Region IV Rep Needed for NMVTIS Law Enforcement Working Group

AAMVA is seeking a volunteer to fill a vacant Region IV Law Enforcement representative position on the NMVTIS Law Enforcement Working Group. The working group works under the direction of the AAMVA Law Enforcement Standing Committee. The Working Group typically meets in-person only once annually, but members are expected to complete occasional assignments between meetings. The purpose of the Working Group is to expand NMVTIS awareness and usage among law enforcement and to improve the NMVTIS Law Enforcement Access Tool (LEAT) in collaboration with the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Administration. If you are a sworn member of a state police/highway patrol agency within AAMVA Region IV, are interested in serving on this working group, and meet the requirements found on the working group application form, complete the application form no later than October 14, 2016, and submit to Dianne Graham at committees@aamva.org.

Come Join Our Team! AAMVA Now Seeking Law Enforcement Program Manager

AAMVA is currently accepting applications for a Law Enforcement Program Manager (LEPM). The LEPM is responsible for the development, monitoring and disseminating information in the broad area of the AAMVA Law Enforcement Program, and more specifically in the areas of DMV Investigations and NMVTIS use by law enforcement. Interested candidates can find a complete position description, and apply for the position online. A member of our internal recruiting staff will follow up with you quickly.

U.S. Congress Passes Continuing Resolution to Avert Federal Government Shutdown

The United States Congress has passed a 10-week continuing resolution (HHR 5325) that will continue funding the federal government through December 9th. Passage of the legislation averts a partial government shutdown that would have occurred as funding authorization expired on September 30th. Major underlying issues of contention that held up passage of the bill included the negotiation of Zika virus funding levels, the inclusion of federal flood relief funding, and the inclusion of relief dedicated to the water contamination crisis in Flint, Michigan. Under the agreement, Senate Democrats have indicated that resources for the Flint water crisis will be included in other legislation prior to the end of this legislative session. The continuing resolution includes $1.1 billion to respond to the Zika virus and $500 million in flood relief for Louisiana and other states. Funding for other federal programs would continue at current levels until the current authorization expires in 10 weeks.
New Laws Impacting Maryland Drivers to Take Effect October 1
A number of motor vehicle laws passed by the Maryland General Assembly during their 2016 session will take effect on Saturday, October 1, 2016. The list of new laws impacting Maryland drivers includes the Drunk Driving Reduction Act of 2016, also known as Noah’s Law, which was signed into law by Governor Larry Hogan on May 19, 2016. Read the MVA press release.

1.5 Million Customers Served -- at Home (New Jersey)
The success of the Christie Administration’s Skip the Trip program continues as the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) hit a milestone -- 1.5 million license renewals completed by mail, contributing to less congestion in traditionally high-volume agencies statewide. Read the MVC press release.

Staten Island DMV Employee Illegally Accessed State Computer to Contact Customer and Ask For a Date (New York)
New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced today the arrest of an employee with the State Department of Motor Vehicles (“DMV”) who improperly accessed State computers to obtain personal information about a DMV customer he saw and wanted to ask out on a date. Read the Inspector General’s press release.

Drug-Impaired Drivers to Face Tougher Penalties in Ontario Starting Oct. 2
The Ontario government announced Wednesday they are introducing tougher penalties for drivers under the influence of drugs — that match the fines already in place for drunk drivers. Read the full story at CBC.ca.

The Texas Voter ID Fight Keeps Getting Weirder
Texas officials have spent years in court fighting to keep their state’s controversial 2011 voter-ID law alive. The law, one of the toughest in the U.S., requires Texans to show some form of government-issued identification at their polling place. Under a court-approved August compromise with the Department of Justice, Texas must allow voters who show up without a driver’s license or other photo ID to sign a sworn affidavit stating that they’d encountered an impediment to obtaining the required documents before Election Day. Read more on bloomberg.com.

Drugs Now the Leading Cause of Fatal Crashes in TN
Drunk driving is no longer the leading cause of fatal crashes in Tennessee as the latest data shows that drugs are playing a bigger role in deadly crashes. Read the full article on wjhl.com.

Chicago Takes Aim at Driverless Cars in Proposed Legislation (Illinois)
If you envision the Chicago of the future, complete with sprawling skyscrapers, delivery drones, and automated cars cruising down brightly-lit streets, you probably aren’t imagining the same city as some of Chicago’s government officials.
These jurisdictions appreciate your assistance with their research. If you need a Web password or have any questions about using the survey tool, please send an e-mail to webportalsupport@aamva.org or call Janice Dluzynski at 703-908-5842. All online surveys can be found on the AAMVA Web site.

In recently-proposed legislation, the city of Chicago may well ban automated vehicles entirely. Read the full story at ReadWrite.com.

Secretary of State Seeks Vendors That Can Deliver on a New Computer System for Driver and Vehicle Files (Michigan)
Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson is seeking a new vendor to build a computer system to replace one that's been in place since the 1960s that serves offices around the state. Read the SOS press release.

Driver With No Hands Reaches Settlement With Wisconsin DOT
A Lawrence University football coach who was born without hands reached a settlement with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation over his treatment as he tried to get a driver's license. Read the full story at WBAY.com.

New Law Says No More Phones in Work Zones (Wisconsin)
Distracted drivers and construction zones, a combination that's proven deadly, but soon a new law in Wisconsin will hopefully put an end to it. Read the full article on wsaw.com.

DMV Partnership Lets Drivers Get Replacement Social Security Cards online (Arizona)
A driver license verification program used by the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division now makes it possible to request Social Security card replacements online through the Social Security website and simplifies the already-existing process of getting a person's identifying information verified when making a major purchase or obtaining a loan. Read the MVD press release.

