Take Action Against Distraction” License Plate Design Contest begins November 1 and is open to all Virginia high school students (grades 9-12). Read the article at nbc29.com.

New System In the Works to Help Commercial Drivers Find Parking Quicker (Iowa)
Store shelves are filled with anything and everything you could need or want. Getting those items to the store, and eventually to you, takes a massive transportation system that includes moving freight on our highways in trucks. Read more at transportationmatters.iowadot.gov.

Flood-Damaged Vehicles From the United States Not Allowed Into Canada: Manitoba Public Insurance
Manitoba Public Insurance is advising anyone looking to purchase a vehicle from
the United States to carefully check the status of the vehicle before they close the deal. Read the press release.

Get Rid of "Driver Responsibility Fee," Judges Ask Governor Snyder (Michigan)
District judges are urging Governor Snyder to support bills that would eliminate a tax called the Driver Responsibility Fee. The bills would also forgive money owed from past assessments of the fee. More than 300,000 people owe the state large sums because of the DRF. Read the article at michiganradio.com.

Cisco Makes Michigan First Digital Acceleration State (Michigan)
Silicon Valley technology giant Cisco Systems is making a series significant investments in Michigan as part of a three-year partnership aimed at making the state “one of the most secure and digitally advanced” in the nation. Initial plans include a “connected roadway” pilot project with the Michigan Department of Transportation. Read the article at detroitnews.com.

Legalized Pot Expected to Have ‘Significant Impact’ On Police Work (British Columbia)
Legalizing marijuana will dramatically increase the workload for police forces across the country, says Victoria Police Chief Del Manak. Read the article at timescolonist.com.

Auto Insurance Companies Say It’s Unclear Whether New Gender Law Will Affect Rates (California)
As people are given more freedom to choose their gender identity in California, it remains to be seen how auto insurance companies could charge groups of people. Large auto insurance companies in the state and policy experts say it’s unclear how rates could be set for people who don’t identify as female or male. Driver licenses that reflect the nonbinary option will begin in 2019. Read the article at wlf.com.

California Attorney General Asks Judge to Reinstate DACA Program Until Final Court Ruling
Local and state officials who filed a lawsuit against the Trump Administration for ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program asked a federal judge on Wednesday to reinstate the program until there’s a final court ruling on the lawsuit. One quarter of DACA recipients nationwide live in California. Read the article at mercurynews.com.

GM Settles California County Recall Case for $13.9 Million
General Motors Co agreed to a $13.9 million settlement with Orange County, California after prosecutors accused the Detroit automaker of intentionally concealing serious safety defects including those involving faulty ignition switches tied to nearly 400 deaths and injuries, the company said on Sunday. Read the article at reuters.com.

California’s Gas Tax is Going Up Nov. 1 – Even If You Don’t Notice Right Away
The day after Halloween, an unpopular force lurking in gas pumps will start siphoning more money from Californians’ wallets. It’s not the plot from a horror movie. It’s a 12-cents per gallon increase in the state’s base gasoline-excise tax that takes effect Wednesday, Nov. 1. But wait. There’s a sequel. Starting next year, a new fee ranging from $25 to $175 based on a vehicle’s worth will be added to the cost of vehicle registration, with zero-emission vehicles subject to a $100 annual fee starting in July 2020. It’s all designed to raise $5.2 billion a year for the next 10 years to fix ailing roads, build new highways and fund other transportation improvements throughout the state. Read the article at ocregister.com.
REAL ID? Not For A While Yet. (Montana)
Montana caught a break last week regarding the state's implementation of the 2005 Real ID Act. The Department of Homeland Security granted the state a year-long extension to comply with the federal law, meaning residents can still board domestic flights with a Montana driver's license until early 2019. But with 12 years now separating us from the law's initial passage, the obvious question is: What's the holdup? Read the article at missoulanews.com.

Wait for It: More Clarification On Real ID (New Mexico)
THOSE NAMES HAVE TO MATCH FOR REAL ID: J. Brent Ricks says in an email that “I am told that my original Social Security card, from 1963, with J. Brent Ricks as my name – (and) my SSA 1099 in the name of J.B. Ricks – is not equal to my passport, which is John Brent Ricks, and thus I need to change one or the other to get this Real ID. “This is way too much bureaucracy; I’m not trying to defraud anyone; I would just like to renew my driver’s license. Is that possible, DMV?” Only if your name is the same on all your documents. And it’s this way in every state in the union, courtesy of Congress and Homeland Security. Read the article at abqjournal.com.

U.S. Safety Board Blames Deadly California Bus Crash on Two Sleepy Drivers
A federal safety board on Tuesday blamed a deadly 2016 bus crash in California on two sleepy drivers and criticized the Trump administration for dropping a proposal requiring commercial drivers to be screened for sleep apnea. Read the article at usnews.com.

