

Regional News – June 7, 2013

Check out the TWIRcast!

Head over to the [Media Center at AAMVA.org](http://www.aamva.org) or [AAMVA's YouTube channel](#) to get the latest in news and events affecting the AAMVA community, in our our brand new [TWIRcast](#):



Registration is Open for the 2013 Annual International Conference

Registration for AAMVA's 2013 Annual International Conference (AIC) is now open and we are excited to offer an online registration process. No more paper registration forms! Once you click [Register Now](#), you will be prompted to login. If you have not logged into AAMVA before, you will have to create a "My AAMVA" user profile. To create this profile and receive AAMVA log in credentials, follow the instructions in [this document](#).

Register for Regional Conferences

Register now for AAMVA's Regional Conferences:

- [Region II](#) meets next week, June 8-13th, in Atlanta, GA
- [Region IV](#) meets later this month from June 24-27th in Broomfield, CO. Visit the [conference website](#) for more information on Hotel & Travel, the beneficiary of our Charity Auction, and our What's Hot showcase
- [Region I](#) meets from July 13-18th in Dover, DE. Early bird registration for Region I needs to be PAID by June 21.

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](#). 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

House Expands Use of DUI Ignition Locks (Connecticut)

The House voted Tuesday to expand the use of ignition interlock devices to anyone charged with driving under the influence. Current law only requires drivers convicted of DUI to use such breath-testing equipment to prevent them from driving drunk again. [Read the full article in the Republican-American](#)

D.C. Council Backs Driver's Licenses for Illegal Immigrants D.C. Council members voiced overwhelming support Thursday for legislation that allows illegal immigrants in the District to acquire driver's licenses, but tussled with the Department of Motor Vehicles director over how to issue such a document and keep in step with federal law. [Read the full article in the Washington Times](#)

New York State Lawmakers Pass Crackdown On Teen Texting And Driving

The New York State Legislature on Wednesday passed a new law cracking down on young drivers who are caught texting and driving. Under the new legislation approved by the state Senate and Assembly Wednesday, drivers with permits and probationary and junior licenses will face a 60-day suspension for a first offense when caught texting or talking on a handheld cell phone while driving. [Read the full article on CBS New York](#)

New York DMV Data Breach Leads to 11 Felony Charges

Data breaches are becoming more common for a number of reasons, but even despite a number of technological advances in recent years, one of the biggest causes of these incidents is still the fact that some workers with access to sensitive information abuse that privilege. That was the case in a recent data breach with the New York Department of Motor Vehicles, as an employee was recently charged with 11 felony counts of computer trespass and one misdemeanor count of official misconduct, according to a report from the state Inspector General's office. Between December 2012 and January 2013, Patricia Bourne accessed the records of an individual she knew, telling officials later that it was done as a favor to another friend. [Read the full article in Yahoo Finance](#)

Senate Approves Transportation Bill that Would Hike Gasoline Prices and Fees in Pennsylvania

Senate legislation approved on Wednesday would trigger higher prices at the gas pump and raise driver's license and registration fees to provide \$2.5 billion annually for roads, bridges and transit needs. The transportation funding heads to "an unknown fate in the House," said Sen. John Wozniak of Johnstown. Legislative leaders will negotiate major bills for consideration by the June 30 budget deadline, when lawmakers recess for the summer. [Read the full article in the Pittsburgh Tribune](#)

Leader in Vermont Immigrant License Push Faces Deportation

Danilo Lopez had his moment in the sun Wednesday, describing a nearly two-year struggle that began with the car in which he was a passenger being stopped by a state trooper and culminating in Gov. Peter Shumlin's signing of a new law creating a new type of driver's license available to people in the country illegally. "We left fear behind and we left the shadows to come out and organize for our rights," said Lopez, 23, who has worked on a Charlotte dairy farm for much of his nearly six years in Vermont. But Lopez may never be a legal Vermont driver himself. His appeal of a deportation order was rejected last week; he's been ordered to leave the country by July 5. [Read the full article in the Republic](#)

Region II News

Florida Governor Vetoes Driver's Licenses For DREAMers

DREAMers won't be driving anytime soon in Florida. On Tuesday Gov. Rick Scott vetoed a bill that would have allowed some young immigrants who are living in the U.S. illegally to apply for a temporary driver's license in the state. The Republican-controlled Legislature overwhelmingly passed the bill, informally known to supporters as the "Dream Act Driver License" law, with a nearly unanimous vote. [Read the full article on Fox News Latino](#)

