

Regional News – June 14, 2013

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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](#).

Region II Conference Wraps Up

The Region II Conference in Atlanta, GA was a great success, with several days of informative sessions and great networking opportunities. The Jurisdiction Roundtable provided an excellent opportunity for members to share the latest ideas, innovations, and programs. 10 past presidents who served Region II from 1985 through 2009 came together at the U-Haul Traditional Past Presidents' Salty Dog Breakfast. Past President Fred Porter (Arkansas, 1992 -1993) spoke on behalf of the group and thanked Pat and Velva Crahan for their many years of supporting AAMVA. The [Region II Conference Download Center](#) provides links to information and presentations delivered at the conference.

Register for Regional Conferences

Register now for AAMVA's Regional Conferences:

- [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

Delaware DMV Adds Service Availability at Toll Plazas

Waiting at the DMV is often the butt of comedians' jokes. But now, the wait could be getting a little shorter at the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles. The Delaware DMV has announced customers can now use the state's toll

plaza buildings for some driving-related services. The state says the change is about convenience. [Read the full article on wvoc.com](#)

Bill Allowing Police to Search Cell Phones of Drivers in a Crash Raises Concerns in New Jersey

Proposed legislation would allow police in New Jersey to search the cell phones of drivers involved in accidents to determine if they were texting or talking at the time of a crash. The measure is raising some constitutional concerns. Seton Hall law professor Jenny Carroll questions whether police seizure of the phones is a violation of a driver's right to privacy. [Read the full article on newsworks.org](#)

New Jersey Bill Seeks Crackdown On Distracted Driving By Forcing Drivers To Hand Over Phones

License, registration and your cellphone, please. Police in New Jersey may soon be allowed to search your cellphone after an accident. A bill proposed Monday in the New Jersey State Senate would require drivers involved in an accident to hand over their phones - no warrant necessary. Motorists were mixed on the proposal aimed at cracking down on distracted driving. [Read the full article in CBS New York](#)

Region II News

New License Plate Law Streamlines Vehicle Registration Requirements and Process for Purchasing New Specialty License Plates (Alabama)

The Chairman of the state's License Plates Legislative Oversight Committee says a recently-passed law will streamline the process for renewing motor vehicle registration as well as eliminate the requirement for an in-person visit to the county courthouse to request a new specialty license plate. House Bill 215, sponsored by Representative Paul DeMarco (R-Homewood) and Senator Gerald Dial (R-Lineville), allows for the approval of distinctive license plates for out-of-state colleges and universities by the Legislative Oversight Committee on License Plates, which is chaired by Dial. The \$50 distinctive license plate fee for out-of-state colleges will go directly to the state's General Fund. [Read the full article in the Cherokee County Herald](#)

New Online Service to Ease Long Lines for Driver's Licenses (Georgia)

Peachtree Corners drivers who face renewing or applying for a Georgia Driver's License, take heart, the process is being streamlined. Gov. Nathan Deal announced last week that a new state services will eliminate return trips to complete the permanent driver's license process. [Read the full article in the Peachtree Corners Patch](#)

Tax Estimator Brings Help to Vehicle Owners (North Carolina)

Just in time for the mailing of the first combined "Tag & Tax Together" bills on July 1, North Carolina vehicle owners are getting a new tool to help them understand how the new program works. The "Vehicle Property Tax Estimator" calculates the property tax for individual vehicles based on their identification, age and address. The estimator is located on the official DMV website and can be easily accessed for use by vehicle owners, car dealers and those registering their vehicles online. "This new estimator will help owners compute their vehicle property tax prior to the new combined bill arriving," said DMV Commissioner James L. Forte. "We are excited to have another way to show drivers how the program works." [Read the full press release on NCDOT.gov](#)

Appeals Court Rules Oklahoma License Plate Suit has Merit

An appeals court gave new life Tuesday to a lawsuit of a man who claims a Native American image on Oklahoma's license plates violates his religious rights as a Christian by portraying Indian religion. The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 3-0 that a judge in Oklahoma City erred last year by throwing out the lawsuit of Keith Cressman, an Oklahoma City-area resident Cressman, who says he "adheres to historic Christian beliefs," objects to the image of a Native American shooting an arrow toward the sky. He claims the image unconstitutionally contradicts his Christian beliefs by depicting Indian religious beliefs, and that he shouldn't have to display the image. [Read the full article in Tulsa World](#)

New Electronic License Plates Could Be Controlled By DMV, Law Enforcement Agencies (South Carolina)

