

Regional News – April 12, 2013

Tidbits

Region IV Conference Registration Now Open; Make Plans to Attend

Registration for the 2013 Region IV conference is now available at <http://www.aamva.org/2013-Region-IV-Conference/>. Registrations received by May 15 are eligible the early rate of \$250. We will be meeting at the Omni Interlocken in Broomfield Colorado from June 24-27. Our conference rate is \$128 / night. You can make reservations by calling the Omni at (303) 438-6600 or on-line [here](#). The Committees are working on a jam packed agenda that will cover topics such as Sovereign Citizens, Delivering an Effective Dealer Management/Oversight Program, DACA and the Move Towards Two-Tier Driver Licensing, How to Walk on the Cloud Without Falling Through, Legal Marijuana - The Next National Trend and the Effects on Highway Safety, E Titling from the Jurisdictions Perspective, Are You Brave Enough for System Redesign?, Autonomous Vehicles, Best Practices to Reducing Suspended Drivers, CDL Update, and much much more. Don't miss the opportunity to network with your counterparts and share successes and challenges and to learn what new tools industry can provide to help you in your mission. Contact Sheila Prior at sprior@aamva.org or 480-275-4584 if you have questions or need more information.

Registration Now Open for Region II Conference: Hope to See You There!

Registration for the 2013 Region II conference is now available at <http://www.aamva.org/2013-Region-II-Conference/>. The conference will be held at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis in Atlanta, Georgia June 9-13. Planning details can be found on the website and the Committees have put together an excellent program with an agenda that will cover a wide range of topics. Sessions will include topics such as Changes that Improved Customer Service, Inter-agency Use of Facial Recognition, Wireless Roadside Inspection Technology, Unconventional Vehicles and Licensing, Emergency Contact Information, System Modernization, News from our Federal Partners, State-to-State and DIVS Update, E-Titling from the Jurisdictions Perspective, What is MAP21 and How Does it Affect My Agency, and several breakout sessions that delve into driver licensing, vehicle registration and titling, and law enforcement subjects in detail. Take advantage of an opportunity to network with your peers, share challenges and opportunities, and to learn how industry solutions can help you address your challenges. Visit the site or contact Patrice Aasmo at paasmo@aamva.org or 571-435-2861 if you need additional information.

Apply Now for the Martha Irwin Award for Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety

The Martha Irwin Award for Lifetime Achievement in Highway Safety is presented annually to an AAMVA member jurisdiction employee, or other individual whose primary function is directly associated with highway and traffic safety efforts.

Nomination Guidelines:

- AAMVA member jurisdiction employees, or other individuals whose primary function is motor vehicle or highway safety, are eligible.
- Interested jurisdictional members are encouraged to submit nominations to their chief motor vehicle or chief law enforcement administrator who will then submit one nominee per jurisdictional agency to AAMVA Director of Law Enforcement Brian Ursino at bursino@aamva.org.

[Click here for the 2013 Martha Irwin Award nomination form.](#) Nominations must be received by April 30, 2013. For more information, contact [Brian Ursino](#) via email or at 703-350-5103.

2013 Standing Committee Vacancies

Each of AAMVA's three standing committees have vacancies beginning September 2013. If you are interested in applying for membership, please download the Committee Member Application.

- The Driver Standing Committee is seeking an information technology representative and a public affairs and consumer education (PACE) representative from any of AAMVA's four regions.
- The Enforcement Standing Committee is seeking two law enforcement representatives - one from Region I and one from Region III. These applicants must be sworn law enforcement officers.
- The Vehicle Standing Committee is seeking an information technology representative and a public affairs and consumer education (PACE) representative from any of AAMVA's four regions. The Vehicle Standing Committee is also seeking a vehicle representative from Region III.

All terms are for two years beginning September 2013 and ending August 2015. Download the [Committee Member Application](#). Applications must be received by **August 1, 2013**. If you have questions, please contact Dianne Graham, director, Member & Conference Services via email dgraham@aamva.org or phone (703) 908-8267. For more information, see <http://www.aamva.org/Committees-and-Working-Groups/>.

