AAMVA 2016 Workshop & Law Institute is Less Than Two Weeks Away!

With so many new developments in the field of motor vehicle and law enforcement administration, you’ll want to make sure you attend AAMVA’s 2016 Workshop & Law Institute. You’ve only got a week and a half before this event begins, if you have already registered for the event, make sure you register today! Visit the AAMVA 2016 Workshop & Law Institute Web site for more details.

New DMV Leadership Announced in Wisconsin and Minnesota

Kristina Boardman has been appointed Administrator of the Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles, to replace Patrick Fernan, who is leaving WisDOT to accept a position with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Kristina’s appointment became effective Monday, February 22, 2016. Kristina joined WisDOT in 2005. She has worked in DMV since 2007, most recently as Deputy Administrator. Also in Region III, Dawn Olson has been named the new Director of Driver and Vehicle Services at the Minnesota Department of Motor Vehicles. She will be taking over the role from Pat McCormack who recently retired. Olson’s first day as Director will be February 24, 2016. Congratulations to both Kristina Boardman and Dawn Olson!

Maryland Legislators Look for Distracted Driving Solutions

Despite fines that reach a maximum of $175 for those who use a mobile device while driving, Marylanders just can’t seem to stay off their phones when behind the wheel. Read the full story at TheDailyRecord.com.

Maryland House OKs Barring Confederate Flag License Plate Renewal

The Maryland House has passed a measure prohibiting the transfer or renewal of a license plate depicting the Confederate battle flag to another vehicle. Read the full story at ABCNews.go.com.

Police Push for Tougher Drunken Driving Laws in
Maryland
Maryland law enforcement leaders are urging state lawmakers to expand the use of ignition interlock requirements to help stop drunken driving. They joined police officers on Wednesday who have been injured by drunk drivers to push a group of bills. Read the full story at WTOP.com.

Drunk Driving Laws Could Get Makeover in Massachusetts
Massachusetts drunk driving laws may soon be getting something of a makeover. There is a new bill at the State House that would give first-time offenders a chance to keep legally driving after a DWI conviction, but the registry will be watching. Read the full story at MyFoxBoston.com.

DMV’s New Facial Recognition Software Threatens Fake IDs (New York)
It’s going to get harder to use a fake ID in New York, as the DMV has rolled out improved facial recognition software that can detect subtle scars, hairstyles and glasses to keep people from getting bogus licenses. Read the full story at NYPost.com.

Officers Get Training Aimed at Reducing Traffic Deaths (Pennsylvania)
Training showing police ways to reduce the chances of dying in a traffic-related incident included something as simple as buckling up. For 27-year police veteran Scott Slagle, the message provided during a recent training program in Delmont was preaching to the choir. Read the full story at ReadingEagle.com.

Motorcycle Helmet Bill Stalls in Tennessee Legislature
The bill allowing motorcycle riders 21 and up to ride without helmets was delayed again in a House committee Tuesday evening by the bill’s sponsor, who more or less acknowledged he doesn’t have enough votes in the committee for passage. Read the full story at CommercialAppeal.com.

State DMV Announces Customized Plate Request System Online (West Virginia)
West Virginia residents who want personalized license plates can now search and request a personalized plate online. Read the full story at WVMetroNews.com.

State Stops Sending Notices for Vehicle Renewal Tags (Illinois)
What you don't know, could cost you. Recent reports have attempted to state that Jesse White's Secretary of State Office will no longer send postcards reminding residents that license tags need to be renewed. In many group gatherings recently, an informal poll revealed that most people admit to not knowing a change occurred. Read the full story at ChicagoTribune.com.
Plates
The Minnesota Department of Public Safety confirmed Friday that it is reviewing every personalized license plate issued in the state after it revoked an anti-Muslim plate spotted in St. Cloud that was deemed offensive. A total of 98,565 personalized plates are under review, department spokesman Bruce Gordon said. Read the full story at StarTribune.com.

Bill to Increase Public Safety on Roadways Clears House with Bipartisan Support (Ohio)
State Reps. Jack Cera and John M. Rogers have announced House Bill (HB) 58, legislation to encourage drivers to yield to sanitation and recycling vehicles, passed favorably out of the Ohio House with bipartisan support. Read the full story at GazetteNews.com.

Motor-Vehicle Crash Fatalities Rose in 2015, Preliminary Data Show (Arizona)
The figures remain preliminary, but it’s already clear that motor-vehicle crash fatalities on Arizona roadways increased in 2015 – and that speeding, impaired driving and failure to use seat belts and other restraints contributed significantly. Read the ADOT press release.

ICBC to Launch Organ Donation Pilot Program (British Columbia)
Fifty per cent of British Columbians believe they have registered a decision on organ donation but, in fact, only 20 per cent have. For this reason, ICBC employees at participating driver licensing offices will be encouraging customers to register their decision and share educational information if asked. Read the ICBC press release.

Class Claims California DMV Violates Privacy
California’s Department of Motor Vehicles violates privacy and the state constitution by illegally retaining and reporting confidential criminal history records, six Californians claim in a class action in state court. Read the full story at CourthouseNews.com.

Program for Traffic Fines Offers Amnesty (California)
A statewide amnesty program for overdue traffic fines and non-traffic offenses went into effect in San Diego last October, but court officials say few people have taken advantage of the opportunity. Read the full story at NBCSanDiego.com.