Now that Big Brother is all up in your cell phone and your email, why not your car, too? Under a proposal reportedly being considered in South Carolina, metal license plates could be swapped out for electronic ones that

would give the DMV or law enforcement agencies the power to broadcast messages directly onto the back of cars. Such messages could read "Uninsured" or "Suspended" for people who are driving without insurance, or "Stolen" in cases of auto theft. [Read the full article in the Huffington Post](#)

Researchers Say Smart Roads Technology is Coming (Virginia)

The first act in Dingus' show went like this: A white Cadillac backed out of a parking spot just as a motorcycle drove behind it. The car chirped at its driver to alert him of the imminent collision. The Cadillac stopped. Crisis averted. It was hardly cutting-edge stuff on its face. Commercials have peddled this kind of feature on expensive cars for years. What's different is how Dingus and his researchers have done it. What excites them is how their work could improve road safety and combat traffic jams, even speed up pothole repairs. Dingus is the director of the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, and he's talking about what could be done with vehicles that can talk to each other and talk with the road. The researchers call it "connected vehicles" and "connected infrastructure," and Dingus says government agencies, car companies and universities are working on it. [Read the full article in the Virginian-Pilot](#)

Region III News

'Choose Life' License Plate Added to Specialty Options (Iowa)

Some Iowans who oppose abortion will soon be driving vehicles with state-issued license plates bearing a "Choose Life" message. Iowa Right to Life, a Des Moines-based advocacy group, posted a Facebook message Tuesday announcing the plates will begin arriving in the near future at Iowa county treasurers' offices. That's because the organization has secured at least 500 plate applications as required by the Iowa Department of Transportation. [Read the full article in the Des Moines Register](#)

ACLU of Nebraska Sues Governor, DMV

The American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska is suing Governor Dave Heineman and the Dept. of Motor Vehicles for denying driver's licenses to people who aren't U.S. citizens. [Read the full article on klkntv.com](#)

Suspicious Envelope Forces Evacuation at State DMV Office (Nebraska)

It all started at the Lancaster County DMV on 46th Street. They get lots of mail each day but something about this envelope didn't seem quite right. Rescue tells 10/11 that's why the manager at this location put the envelope in a sealed, plastic bag then sent it down to the state office on Centennial Mall. No one there recognized the envelope either and called LFR around 1:30 p.m. Wednesday. Battalion Chief Jeanne Pashalek says crews found white powder in the envelope and Hazmat teams locked down and evacuated the office for about an hour. [Read the full article on 1011now.com](#)

Superman's 'S' Might Fly Soon on Ohio License Plate

For Superman's 75th birthday, state lawmakers are moving on a plan to create a license plate honoring the character's Ohio roots. The plate would feature a Superman "S" insignia and an inscription at the bottom that reads "Truth, Justice & The American Way." The idea was proposed last year, but it stalled in the Senate and died at the end of the session. The current bill passed the House and had its first Senate hearing yesterday. [Read the full article in the Columbus Dispatch](#)

Insurance Card? It's On My Cell (Ohio)

Ohio drivers caught speeding or involved in a fender-bender soon could hand their smart phones to law-enforcement officers instead of insurance cards. A proposed change to state law would allow drivers to show proof of insurance on digital devices, including cell phones, laptops and tablets. [Read the full article in the Columbus Dispatch](#)

Region IV News

States Debate Taxing Green Cars to Recover Lost Gas Taxes (Arizona)

Hybrid and electric cars are sparing the environment. Critics say they're hurting the roads.

The popularity of these fuel-efficient vehicles is being blamed for a drop in gasoline taxes that pay for local highway and bridge maintenance, with three states enacting rules to make up the losses with added fees on the cars and at least five others weighing similar legislation. "The intent is that people who use the roads pay for them," said Arizona state Senator Steve Farley, a Democrat from Tucson who wrote a bill to tax electric cars. "Just because we have somebody who is getting out of doing it because they have an alternative form of fuel, that doesn't mean they shouldn't pay for the roads." [Read the full article in Automotive News](#)

More Californians Using Smartphones for Proof of Auto Insurance

Tired of rooting around in the car's glove compartment for a crumpled proof-of-insurance card when you're unlucky enough to be pulled over by a traffic cop? No worry, if you have a smartphone or tablet computer. California is the seventh of 24 states in the country to make it legal to show an electronic proof of insurance. [Read the full article in the Los Angeles Times](#)

AG Harris Announces Project to Create New Law Enforcement Data Sharing Platform (California)

