

AAMVA Regional News

September 21, 2012

Tidbits

- Those planning to attend the 2012 **Region III Information Exchange** are requested to make their hotel reservations and register for the conference without delay. The IX will be held on October 23-24 at the St. Louis Airport Marriott. Make your hotel reservations by calling 314-423-9700 or on-line via [AAMVA's Group Reservation Link](#). Our hotel room rate is \$99 / night. The reservations cut-off date is **October 1**, so please don't delay. The conference registration form, agenda, QuickConnect registration form, and more can be found on the [Region III Information Exchange webpage](#)
- The Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles has released a bid announcement for the replacement of Automated Knowledge Testing at 79 of its service centers. Interested parties are encouraged to review the announcement for information on how to prepare and submit a proposal for replacement of the Automated Knowledge Test System used to administer testing to driver license applicants and dealer salesperson licenses by the DMV. The testing software must work seamlessly with Windows 7 and interface with the state's current Customer Flow Management application. Proposals must be accepted by 2:00 PM CST on October 16, 2012. *To read the full RFP and background information, [click here](#).*
- The North Dakota Driver License Division is releasing an RFP for a Digital Driver License and Identification Card System today. The state's current over-the-counter 'instant issue' digital driver licensing system contract is set to expire on June 30, 2013. The state is requesting a turn-key, "instant issue" Digitized Driver's License system for image capture, storage, retrieval and card production based upon a firm, fixed price per driver license, permit, identification card, or badge ID successfully processed. Proposals are due by November 7. *To access the RFP, [click here](#).*
- Congratulations to 17 members of the Wisconsin State Patrol who received awards this week for courageous actions and exceptional service. *Read about their impressive actions.*

www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news

Region I News

DMV is Making it Easier to Register a Vehicle; Registration Form Used for More Than 75 Years Now Online *(Connecticut)*

DMV is now making it easier to register a vehicle by giving customers a form online that was once only mailed to them or filled out at a branch office. Nearly one million DMV transactions per year require a registration form that asks for details about a vehicle's make, model, owner and other identifying information. Most registration services, including first-time registrations, temporary registrations, transfer of vehicles between owners, and new titles, use it. Customers can also now complete the form online and bring a printed copy to DMV. The once three-part form, now trimmed to one page, was posted on the DMV website (ct.gov/dmv) Wednesday. Nearly 300 downloads of the form have occurred since it was first posted. This streamlining is another significant step in making DMV simpler and more easy to deal with, both important goals in cutting bureaucracy, modernizing the agency and improving customer service. DMV is currently undergoing a multi-million dollar change in how its computers work together with the aim of making it easy for customers to do a number of online services with DMV. It is designed to streamline DMV's electronic files so that customers can be served more quickly when doing business with the agency. [Read the DMV press release.](#)

DMV Streamlines Licensing Process for Veterans *(New Hampshire)*

The New Hampshire DMV is launching a new program to help veterans skilled in the operation of heavy vehicles obtain commercial driver licenses. DMV officials say they are prepared to waive the commercial driver license road test for veterans trained in the operation of heavy vehicles. They say this save the veterans the cost of renting

commercial vehicles for the skills road test. Veterans would still have to pass the written exam. Veterans must be on active duty or be within 180 days of discharge to qualify. Those with alcohol-related or major driving offenses within the past two years would be disqualified. DMV Director Richard Bailey Jr. says the "Troops to Trucks" program will allow veterans to put their military skills to work in civilian life. [Read the full story at Boston.com.](#)

DMV Data Show 4.5% of NY Drivers over 80 Involved in 2% of Accidents Statewide *(New York)*

Of New York's 11.2 million licensed drivers, 4.5%, or 500,000, were over the age of 80 last year. That group was involved in only 2% or 11,000 of accidents statewide the year before, though they did make up 5% of the drivers in fatal crashes. More older drivers are on the road than ever before, and a review by The Associated Press found they face a hodgepodge of state licensing laws that reflect scientific uncertainty and public angst over a growing question: How can we tell if it's time to give up the keys? New York licenses, valid up to eight years, have no special blanket conditions for seniors. A vision test is required for renewals and the DMV can, on "reasonable grounds," re-evaluate drivers whose skills and abilities are in doubt. [Read the story on-line in The Republic.](#)