Why It’s Hard To Crack Down On Drowsy Driving
Drowsy driving could be involved in hundreds of thousands of crashes a year, but states have been slow to step up enforcement or offer police training to detect when a driver hasn’t gotten enough sleep. Read the article at huffingtonpost.com.

Regulators Move to Rewrite Rules for Self-Driving Cars
The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is considering eliminating regulations that currently block self-driving vehicles designed without steering wheels, brake pedals or other driver controls from hitting the road. Read the article at bloomberg.com.

Industry Faces Long Haul to Legalize Self-Driving Semis
Trucking companies are not giving up the fight to put self-driving semis and delivery trucks on U.S. highways. Advocates for the trucking industry are pushing back on proposed legislation that largely removes restrictions from operation of autonomous passenger cars but does not do the same for commercial trucks. They say innovation will be stifled at a time of rapid advances. Read the article at detroitnews.com.

Digital Driver's License Pilots Target Accessibility, Security
Four states are testing new features on a mobile technology that could someday replace traditional identification cards. After the announcement of a digital driver's license (DDL) pilot program last year, Colorado, Idaho, Maryland, Wyoming, and Washington, D.C., are fleshing out new features to the apps to make them more accessible and secure. Read the article at statescoop.com.

Mobile ID 101: Establishing Rules of the Road for Mobile Driver’s Licenses and IDs
Are you ready to go digital, adopting mobile ID and mobile driver’s licenses (mDL)? In this four-part podcast series, experts at trusted provider of secure identities, HID Global, help us explore how different our lives could be if the documents that enable us to legally drive, fish, carry a gun, attend a university or conduct a variety of other privileges were available electronically on our mobile devices. Read more at secureidnews.com.
Federal Highway Administration Appoints Motorcyclist Advisory Council

The Federal Highway Administration has appointed 10 members to the Motorcyclist Advisory Council, which will advise the agency director on infrastructure issues affecting motorcycle riders. Mike Sayre, AMA government relations manager for on-highway issues, has been named chair of the council. Read more at supercrossking.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

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

2017 MARTHA IRWIN AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN HIGHWAY SAFETY - MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION WINNER

Fred Zwonechek, Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles

Fred Zwonechek’s career with the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety spans 40 years. He started in 1974 and in 1986 he was named highway safety administrator, the position he currently holds. The Nebraska Office of Highway Safety is the hub for coordinating highway safety efforts in Nebraska. Zwonechek has been instrumental in constructing the state highway safety plans which focus on four primary areas: education, enforcement, engineering, and the emergency medical system. Over his more than four decades of service, Zwonechek has instituted and championed many programs. Individually, each of these safety initiatives has produced positive outcomes. However, the combined efforts have generated significant results. During his tenure as Director, Nebraska’s total crashes have decreased 24%, alcohol related fatalities have decreased 72%, seat belt usage has increased 94%, and motorcycle fatalities have decreased 54%. These numbers represent hundreds of lives saved. Zwonechek has not only spent his professional career devoted to making the highways in Nebraska and around the country safer for everyone, it is his personal passion. He could have retired long ago. However, just thinking to him it a few minutes the message is loud and clear, he still has more lives to save.

Congrats Fred Zwonechek, Motor Vehicle Administrator @NebraskaDOT, winner of @AAMVAConnection 2017 Martha Irwin Lifetime Achievement Award!

SCDMV @SC_DMV | View the Tweet

Team #SCDMV is preparing to host @AAMVAConnection R2 conference in 2018 in @MyrtleBeachGov. Dir. Shwedo is the Region 2 president this year.
Forward collision warning sensors can be blocked by ice or snow. Something to keep in mind as winter approaches! https://mycardoeswhat.org/safety-features/forward-collision-warning/

Nate Chute @nchute | View the Tweet

Trying to imagine myself walking into the @INBMV with a softbox and umbrella lighting setup https://petapixel.com/2017/11/02/khloe-kardashian-brings-lighting-dmv-drivers-license-photo/ via @petapixel

VirginiaDMV @VirginiaDMV | View the Tweet

124,000 people are waiting on a life-saving transplant. 3,200 live right here in #Virginia. #SayYes & save lives: http://ow.ly/BUDp304VdYb
In 2016, November had the highest % of crashes and traffic fatalities in Kansas. Slow down. Put the phone down. Buckle up. #ArriveAliveKS

Jeff Davis @SF_JDavis | View the Tweet

Startling! 45% less likely to die if you use the seatbelt! Don’t play the odds with your family. Buck-Up! @NSCsafety

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