Assemblyman Calls for Fingerprinting of Uber Drivers (California)
The investigation continues into that shooting spree in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where a man shot and killed people in between picking up Uber fares. Meanwhile in California, voters passed Proposition 47, which means those who get non-violent felonies reduced to misdemeanors can apply to drive for Uber. Read the full story at KOGO.com.

Attorney General Laxalt Warns of Ridesharing Investment Scam (Nevada)
Today, Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt and the Department of Motor Vehicles warn consumers to be aware of a new scam targeting those looking to invest in rideshare services. Scammers lead their victims to believe they will profit from purchasing ridesharing vehicles. Read the AG’s press release.

**AAA and Nevada DMV Launch Next-Generation "DMV in a Box"**

The Nevada and AAA announce that two self-service kiosks in AAA offices now accept cash payments. DMV kiosks at two AAA offices have been upgraded to take cash. Previously, the machines were only able to accept credit cards and checks. DMV kiosks are found at six AAA branches across Las Vegas and Reno, and are available to AAA members and non-members. Consumers have been enjoying “DMV in a Box” kiosks at AAA since 2006. View the press release.

**New Mexico Driver's Licenses Fraud Caught**

As New Mexico gets on track to get its driver's licenses compliant with the federal government, fraud has not stopped. This week, six undocumented immigrants living out of state attempted to fraudulently obtain a New Mexico driver’s license. Read the full story at KRQE.com.

**Transgender People in Saskatchewan Celebrate Government ID Change**

Transgender people across the province are celebrating a change in the way gender is presented on government identification in Saskatchewan. Up until now, transgender people had to provide proof of gender reassignment surgery in order to change their gender on government ID. Read the full story at CBC.ca.

**Trillions of Miles! U.S. Sets Driving Record in 2015**

Jobs drive the economy, and workers drive to their jobs. With the country’s unemployment rate now under 5 percent - an eight-year low — and wages rising, Americans are driving more than ever, putting an all-time record of more than 3.1 trillion miles on the national odometer in 2015. Read the full story at Cars.com.

**NOYS Scholarship Challenge: Make a Video, Win a Scholarship, Save a Life**

National Organization for Youth Safety's (NOYS) Project Yellow Light is a scholarship competition designed to bring about change. THigh school juniors and seniors and full-time college students are asked to create a video discouraging their friends from distracted driving - specifically, texting while driving. Winning videos will be aired on television across the nation as Ad Council PSAs. All entries must be received by April 1, 2016. For rules and criteria, visit Project Yellow Light.

**Up to 90 Million More Takata Airbag Inflators May Face U.S. Recalls**

U.S. auto safety regulators are examining whether an additional 70 million to 90 million Takata Corp (7312.T) airbag inflators should be recalled because they may endanger drivers, according to a person with knowledge of the matter. Read the full story at Reuters.com.
New Car Safety App Aims to Curb Unfixed Recalls
It would seem auto recalls are grabbing headlines so often it's hard to keep them straight. But drivers can't afford to tune them out. There are 47 million vehicles on the road right now in the U.S. that have unfixed recalls. Read the full story at WGNTV.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 “Twitter-town talk”. You may be surprised at what you’re missing! Follow @AAMVAConnection. (http://twitter.com/#!/AAMVAConnection)

KDOT @KDOTHQ | View the Tweet
Make it a rule in your family. Always #buckleup and before moving your car, no matter how short or far the drive. #buckleup

National LEL Program @nlelp | View the Tweet
The PEAK Enforcement Kit from @NHTSAgov for the May/June Click It or Ticket mobilization is now available: http://ow.ly/YLs8f

Stop the Texts @StoptheTexts | View the Tweet
Arrive alive or DOA? No text is worth a life. Park the phone and just drive. #StopTheTexts

IDOT Safety @IDOTSafety | View the Tweet
#Teens have the lowest #seatbelt usage rates of any age group, often leading to deadly consequences. Teach your teen to buckle up!

NHTSA @NHTSAgov | View the Tweet
Want to make sure your vehicle is fully compliant with recalls? Check out our Twitter page, specifically for recalls http://www.twitter.com/nhtsarecalls

Albany County DA @AlbanyCountyDA | View the Tweet
Good work by @nysdmv Division of Field Investigations leads to guilty verdict in #Albany County ID theft trial http://goo.gl/cLlMlP

Capgemini | View the Tweet
#Automotive suppliers need new business models to leverage technology concepts such as Industry 4.0 and #IoT. http://ow.ly/YE0gN

La. Highway Safety @LaHighwaySafety | View the Tweet
Why more than 1 million Americans have died in car crashes since 1990 http://wpo.st/pI6G1

NASCIO | View the Tweet
#ICYMI NASCIO ED: ‘A Call to Action: Modernizing State IT #Procurement'
@NASPOnews @iijisinstitute @CntrDigitalGov

What Car? @whatcar View the Tweet
VW emissions: UK Government begins £650k emissions re-testing programme
http://buff.ly/1OA3tuz

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Google Makes The Case For A Hands-Off Approach To Self-Driving Cars
http://www.npr.org/sections/al… (https://t.co/WTuZy5CKQm)

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