Region I News

DMV Adds Wireless Internet Access for Customers (Connecticut)

DMV is going wireless -- pay your bills, read email or surf the web on your smartphone, tablet or laptop. Customers in the DMV Wethersfield office can stay wirelessly connected through free access. The service will soon be brought to other DMV offices around the state. "Having wireless service gives our customers another way to multi-task while here for a DMV transaction," said DMV Commissioner Melody A. Currey. "Wireless internet access recognizes a growing form of customer service as the use of tablets and smartphones increase." Forrester Research, in a report last year on technology uses, found that about half of U.S. adults going online now own a smartphone and two-thirds even own multiple connected devices. Tablet adoption doubled since 2011 and is now at 19 percent. It also looked at how many adults go online at least daily. Last year that number was 78 percent of U.S. adults, this year it jumped to 84 percent going online at least once per day, according to Forrester. One reason focuses in the growing numbers of smartphones and tablets. [Read the full article at ct.gov.](#)

Maryland Strengthens Distracted Driving Law

Maryland lawmakers have strengthened distracted driving laws. The General Assembly passed a measure on Monday to make talking on a handheld cellphone while driving a vehicle a primary offense. Under the bill, a police officer could pull over a driver for talking on a handheld while the vehicle is in motion. A driver who is talking on a handheld cellphone at a red light when the vehicle isn't moving could not be ticketed. Currently, a driver who is talking on a cell phone while driving can only be ticketed if he has been pulled over for another violation. The first offense would be punishable by up to a \$75 fine. A second offense could bring a ticket of up to \$125, and a third could result in a \$175 fine. [Read the full article at wtop.com](#)

Maryland Penalties for Toll Cheats to Increase

Motorists who drive through E-ZPass lanes at Maryland toll plazas without an E-ZPass transponder soon could have their vehicle registrations flagged for nonrenewal and possibly suspended if they don't pay the tolls by mail. Legislation that passed the Maryland General Assembly on Friday allows the state to issue \$50 civil citations for toll bills unpaid after 30 days. Refusal to pay the citation or contest it in District Court would result in the vehicle's registration being flagged for nonrenewal until the debt is

paid. After multiple violations, the registration would be suspended, which would allow police to impound the vehicle, state tolling officials said. [Read the full article in the Washington Post.](#)

Teen Driver Deaths Drop During First Year of Tougher Pennsylvania Law

While overall highway deaths increased in Pennsylvania last year, teen driver fatalities decreased during what was the first full year of a tougher state law that set passenger limitations and expanded training hours for teen drivers. Pennsylvania's 16- and 17-year-old driver fatalities dropped to 44 last year, 22 fewer than in 2011, according to crash data released by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. During 2012, distracted driver fatalities also dropped to 57, two fewer than the previous year. Furthermore, PennDOT reported 1,096 crashes involving cell phones in 2012, compared to 1,152 crashes in 2011. Pennsylvania's law banning texting while driving took effect March 8, 2012. [Read the full article in the Montgomery News.](#)

Region II News

Department of Driver Services (DDS) Offers Tips for Better Service (Georgia)

Department of Driver Services (DDS) offers this important reminder about new documentation requirements when renewing or obtaining a new Georgia driver's license or ID card. Customers can expect to present documentation to establish identity, a name change, citizenship or lawful presence in the United States, a Social Security number, and two documents to prove their residential address. "The DDS is committed to issuing a REAL ID compliant driver's license or State Identification Card to customers on their first visit to a customer service center (CSC)," said DDS Commissioner Rob Mikell. "We will continue to evaluate customer feedback and data analysis to make adjustments to our operating procedures to meet increasing demands and ultimately improve customer service," he added. DDS is particularly focused on ensuring that each customer brings two proofs of their residential address along with their identity and social security number documentation. Statistics reveal that the majority of return customer visits are to present a secondary proof of their residential address. [For more information, visit http://www.dds.ga.gov/.](http://www.dds.ga.gov/)

Senate OKs Hiking Maximum North Carolina Speed Limit to 75MPH

An effort to raise the maximum possible speed limit on North Carolina roads to 75 mph has raced through the state Senate. The chamber voted overwhelmingly Thursday to give the state Department of Transportation authority to set speed limits that high for some interstates and other limited-access highways. The bill now goes to the House. The bill received little debate - only bill sponsor Sen. Neal Hunt of Raleigh spoke. Only Sen. Dan Blue of Raleigh voted no. He said later he wanted more information about how DOT would decide which roads qualify for higher speeds. [Read the full article in the News Observer](#)

DMV Examines Signature Policy After Complaint (West Virginia)

While going to the DMV is typically seen as a hassle, the task was increasingly stressful for one Eastern Panhandle resident. After getting her replacement driver's license last week, Carrie Montero, of Martinsburg, was contacted by the Division of Motor Vehicles in Charleston regarding her signature. Montero said she was told they could not accept her signature, because she signs her name with two initials followed by her last name. "As of 2012, the law states you have to have your signature spelled out the way it is on your driver's license," Montero said a supervisor told her. "I wouldn't even have room on my license, because my name is so long." [Read the full article in the Journal-News.](#)