Brooklyn's N&Y Professional Driving School Helped Applicants Pull off A Truckload Of Cheating *(New York)*

THE OWNERS of a Brooklyn driving school pleaded guilty Wednesday to using a James Bond-like approach to help hundreds of non-English-speaking applicants cheat to get a truck driver's license. Philip Ng and his wife Pui Ng admitted they hid video cameras on students' clothing before sending them in for the written exam. The cameras transmitted images of the test — and the Ngs, waiting in a minivan outside the motor vehicle office, would send the correct answer via beeper. Federal prosecutors alleged that about 500 test-takers received licenses to drive buses and big rigs through the fraud. One driver linked to the "school" was behind the wheel of tour bus bound for Chinatown that crashed in Virginia last year killing four people. A spokeswoman for the DMV said 174 commercial driver's license holders who had used the Ngs' school, N & Y Professional Driving, were notified to schedule a retest or their license would be suspended. It is not clear how many passed. Philip Ng faces up to 87 months in prison and Pui Ng 30 . The scheme unraveled when a Mandarin-speaking federal agent posed as a customer and learned about Philip Ng's high-tech alternative to studying. [Read the full story at NYDailyNews.com.](#)

Pennsylvania State Police Team Up with Campus Authorities to Target Underage Drinking

Local and Pennsylvania state police are targeting area college campuses in an effort to discourage alcohol consumption among those under 21. Officers plan to meet with campus administrators and law enforcement in several counties to help reduce and preempt alcohol-related problems at colleges, universities and surrounding areas. As part of the initiative, police will also meet with local alcohol distributors to increase awareness and combat sales of alcohol to minors. Police remind residents of the following violations and consequences: Underage drinking: \$300 maximum fine, up to 90 days imprisonment. Misrepresenting age, false ID: First offense, driving privileges suspended for 90 days; second offense, one year; third offense, two years. Supplying alcohol to minors: First offense, minimum fine of \$1,000; second and subsequent offenses, \$2,500. [Read the full story at Lehigh Valley Live.](#)

State's High Court Asks Lower Court Judge to Review Voter ID Law *(Pennsylvania)*

Pennsylvania's highest court on Tuesday told a lower court judge to stop a tough new law requiring voters to show photo identification from taking effect in this year's presidential election if he finds voters cannot easily get ID cards or if he thinks they will be disenfranchised. The 4-2 decision by the state Supreme Court sends the case back to a Commonwealth Court judge who initially said the divisive law could go forward. The high court asked the judge for his opinion by Oct. 2. If Simpson finds there will be no voter disenfranchisement and that IDs are easily obtained, then the 6-month-old law can stand, the Supreme Court said. [Read the full story in DailyItem.com.](#)

Region II News

Florida Highway Patrol Graduates 56 Troopers

Fifty-six recruits from the 122nd Basic Recruit Class graduated from the Florida Highway Patrol Academy this week. Family and friends gathered to celebrate the momentous accomplishment that marks the conclusion of a rigorous 28-week training program that prepares recruits for a career as a Florida State Trooper and instills the Patrol's core

values of courtesy, service and protection. During their time at the academy, recruits volunteered in the evenings and weekends at events to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House. They assisted with a fundraiser for Pyramid, Inc., an organization that provides workforce, lifestyle programs for developmentally disabled adults, and with whom the academy has developed a special relationship. The recruits also participated in three blood drives for the Southeastern Community Blood Center, all while learning how to be the kind of public servant Florida needs and deserves. [Read the DHSMV press release.](#)

DMV Offers Road Test Appointments Statewide (South Carolina)

The South Carolina DMV is now scheduling road tests by appointment statewide for Class D passenger and Class M motorcycle licenses. Appointments will be available Monday through Friday, 2:00-4:30 p.m. in all offices beginning September 24. Road tests are the most time-consuming transactions in DMV offices and they are trying to get ahead of the problem and make it more convenient for customers. To make an appointment, customers may call the office and leave a voice-mail message with their name and phone number. DMV staff will return their call within one business day. DMV will accept walk-in customers from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. However, during the afternoon hours, 2:00-4:30 p.m., DMV will not accept walk-in road test applicants unless the office has a cancellation. Customers who arrive late 10 minutes or more for an appointment could lose their scheduled appointment time to a walk-in customer.