GAYPWR: Georgia Man Wins Battle for Vanity License Plate

A gay man will be allowed to order a vanity license plate that describes his sexual orientation, but Georgians' car tags must not refer to sex acts, weapons, drugs and much else under new rules issued by the state. The regulations are part of a settlement on Wednesday between the state and Atlanta resident James Cyrus Gilbert, who sued Georgia after officials denied his request for a personalized plate that would read GAYGUY, 4GAYLIB or GAYPWR. [Read the full article on NBC News](#)

Georgia Bans License Plates with Guns, Sex, Hate

Georgia has unveiled new rules banning references to guns, drugs and alcohol on personalized license plates. The new rules, which won't become final until after July 9, also ban profanity, any references to sex, items subject to trademark or copyright; references to crimes and all variations of the word "hate." [Read the full article on WSAV](#)

Could a Pending Measure in North Carolina Signal the Ill-Fated Future of EVs in the US?

A new measure being considered in North Carolina suggests that electric vehicles might not have much as much appeal in some states as some had hoped. North Carolina is considering joining a number of other states in the US that charge EV and hybrid drivers fees to help pay for the cost to build and maintain roads much like the owners of gasoline cars do when they pay gas taxes. [Read the full article in Digital Trends](#)

'Pink Camo' Vanity License Plates On Sale In Texas

Pink camouflage license plates that partly benefit veterans are now available to Texas drivers. The "Pink Camo" vanity design debuted Wednesday. Myplates.com says 10% of all sales through its website will go toward Carry the Load, a nonprofit that supports military members and their families. [Read the full article on CBS DFW](#)

Region III News

Iowa Drivers Will Soon be Able to Avoid the DMV

The Iowa Department of Transportation says it expects to set up an online process to renew driver's licenses by mid-July. The agency says in a news release Tuesday that although it's close to establishing a system, people should be aware that fake Internet renewal sites exist that are designed to take advantage of people. Until the state site goes live next month, people will have to renew their licenses in person. [Read the full article on Heartland Connection](#)

Drivers With 'Corrective Lenses' Will Be Able to Renew License Online (Iowa)

The Iowa Department of Transportation will not prevent Iowans with a "corrective lenses" restriction from renewing their driver's license online beginning next month. When the Iowa Legislature passed a bill earlier this year providing for online driver's license renewal, the legislation included a provision requiring those with vision impairments or who seek to change a vision restriction on their license to continue renewing it in person. Mark Lowe, director of the DOT Motor Vehicle Division, on Wednesday clarified that "vision impairments" does not include the usual restriction for corrective lenses. [Read the full article on KCRG](#)

State House Committee Crafting Bills to Raise Registration Fees for Road Repairs (Michigan)

A package of bills seeking to generate an extra \$200 million annually in state vehicle registration revenue would force owners of newer vehicles, hybrid and electric cars, farm trucks, motorcycles and

classic cars to pay more to use the roads. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is crafting legislation to overhaul registration fees as part of an effort to raise at least \$1.2 billion more annually for road repairs. [Read the full article in the Detroit News](#)

[New Push to Lower Drunk Driving Limit for Boaters \(Michigan\)](#)

A new push is underway in Lansing to lower the blood alcohol limit for people driving boats and other water craft. The current limit is .10 for boaters, but under a new proposal introduced in the state House, the limit would be lowered to .08, which is the same limit for people operating motor vehicles.

[Read the full article on WXYZ](#)

[Missouri Lawmakers Tackle Specialty License Plates from Out-of-State Colleges](#)

A Kansas Jayhawk on Show-Me state license plates? Missouri lawmakers resoundingly said "no way." But an Arkansas Razorback? That still might be OK. Officials in Missouri are looking to ease restrictions on specialty license plates from colleges located in another state. It comes after a prohibition aimed at the traditional nemesis of the University of Kansas appears to have inadvertently hit a budding rival in the University of Arkansas and also has affected Pittsburg State University in southeastern Kansas. [Read the full article on KSHB](#)

[Lawsuit Challenges Nebraska's Denial of Immigrant Driver's Licenses](#)