Region III News

Bill Would Up Requirements for Teen Drivers (Illinois)

Would-be motorists ages 18 to 20 will have to take adult driver education courses online if they have never taken related courses before under a measure the Illinois House approved Tuesday. Many young drivers wait until they turn 18 to get their licenses to avoid taking classes, exploiting what supporters of the legislation see as a loophole in the state's graduated driving program. Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White wants the bill to change that. Last year there were 31,979 driver's licenses issued to residents ages 18 to 20, of whom more than 16,000 did not take courses, according to White's office. Applicants with no training would be required to take a six-hour course on such topics as drug and alcohol awareness, traffic laws, signage and texting while driving. Under the current program, teens can obtain their permit at 15 and their driver's licenses at 16 if a parent or guardian certifies that they have driven a minimum 50 hours, with a minimum 10 hours of practice driving at night. [Read the full article in the Chicago Tribune.](#)

Kansas Honored for Driver's Licenses

A national group is praising new features in Kansas driver's licenses as a model for protection against fraud. Brian Zimmer, president of the Coalition for a Secure Driver's License, presented an award Wednesday to officials of the Kansas Division of Vehicles. The Washington-based nonprofit organization praised the Kansas cards for their design and security measures. The changes went into effect in October and include features that make the licenses difficult to counterfeit. They include special holograms, ultra-violet images on the front and back and raised printing. [Read the full article in the Topeka Capital-Journal.](#)

Pure Michigan License Plates Unveiled Today

Michigan's new license plates feature the "Pure Michigan" tourism logo. One of the plates unveiled today will gradually replace the state's standard white-and-blue license plate. The color remains the same. The cost of getting an original plate won't change, though drivers can replace their current plate with the standard Pure Michigan plate for \$5. The "Pure Michigan" brand also is being added to personalized, veteran and fundraising plates that cost more than regular vehicle registration fees. [Read the full article in the Detroit Free Press.](#)

Missouri Officials Defend Licensing Policy to Senators

The head of Missouri's driver's license agency declined Wednesday to stop making copies of applicants' concealed-gun permits while being quizzed by senators concerned that the new licensing process may infringe on people's privacy. During a tense Senate committee hearing, state licensing officials repeatedly denied that they were trying to comply with a federal proof-of-identity law by scanning applicants' personal documents such as birth certificates and concealed weapons permits into an electronic database. Yet they also were reluctant to halt the practice, explaining that it helps protect against fraud. [Read the full article in the San Francisco Chronicle.](#)

Nebraska Lawmakers Debate Bill to Create New DMV Fee

Several Nebraska lawmakers criticized a bill that would replace state park permits with a \$7 vehicle registration fee to help pay for park maintenance. Sen. Annette Dubas of Fullerton led a filibuster against the measure Wednesday. She says drivers shouldn't be charged more money to register their vehicles. Several other senators say the fee would be a burden to the poor. The bill would provide the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission about \$12 million annually to help cover \$43 million in deferred maintenance costs. It would make state parks more accessible to people with disabilities. [Read the full article on kcautv.com.](#)

Ohio Bureau Of Motor Vehicles To Issue First Ohio Pride License Plate

Beginning Monday, April 15, 2013, Ohio will offer a new standard license plate design, proudly called Ohio Pride. The name Ohio Pride was selected to culminate the celebration of what makes Ohio unique. This plate displays in the background 46 slogans describing what makes Ohio a great state. The selection of slogans was a collaborative effort of Ohio residents submitting votes and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles tallying the votes to provide the most popular slogans. Upon the final selection of slogans, Governor Kasich connected with Columbus College of Art and Design students to design the plate. Their artistic ability gave us a design which is distinctive to Ohio. [Read the full article on *publicsafety.ohio.gov*.](#)

Immigrants Allowed Ohio Driver's Licenses

The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles is to begin issuing temporary driver licenses to immigrants who qualify for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Ohio is the 38th state to issue driver's licenses to deferred-action grantees. It is the only state to say licenses only will be granted after the applicant's immigration documents have been confirmed through a federal database. All bureaus of motor vehicle offices in Ohio are required to begin issuing the licenses immediately to qualified candidates. The policy change was announced March 29. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals provides temporary work authorization and temporary legal presence for people who came to the United States before their 16th birthdays. [Read the full article in the *Toledo Blade*.](#)