Region III News

Lawmaker Wants Appropriate Plate-Proceed Spending (Indiana)

More oversight of Indiana's specialty license plates is needed to ensure that the groups who benefit spend the money appropriately, the chairman of a legislative panel reviewing the plates said. The plates imply a state endorsement of those groups, said Rep. Ed. Soliday. Soliday, chairman of the House Transportation Committee, is leading a panel of state lawmakers reviewing whether Indiana should keep, reduce or eliminate its group license plate program and looking at who should decide whether a group gets a plate. Until this year, the BMV typically issued a specialty license plate once 500 motorists had pledged to buy it. Indiana has issued some 459,000 "group" license plates in more than 85 different designs supporting universities, community organizations and other causes. However, after the BMV in January issued a plate for Indiana Youth Group, an Indianapolis-based gay rights organization, the Republican-controlled General Assembly enacted a law imposing a moratorium on new plates until July 2013. Meanwhile, several conservative lawmakers worked behind the scenes to revoke the gay group's plate on a technicality that also canceled the plate supporting Indiana 4-H. Oversight legislation that Soliday sponsored earlier this year was rewritten for the moratorium. He now plans to sponsor a bill when the General Assembly reconvenes in January that outlines the best process for issuing specialty plates and ensuring appropriate spending. Most of the specialty plates cost an extra \$40, with \$25 going to the cause. Leaders of several of those groups told the study committee this month that any effort to limit or terminate the specialty plate program would hurt their budgets because license plate sales are an essential component of their fundraising programs. Some lawmakers believe the General Assembly, not the BMV, should decide which causes get specialty. However, one Senator said putting the Legislature in charge will all but ensure partisan politics determines whether a group license plate is issued. [Read the full story at Pal-Item.com.](#)

Interlock Device Use on the Rise (Nebraska)

A new state law appears to be steering more drunken driving offenders into a program in which they can hang onto their keys. Local usage of ignition interlock devices, which allow offenders to continue to drive to work, school and probation meetings only if they drive sober, has nearly doubled through the first eight months of this year. The DMV reports that ignition interlock permits issued in Platte County increased from 35 through the first eight months of 2011 to 63 through August of this year. The new law (LB 667) has helped drive more offenders to ask for installation of an ignition interlock device and stay on the road, avoiding an administrative license revocation hearing before the DMV that can stretch out DUI cases for months or a year. The new law forces most people convicted of first- and second-offense DUI to have an interlock device installed. The Lincoln Journal Star reported recently that the state overall is on pace to increase the number of ignition interlock devices in DUI cases by 20% this year. If an offender doesn't seek an IIP and loses a subsequent administrative license revocation hearing decision, they are not eligible for an ignition interlock and must await the outcome of their DUI case in criminal

court before being allowed back behind the wheel. The DMV has averaged about an 85% conviction rate at ALR hearings. Meanwhile, the new ALR program has lopped off costs for the DMV, law enforcement and the courts. So far, the DMV's numbers back up the intent of the law to streamline the agency's ALR process and slash costs. The number of ALR hearings have "dramatically" declined by about 90%. The number of ALR decisions appealed to county district courts have also tumbled, from an average of about 400 annually to eight this year. [Read the full story in the Columbus Telegram.](#)

Region IV News

California Launches Online Voter Registration *(California)*

Californians can register to vote with the click of a mouse in a new online system launched Wednesday. Secretary of State Debra Bowen said she hopes making the process easier will mean more participation in the Nov. 6 election. Some 6.5 million Californians who are eligible to vote are not registered, she said. "Today, the Internet replaces the mailbox for thousands of Californians wishing to register to vote," Bowen said at a Sacramento news conference. The new system could shave a week or more from the paper process. Until now, every would-be voter had to fill out an application, sign it in paper form and mail or deliver it to elections officials before being added to the voter rolls. The online system will search the DMV database for the applicant's driver's license and other identifying information and match it to the electronic form. The potential voters can authorize elections officials to use an electronic image of their DMV signature to complete the application. County elections officials would still need to verify the information, though, and those without driver's licenses or state identification cards must still register on paper. But the new system is not without its risks, including the possibility - common to many computer systems - that someone might hack it. The new system relies on the same tough security measures already in place for those who register to vote on paper. [Read the full story in the Los Angeles Times.](#)