Attorney General Kamala D. Harris announced this week that the California Department of Justice is developing a new data sharing platform for federal, state, regional and local agencies to access, analyze, and share criminal justice information. Harris made the announcement on Monday at the California State Sheriff Association's Annual Conference, according to a letter signed by Larry Wallace, director of DOJ's Division of Law Enforcement. [Read the full article on Techwire.net](#)

Former DMV Employee Sentenced to Prison for Conspiring to Illegally Issue California Driver Licenses

Former DMV Senior Motor Vehicle Technician Alfonso Casarez, 51, of Fresno, was sentenced yesterday to five years and one month in prison for his involvement in two conspiracies to sell official California driver=s licenses to ineligible individuals, United States Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner announced. On August 18, 2011, a federal grand jury returned two indictments charging a total of 15 defendants across the two schemes. Casarez was charged in both indictments. [Read the full article on turnto23.com](#)

Redefining 'Under the Influence' in Colorado

With the recreational use of marijuana now legal in Colorado, officers who patrol the state's roads face a new set of challenges. Though smoking or possessing small amounts of cannabis is no longer breaking the law, anyone who drives while impaired is still subject to arrest. Which raises a knotty question: How many tokes can a driver take before the ability to control a vehicle is compromised to the point of being a danger on the road? [Read the full article in the New York Times](#)

5 Montana Reservations Don't Report DUIs to State

Five of Montana's seven American Indian reservations don't report drunken-driving convictions to the state, and county prosecutors say the information void poses a safety risk for both repeat offenders and other drivers. Tribal justice systems generally have jurisdiction over misdemeanor crimes committed by Native Americans on reservations, and a DUI becomes a felony in Montana only upon a person's fourth offense. That means the state has no ability to force tribal courts to share their misdemeanor DUI conviction records with Montana's Motor Vehicle Division, said attorney general spokesman John Barnes. [Read the full article in the Independent Record](#)

Governor Signs Bill Allowing Manufacture of Special Plates for Nevada's 150th Anniversary

Ready to be true to your state and buy the special license plate that celebrates the 150th anniversary of Nevada's admission into the union? On Friday, Gov. Brian Sandoval signed the bill that allows the Department of Motor Vehicles to begin manufacturing the special plate honoring Nevada's Oct. 31, 1864, admission as the 36th state in the United States. The plate should become available for purchase in late June or early July, according to David Fierro, the DMV spokesman in Carson City. There is no early sign up sheet for acquiring the plate. [Read the full article in the Las Vegas Review-Journal](#)

SGI Wants to Track Motorcycle Movements with Technology (Saskatchewan)

With an eye to calibrating insurance rates, Saskatchewan Government Insurance plans to use new technology to track how fast and how far motorcycles go. It's called telematics and someday could be used to help set insurance

rates. For now, SGI is just trying the technology out with a pilot program. It's looking for several hundred motorcycle users to volunteer to have their bikes equipped with telematics technology. The gadgets would record speed, braking, mileage and location. [Read the full article on Yahoo News](#)

Supreme Court Upholds Ruling Allowing Disabled No-fault Saskatchewan Auto Claimant to Sue Municipality

The Supreme Court of Canada has dismissed an application by a Saskatchewan municipality for leave to appeal a ruling that allows an auto claimant with no-fault insurance to sue the municipal government responsible for maintaining a road. The highest court in the land ruled Monday against the Rural Municipality of Britannia No. 502, which had applied for leave to appeal a December 2012 decision by the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal. The provincial appeal court had allowed John Acton, who was disabled in 2004 as a result of a single-vehicle rollover, to sue the Britannia municipal government for "economic" losses. [Read the full article in Canadian Underwriter](#)

Wyoming Legislators May Tighten Veteran License Plate Rules

A state legislative committee is considering limiting eligibility requirements for family members who purchase specialty license plates honoring fallen soldiers. Larry Barttelbort is the director of the Wyoming Veterans Commission. He said lawmakers "may have opened the door too wide" a couple of years ago when they expanded the Gold Star license plate program to include siblings and children of members of the armed forces who died while in service or who died as a result of the service. [Read the full article in the Billings Gazette](#)

Did You Know...

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- *Lightning puts 10 million tons of nitrogen into the Earth each year.*
- *The Earth has 2,000 thunderstorms at any one time.*
- *Without thunderstorms, the earth would lose its electric charge in less than 1 hour.*
- *Florida is the Lightning Capital of the U.S. and leads the U.S. in lightning deaths, injuries, and casualties. Texas is #2.*
- *The U.S. has 20 Million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes each year - up to 70 Million lightning flashes aloft are also counted.*
- *The U.S. has 100,000 thunderstorms per year.*

The odds of an individual being struck by lightning each year in the U.S. is about 300,000 to 1