Region IV News

Bill Would Apply Immigration Status to Alaska Drivers Licenses

A bill that asks Alaska driver's license clerks to determine how long a non-citizen is allowed to remain in the country passed its only Senate committee last week and appears headed for a floor vote. House Bill 1 has already passed the House and has gotten strong support from a Homeland Security official in Anchorage. But a leading Anchorage immigration attorney, Margaret Stock, says it improperly thrusts the state into the business of enforcing federal immigration law and would likely fail if challenged in court. The bill, introduced before the session began by Rep. Bob Lynn, a Republican from the Anchorage Hillside who chairs the House State Affairs Committee, changes the duration of an Alaska driver's license to match the expiration date of a resident alien's documentation. A noncitizen with documentation allowing for an indefinite stay in the United States can get a one-year license that can be renewed at state expense every year for up to five years. [Read the full article in the *Anchorage Daily News*.](#)

With 26 Million YouTube Hits, DMV Wins Computerworld Award for Social Media Outreach (California)

Named this week as a 2013 Computerworld Honors Laureate, the California DMV was recognized for its visionary use of IT to promote "social, economic and educational change," according to a press release. The DMV was recognized as a Laureate in the Innovation category, which recognizes design and development of products that advance IT. The department has been progressive with its push into social media, particularly for its high-volume Twitter account and for more than 100 driver-training and informational videos on its YouTube channel, which has received 26 million views, according to the announcement. [Read the full article on *techwire.net*](#)

10 Million Californians Say "Yes!" to Organ Donation

Donate Life California and the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) announced today a new record: TEN MILLION Californians have signed up as organ and tissue donors through the state's Donate Life California Organ and Tissue Donor Registry, the largest in the country. "We celebrate this amazing

achievement, but we have more work to do in order to save lives. Currently, only one out of every three eligible adults checks 'Yes' at the DMV because too many people rule themselves out. We want everyone to say 'Yes' to donation!" said Lisa Stocks, Donate Life California Board President. The continuing influx of new signups on the registry is due primarily to donation education and the convenience of signing up at the DMV. As of July 1, 2011, it became mandatory for all Californians to check one of two boxes on their driver license or I.D. card application or renewal to indicate their commitment to donation. As a result of the Donate Life California and DMV partnership, 94 percent of the state's 10 million registered donors have come through the DMV. [Read the full article on dmv.ca.gov.](#)

Smartphone Maps While Driving Banned In California

In January 2012, Steve R. Spriggs was cited for violating California code 23123. That code reads, "A person shall not drive a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone unless that telephone is specifically designed and configured to allow hands-free listening and talking, and is used in that manner while driving." Spriggs wasn't talking on his telephone, however. Nor was he sending text messages, surfing the Internet or reading email. Instead, he was using it as a GPS device for navigation purposes. According to the officer who cited Spriggs, he was holding the smartphone in his hand while driving and navigating. The facts in the case are not in dispute. Spriggs was indeed holding his wireless telephone and using it while driving. Spriggs argued that the way the law is written implies only talking/listening are forbidden, and other activities, such as navigating, are not. The appeals court didn't see it that way. Its new interpretation of the existing law more or less outlaws practically all possible uses of wireless telephones in the state of California while driving a motor vehicle -- including the use of smartphones as navigation devices. But there is some leeway. The existing code, as written, implies that wireless telephones can still be used as navigation devices with hands-free listening configurations. [Read the full article on informationweek.com](#)

Colorado Immigrant Driver's License Bill Gets 1st OK

A proposal to grant Colorado driver's licenses to people in the country illegally got initial approval in a Senate committee Wednesday, marking a shift in a state that seven years ago passed strict enforcement laws. The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on a 3-2 party-line vote, with Democrats in favor. The proposal still needs to be approved by the full Senate. Democratic Sen. Jessie Ulibarri, the sponsor of the bill, argues that immigrants living in the country are already on Colorado roads, and that it would benefit everyone if they were licensed, carried insurance, and knew the rules of the road. [Read the full article in the San Francisco Chronicle.](#)

New York Foreign Nationals Arrested While Attempting to Obtain New Mexico Driver's License

NM State Police Investigations Bureau agents arrested two individuals identified as Manuel Chimbo-Pando (31) of Ecuador and Carlos Turcios (29) of El Salvador. They were arrested on the evening of Tuesday, April 9 2013 in Albuquerque NM. Both subjects were attempting to falsely obtain New Mexico Driver's License at a local Motor Vehicle Office. The pair traveled from Queens New York to Albuquerque NM with the intentions of obtaining a New Mexico Driver's license. Each paid \$1,500.00 for supporting documents to establish residency. They were provided with a rental agreement, bank account, and driving school certification. New Mexico Tax and Revenue agents worked with state police agents on this case. The two were charged with Altered, Forged, or Fictitious Drives License, and Forgery. All are felony charges. They were both booked into the Metropolitan Detention Center in Albuquerque. [For more information visit http://www.dps.nm.org](http://www.dps.nm.org)