Probation Officers Keep DUI Offenders in Check *(Montana)*

When you're arrested for a driving under the influence, the consequences don't end with jail time. Every year, local law enforcement agencies receive a \$5,000 contract from the Montana DUI Task Force and DOT to cut down on DUI's. The funds are used to pay probation officers to visit people who are on probation at their homes. They also do bar checks to make sure DUI offenders aren't drinking. Breathalyzer tests are given to offenders who are caught drinking. A 4th DUI is treated as a felony. That individual then receives a sentence of 13 months at the Department of Corrections. If the offender completes six months at the Warm Springs Addiction Treatment and Change Program, or WATCH, then the rest of the 13 month jail sentence is suspended. Felony DUI offenders can receive up to five years of probation after the 13-month period. The Department of Corrections currently supervises 137 felony DUI offenders. [Read the full story at ABCMontana.com.](#)

Campaign Aims to Curb Texting While Driving *(Nevada)*

AT&T is kicking off its "It Can Wait" campaign, which aims to prevent people from texting while driving. The campaign includes social media, tool kits and simulators to show how dangerous texting and driving is. Nevada Highway Patrol and DOT are also part of the effort. The new campaign coincides with NHP's "Zero Fatalities" effort. NDOT will broadcast messages on its electronic billboards that remind people not to text and drive. Organizers say the message is clear. Texting while driving is as unacceptable as drinking and driving. The few seconds it takes to look away at a text can mean the difference between life and death. Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval signed a proclamation declaring September 19th No Texting While Driving Day. He says it's an opportunity for the entire state of Nevada to show its support for this program. [Read the full story at 8NewsNow.com.](#)

Court Ruling Orders Interlocks for Drug-Impaired Drivers *(New Mexico)*

People convicted of driving under the influence of prescription or illegal drugs must have an ignition interlock installed on their vehicles as required by New Mexico's drunken driving law, although the devices don't detect the use of drugs, the state Court of Appeals has ruled. The court's precedent-setting ruling overturned a decision last year by a district judge in Santa Fe who determined that the ignition interlock requirement was unconstitutional for someone whose impairment was caused by drugs rather than alcohol. An interlock can only detect the presence of alcohol. Drivers must blow into the devices, which prevent a vehicle from starting or continuing to operate if someone has been drinking and their blood alcohol level exceeds a certain amount. New Mexico has required

ignition interlocks for anyone convicted of DWI since 2005. The court's ruling came Wednesday in the case of a woman arrested in 2009 for driving under the influence of drugs. A blood test found the presence of the prescription painkiller oxycodone as well as a sedative, which as a brand name drug is called Valium. The woman, Tara Valdez, pleaded guilty to a first-time DWI offense but challenged the requirement to have an ignition interlock. Her lawyer plans to ask the state Supreme Court to review the case. The Appeals Court concluded there was no violation of state and federal constitutional equal protection guarantees. The ignition interlock requirement, the court said, is rationally related to the goal of the Legislature in protecting the public from motorists unable to drive safely because of drugs or alcohol. [Read the full story at The Pew.](#)

No Quarters? No Credit Card? No Problem! Just Use Your Mobile Phone, Parking App (Utah)

With no public fanfare, Salt Lake City has just taken a big step into a possible cash-free world. When drivers pay for parking downtown, they no longer need coins or even a credit card in their pocket. A smart phone will do, or even a dumb one. The public will notice a very streamlined way to pay for parking. City officials haven't announced the system yet because they're still testing it. But technologically savvy drivers have already started downloading and using a phone app called "Quick Pay." The app is a new way to pay for on-street parking at spaces in downtown Salt Lake City that formerly had parking meters. Salt Lake City pays a portion of each parking fee to owners of Quick Pay, but there is no additional cost to drivers. The city is using feedback from early users to troubleshoot and refine the system. Testing is "going quite well" and roll-out of the new system is expected in about a week. [Read the full story in Deseret News.](#)

DOL Makes Managing Driver and Vehicle Licenses Easier (Washington)