DUI Offenders in California Will Get Ignition Locks or Restrictions
First-time offenders convicted of driving under the influence in California will face driving restrictions for a year — unless they agree to install breathalyzers in their vehicles to ensure sobriety, under a law signed by Gov. Jerry Brown on Wednesday. When SB1046 kicks in statewide on Jan. 1, 2019, first-time offenders will be restricted mostly to driving only to work and back if they do not agree to install and pay for ignition interlock devices that will monitor their alcohol content over six months. Read the full story at SFGate.com.

DMV Employee in Placentia Convicted of Stealing Car Registration Fees (California)
A California Department of Motor Vehicles employee in Placentia was convicted Tuesday of stealing more than $2,200 through fraudulent vehicle registration transactions, prosecutors said. Read the full story at OCRegister.com.

Uber Begins Testing Self-Driving Cars In San Francisco
After a successful pilot test in Pittsburgh, the self-driving cars by Uber started rolling out in San Francisco, generating amusement and even apprehension among onlookers. Read the full story at Inquisitr.com.

California Expands Restrictions for Phone Use While Driving
No more changing your playlist or checking the directions on your smartphone
while driving. Gov. Jerry Brown on Monday signed Assembly Bill 1785, significantly expanding California’s restrictions on the use of mobile phones behind the wheel. The measure forbids drivers from “holding and operating” their devices for any reason, though it does include an exception for functions that require only “the motion of a single swipe or tap of the driver’s finger,” as long as the phone is mounted on the windshield or dashboard of the car. Read the full story at SacBee.com.

**Californian Becomes Second US Citizen Granted ‘Non-Binary’ Gender Status**

On Monday, in a Santa Cruz courtroom, Sara Kelly Keenan became the second U.S. citizen—and the first California resident—to legally change her gender from female to "non-binary." Keenan followed in the footsteps of Oregon resident Jamie Shupe, who in June became the first person in the U.S. to successfully petition a court to recognize non-binary as a gender identity. Read the full story at NBCNews.com.

**Nevada to Issue First-Ever Autonomous Vehicle Restricted Driver’s License to Quadriplegic Former Racecar Driver Sam Schmidt**

The State of Nevada will issue the nation’s first autonomous vehicle restricted driver’s license on Wednesday, September 28 to Sam Schmidt, a Nevada resident and former Indy Racing League driver who has been paralyzed from the neck down since a racing accident in 2000. Read the DMV press release.

**Oregon DMV Offices Now Accept Debit and Credit Cards**

Oregon - All 60 Oregon DMV field offices are accepting debit and credit card payments now that installation of software, hardware and employee training is finished. Read the full story at KTVZ.com.

**Officials Unveil Special Vehicle for Testing Suspected Drunk Drivers**

State and federal public safety officials unveiled a vehicle Wednesday that’s designed to make roadside testing of drivers suspected of impaired driving safer, faster and easier for law enforcement agencies. Read the full article on Pressherald.com.

**Uber to Move Freight, Target Trucking for the Long Haul**

With its recent acquisition of self-driving truck startup Otto, Uber Technologies Inc. [UBER.UL]is plotting its entry into the long-haul trucking business, aiming to establish itself as a freight hauler and a technology partner for the industry. Read the full story at Reuters.com.

**Uber and Google to Team Up as Tesla Updates to be the Safest**

Researchers with business insider were recently able to take a ride in Uber’s new self-driving car, and they say it's the best yet. Uber unveiled its newest addition on Wednesday to a select few people using Uber services. The cars aren’t fully autonomous, so a driver and engineer are still piloting the vehicle. Read the full story at TheMerkle.com.

**Uber Now Requires Drivers to Take Selfies for Added Security**

Uber announced today that it’ll require drivers to snap selfies before signing on to the platform and accepting ride requests. The new feature, called Real-Time ID
Check, is described as a way to prevent fraud and protects drivers' accounts from being compromised, but some critics say it's an acknowledgement by Uber that some drivers have never undergone background checks. Read the full story at TheVerge.com.

**Insurance Companies Take Cautious Approach to Driverless Cars**

Driverless cars may be the future, but insurance companies still need to assess their risk. According to predictions from American insurance broker Aon Plc — recently quoted in the Washington Post — U.S. auto insurance premiums will drop more than 40% once society fully adopts the use of automated vehicles by 2050. In theory, roads will become safer when computers do the driving. Read the full story at TorontoSun.com.

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**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!***

IBTTA @IBTTA | View the Tweet
Australian pilot project to demonstrate open standard for connected cars
http://buff.ly/2dCJZN2  #transportation

MTO @ONtransport | View the Tweet
Need to install a child car seat or booster seat? Watch our videos to find out how:
https://youtu.be/KJruqVhSprM  #buckleup #SeatbeltSafety

Texas DPS @TxDPS | View the Tweet
Renewing a Texas driver license/ID card? Making an address change? Our online service at http://Texas.gov is fast & convenient!

Matthew W. Daus @Matt_Daus | View the Tweet

@iatrglobal thanks @CA_DMV commish Jean Shiomoto & @NJMVC Chair Ray Martinez & @AAMVAConnection for keynote speeches in @sfgov
Here is a #haiku to feed you some #WednesdayWisdom to not be a distracted driver! #emojis #DontTextandDrive #DriveAlert

WhosYourDriver @_WhosYourDriver | View the Tweet
In 2015 in VA, 4,917 people were injured in alcohol-related traffic crashes. Every single one of those was preventable. #drivesober

GHSA @GHSAHQ | View the Tweet
At a societal cost of $109b/year, drowsy driving needs our attention. @quotewizard covers our report w/ @StateFarm.

Autosinsider @Autosinsider | View the Tweet
Study: Consumers want option to control autonomous cars: KBB Future Autonomous Vehicle Driver Study found fou...