Driver's License Bill Likely to Prevail (Oregon)

At the urging of immigrant rights groups, several significant business associations and Gov. John Kitzhaber, lawmakers appear likely to approve a bipartisan bill this session that would create a new short-term driving license for illegal immigrants. Under SB 822, four-year licenses - rather than the eight-year licenses possessed by most Oregon drivers - could be granted to individuals who can provide proof of identity and at least one year of Oregon residency. The new type of licenses would be slightly more expensive than typical Class C licenses, at \$74 with a \$54 renewal fee after four years, although several amendments are being considered that would lower the amounts. No commercial license would be similarly made available. The licenses, or "driving cards" as they may ultimately be named, wouldn't allow a holder to register to vote, or to purchase a gun. They also couldn't be used as a legal form of identification for miscellaneous non-driving purposes, as typical licenses can be. No further public hearings on the proposal are expected in the Senate. The bill has been scheduled for a work session on Monday, where it could be amended and voted to the chamber floor.

[Read the full story in the Register Guard.](#)

Supreme Court Case Tests SGI's No-Fault Insurance (Saskatchewan)

The Supreme Court of Canada could potentially strike down the no-fault insurance program run by Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) for almost 20 years. A decision in December granted a crash victim the ability to sue an RM and a company that he feels were responsible for his accident. That's normally not allowed under the "no-fault" insurance policy 99 per cent of Saskatchewanians use. SGI lawyer Tim MacLeod is hoping to see the case elevated to the Supreme Court of Canada for a decision. Even though the Crown company isn't part of the suit MacLeod says the company is looking for permission to intervene in the appeal of the Court of Appeal ruling. [Read the full article on newstalk650.com.](#)

Wyoming Will Now Issue Drivers Licenses for "Dreamer" Immigrants

In a reversal of policy, Wyoming will begin to issue drivers licenses to young immigrants who are authorized to live and work in the United States. The change will allow immigrants in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to take the state driver's test. Those who pass can drive legally and purchase car insurance. Until now, the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WyDOT) had denied licenses to those enrolled in the DACA program. Under DACA, immigrants who came to the U.S. illegally as children won't be prosecuted for a period of two years. (Such immigrants are often known as "Dreamers".) After registering with DACA, they can get federal work permits and temporary social security numbers that allow them to pay into the Social Security Administration. For those non-citizens who come to Wyoming on a visa, having a work permit and social security number is all they need to get driver's licenses. However, WyDOT had withheld licenses from DACA participants on the understanding that they remain in violation of U.S. immigration laws. [Read the full article on wyofile.com](#)

Other News

States Want License Plates 2 B EZ to Read

A growing number of states are working on ways to increase both standard and specialty license plate readability, which state and law enforcement officials say has become an increasing public safety issue... Although states follow no nationwide standard for license plate design, Brian Ursino, the director of law enforcement for the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), says he believes there should be. "States should be free to design their own plates with a mind toward uniformity." The AAMVA recommends that license plate numbers and letters follow standardized fonts and sizes and that the full state name be clear and listed in the top center of the license plate, according to an AAMVA July 2012 best-practices guide. Arizona offers 53 specialty plate designs, a challenge for

law enforcement officers and witnesses to crimes to easily identify a plate as one from Arizona, said Aaron Latham, the director of communications for the Arizona state Senate Democratic caucus. About 1.8 million Arizona drivers use specialty license plates; 3.7 million use state standard license plates. "You get a split second to look at a license plate," he said. "If you're not familiar with the (53) specialty plates in Arizona, then you're not going to know." [Read the full article in USA Today.](#)

Did You Know...

- *300,000 to 1 is the chances that a fan can be hit by a baseball.*
- *The first baseball game played was in New York on June 19, 1845.*
- *Cal Hubbard is the only person credited in both baseball and football hall of fame.*
- *The first baseball stadium built in the U.S was Forbes field in Pittsburgh.*
- *The first rule book of baseball was issued in 1877. And it has been changing every year since then.*
- *Baseball is considered the national sport of US.*
- *Nolan Ryan had the longest career in baseball history that lasted 27 years.*
- *Doc Medich who was studying medicine while playing for the Texas Rangers, was able to save fan's life from a heart attack.*
- *Carl Edward is the shortest major league baseball player, he stood at three feet and seven inches.*
- *The national baseball hall of fame was created in 1935 in New York to celebrate the baseball 100th anniversary.*