The Department of Licensing has introduced a fast, easy way to manage your driver license and all of your vehicle, trailer and boat licenses in one secure online service called License Express. This new service allows people to take care of all of the most common DOL license transactions like renewals and address changes. It also makes it easy to take care of many less common tasks like ordering a duplicate driver license or ID card, signing up for email renewal reminders, ordering copies of your driving record and report the sale of vehicles or boats. License Express is like having a DOL office at home. License Express ties together DOL's most popular online services that, individually, have been used more than 2.5 million times by customers wanting to skip a trip to an office. DOL plans to keep improving this new service over time and adding more features to make it even more useful and save DOL customers more time. License Express takes advantage of a highly secure login process through the state's Secure Access Washington service to safeguard personal information. [Read the DOL press release.](#)

Other New of Interest

The FY 2013 Commercial Driver's License Program Implementation (CDLPI) grant opportunity is available on Grants.gov. The opportunity can be found at [grants.gov](#). The CFDA number is 20.232 and the title is "FY 2013 Commercial Driver's License Program Implementation Grants Notice of Funding Availability". The opportunity number is FM-CDL-13-001 and the Competition ID is FM-CDL-13-001-015751. All CDLPI applications must be submitted through Grants.gov by 11:59 P.M. (Eastern Time) on November 13, 2012. It is critical that states submitting a grant request read the NOFAs before preparing the applications for submission. The administrative requirements associated with submitting the grant applications are indicated in each NOFA (ex.: required forms, certifications, etc.). Timely submission of these required documents will help expedite the review and recommendation process.

Teens Are Learning Distracted Driving Habits from Their Parents

Teenage drivers, no survivors. Turns out, teenagers learn most of their bad habits from their parents. So that kid you think is completely ignoring you? She's secretly memorizing your every move to copy later, says a survey from SADD. According to SADD, a survey of 1,700 11th and 12th graders in school found that those teenagers often witness frequent, dangerous driving behavior on the part of their parents. Further, those teens then often mimic those bad practices and may even use many of the same justifications for doing so that their parents might. According to the survey, 91% of parents were observed talking on their mobiles while driving and 90% of the teens surveyed admitted to doing the same. 88% of parents



are seen speeding and 94% of teens do so. Texting is where the real age divide comes into play, however, with a mere 59% of parents doing it while 78% of teens do. Finally, 47% of parents and 33% of teens drive with no seatbelt, 20% and 15% of parents and teens respectively drive after drinking, and 7% versus 16% (another age divide) drive after smoking marijuana. The best teacher for a teen driver is a good parental role model Full survey details and information available at SADD.org. [Read the full story at TorqueNews.com](http://TorqueNews.com).

You Won't Need a Driver's License by 2040

The timeline for autonomous cars hitting the road en masse keeps getting closer. GM's Cadillac division expects to produce partially autonomous cars at a large scale by 2015, and the automaker also predicts it will have fully autonomous cars available by the end of the decade. Audi and BMW have also shown self-driving car concepts, with the former working with Stanford to pilot a modified TT up Pikes Peak. Meanwhile, Google is ripping along at its own rapid pace with a fleet of fully autonomous Toyota Prius hybrids that have logged over 300,000 miles. And the company has pushed through legislation that legalizes self-driving cars in Nevada. California is close behind, and Google has also been busy lobbying joyriding lawmakers in Washington, D.C. But while we know that robo-cars are coming, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) recently released predictions that autonomous cars will account for up to 75% of vehicles on the road by the year 2040. The organization went even further, forecasting how infrastructure, society and attitudes could change when self-driving cars become the norm around the middle of the century. IEEE envisions an absence of traffic signs and lights since highly evolved, self-driving cars won't need them, and it believes that full deployment could even eliminate the need for driver's licenses. [Read the rest of the story at Wired.com](http://Wired.com).

Did you know . . .

- *Armored knights raised their visors to identify themselves when they rode past their king. This custom has become the modern military salute.*
- *Fourteenth century physicians didn't know what caused the plague, but they knew it was contagious. As a result they wore an early kind of bioprotective suit which included a large beaked head piece. The beak of the head piece, which made them look like large birds, was filled with vinegar, sweet oils and other strong smelling compounds to counteract the stench of the dead and dying plague victims.*
- *The shortest war on record was fought between Zanzibar and England in 1896. Zanzibar surrendered after 38 minutes.*