The federal government sent a document to Mayra Saldana late last year that said she can live and work in Nebraska without fear of deportation. But the 24-year-old Lincoln woman can't drive without fear of breaking the law. Because Saldana was born in Mexico, Nebraska has denied her applications for a driver's license three times. Saldana has challenged those denials by filing a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Lincoln. [Read the full article in the Omaha World-Herald](#)

[Paper or Plastic? You Have a Choice at the DMV \(Wisconsin\)](#)

If you have to get a new driver's license, or renew your license plate, you can now pay with paper, or plastic, at the Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles. The DMV now accepts cash, checks, and most debit and credit cards. The only exception? VISA. The DMV can't accept VISA cards right now because of programming issues, but is working to change that. [Read the full article at TMJ4](#)

Region IV News

[California's Low-Carbon Fuel Rule Is Working, Study Says, but Threats Loom](#)

California is replacing oil with cleaner-burning fuels in cars and trucks, thanks to a landmark low-carbon fuel rule, according to a recent report. But the rule's fate is uncertain amid legal chaos and a shortfall in the production of clean biofuels. The report, conducted by researchers at the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Davis, said California drivers saved more than two billion gallons of gasoline in the two years since the launch of the rule-about as much gas as the state uses in two months. The carbon emissions reduction is equal to taking half a million vehicles off the road. [Read the full article in Bloomberg](#)

[California Bill Would Allow Illegal Immigrants With no SSN to Get Driver's License](#)

People who are in the U.S. illegally are one step closer to being able to be issued a driver's license in California. The state Assembly passed a bill that would allow people without a Social Security number to apply for a license. Under the measure, those people must show alternative forms of identification, including a proof of residency. They must also pass a driving test. [Read the full article at KABC](#)

Immigrant Driver's Licenses Signed in Colorado

Immigrants living illegally in Colorado will be able to get driver's licenses under a bill signed Wednesday by Gov. John Hickenlooper, adding the state to a handful of others that provide a legal way for immigrants to use the roads. [Read the full article on ABC News](#)

Public Responds to DMV Web Portal (Nevada)

In less than a month, more than 21,000 Nevada residents have taken DMV's offer to create an online account on the state's MyDMV web portal. Launched on May 9, MyDMV puts all of the most common DMV transactions in one place, making it more convenient for motorists to renew a driver's license, vehicle registration or ID card. For the first time, customers are able to make a change of address online. [Read the full press release at DMVNV.com](#)

DMV Prepares to Issue Driver Authorization Cards (Nevada)

Nevada Department of Motor Vehicle branches are preparing to issue a new kind of card that would let people drive in this state, even if they are in the United States illegally. Gov. Brian Sandoval signed SB 303 into law last week that creates driver authorization cards. [Read the full article on 8 News Now](#)

Oregon Bans Smoking in Car with Kids

The Oregon Legislature has approved a bill that would make it a crime to smoke in a car with kids. The House approved the bill in a 43-15 vote on Monday. It now goes to Gov. John Kitzhaber. The bill would prohibit drivers from smoking in cars if a person under 18 is present. [Read the full article on KBOI2.com](#)

Washington State Patrol Announces Line-Of-Duty Trooper Death

Washington State Patrol Chief John R. Batiste announced this evening the death of WSP Trooper Sean M. O'Connell, 38, assigned to the Patrol's Marysville district headquarters. Trooper O'Connell was killed in a collision between his motorcycle and a box-truck on Fir Island Road in Skagit County shortly after 5:00 P.M. Trooper O'Connell had been with the agency for 16 years, was married with a son age seven and a daughter age five. [Read the full press release on wsp.wa.gov](#)

Did You Know...

Did You Know...

- *Most 17 Year Cicadas have red eyes, but they can also have white, gray, blue, yellow, brown, or multi-colored eyes*
- *People call these cicadas "locusts" but they are not true locusts - real locusts look like grasshoppers.*
- *Cicadas don't eat solid foods - instead they use their slender, straw-like mouth parts to drink tree fluids.*
- *Cicadas think the sounds made by power tools and lawn maintenance equipment are made by cicadas. They get confused and will land on the people using the equipment.*

Only male cicadas make the sound they're famous for. Males have organs on their abdomen called tymbals. Muscles pop the tymbals in and out, which creates the sound we hear.