

Regional News – June 21, 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 IV Conference Next Week

[Region IV](#) meets next week, 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

Register for Region I Conference

[Region I](#) meets from July 13-18th in Dover, DE. Early bird registration for Region I needs to be PAID by **TODAY** 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@amva.org or phone (703) 908-8267. For more information, see <http://www.aamva.org/Committees-and-Working-Groups/>.

Region I News

DMV Launches Online Check-In Service (Connecticut)

Connecticut drivers can now skip the line at the DMV by checking in online from a laptop, smartphone or tablet computer. The DMV last week launched a new online portal which enables customers to check in before heading to a local service office in person. [Read the full article on CBS Connecticut](#)

Over Cautious or Under Protected? Where Do Canadians Stand When it Comes to Ensuring They Are Properly Insured? (Ontario)

From deductibles to deferred premiums, do you understand the ins and outs of your insurance coverage? While a majority of Canadians (55%) review their insurance policies at least once a year, new research from TD Insurance has found that not everyone takes the time to ensure they are properly

insured. According to the State of Insurance Report, an annual report commissioned by TD Insurance to understand Canadians' habits, attitudes and knowledge about insurance, one-in-two Canadians (52%) wouldn't ask their insurance provider to clarify details they don't understand in their policy. They wouldn't clarify their policy because they think it is too complicated (31%), don't have time (31%), are embarrassed by their lack of knowledge (23%) or are simply uninterested (19%). [Read the press release at TD Insurance](#)

Pennsylvania House Passes Motorcycle License Plate Bill

Legislation that would allow Pennsylvania motorcyclists to vertically display their license plates has unanimously passed the House of Representatives. House Bill 1060 now heads to the Senate for consideration. Pennsylvania law currently requires horizontal mounting of motorcycle license plates. Rep. Mark Keller (R-Perry/Franklin) said his proposal would give bikers an option. [Read the full article at abc27.com](#)

Pennsylvania Mulls Eliminating Registration Stickers

The secretary of PennDOT says he's confident there won't be any problems if vehicle registration stickers are eliminated in Pennsylvania. As state lawmakers grapple with legislation to increase funding for transportation, one thing under discussion involves possible elimination of registration stickers on license plates and saving money in the process. [Read the full article at CBS Philly](#)

Rhode Island House Votes to Close Drunken-Driving Loophole, Ban Synthetic Recreational Drugs

The House of Representatives Thursday approved a bill that next goes to the governor to close a loophole that can let the youngest motorists avoid a drunken-driving charge. And the House also voted to add synthetic drugs to the list of Schedule 1 substances, a bill also headed to the governor's desk that would prohibit the synthetics from being manufactured, sold or used. [Read the full article in the Providence Journal](#)

Region II News

Gov. Rick Scott Vetoes Bill That Would Have Allowed Driver's Licenses for Undocumented Migrants (Florida)

Florida Gov. Rick Scott is vetoing 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 passed a bill that said that young immigrants allowed to remain in the country under an Obama administration "deferred action" policy could use federal documents to receive a temporary driver's license for at least one year. [Read the full article on wptv.com](#)

Scott Signs Law Banning Interstate Truck Drivers From Texting or Calling on Hand-Held Devices (Florida)

Starting July 1, Florida's law enforcement officers can start ticketing interstate truck or bus drivers who will face hefty fines if they talk or text on hand-held devices. Gov. Rick Scott has signed legislation (HB 7125) that gives officers the power to enforce federal regulations that went into effect January 2012. States have three years to mirror the federal regulations, said Duane DeBruyne, of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. [Read the full article in the Tampa Bay Times](#)

Georgia Driver Services Commissioner Hosts Federal Homeland Security Partner

Commissioner Rob Mikell, Department of Driver Services (DDS), recently hosted Mr. Ted Sobel, Director of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of State Issued ID Support at the Conyers DDS

Administrative Headquarters. This visit provided an opportunity that state administrators seldom get - to have a face-to- face dialogue with a federal partner to foster collaboration for a safer, more secure nation. [Read the full article at dds.ga.gov](#)

North Carolina Legislators Put 75 mph Speed Limit on Fast Track

A House committee voted Tuesday for the bill allowing the Department of Transportation to set speed limits higher than the current 70 mph cap for some interstates and other highways if traffic and engineering allows it. The bill already has passed the Senate and its next stop is the House floor. [Read the full article in the Charlotte Observer](#)

Puerto Rico Lawmakers Vote To Issue Driver's Licenses To Undocumented Immigrants

The Puerto Rico House of Representatives has approved granting driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants and the island's Senate is expected to follow suit. The president of the Integracion Dominicana organization, Rolando Acosta, told Efe on Thursday that at least 10,000 Dominicans will benefit from the measure, which he called "historic." [Read the full article on Fox News Latino](#)

TxDMV's Registration and Titling System Begins Technology Overhaul

The aging technology behind the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles' (TxDMV) registration and titling system (RTS) is getting a major makeover, paving the way for a more streamlined management of data and the flexibility for customer improvements in the future. This week the TxDMV signed a contract with Deloitte Consulting LLP to modernize its legacy RTS which was developed in the 1980s. This decisive action will bring the system up to 21st century technology in order to be responsive to the current demands and future needs of customers, stakeholders and staff. [Read the full press release at txdmv.gov](#)

Region III News

ACLU Sues Indiana BMV Over Gay Youth License Plates

The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday against the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles, seeking the reinstatement of specialty auto license plates for a group that counsels gay and lesbian youth. [Read the full article in the San Francisco Chronicle](#)

New BMV Reinstatement Fee Installment Plan Available July 15 (Ohio)

Effective July 15, 2013, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) will offer reinstatement fee installment plans to those who qualify. Individuals whose driver's license have been suspended, but have met all of their reinstatement requirements, with the exception of paying the reinstatement fees, may apply. The plan will allow eligible drivers to renew, become valid, or permitted to retest for their driver's license. [Read the press release at publicsafety.ohio.gov](#)

Region IV News

Appeal Planned Over Brewer's Order Denying Driver's Licenses for Young Immigrants (Arizona)

Immigrant rights advocates plan to appeal a court ruling that declined to halt Gov. Jan Brewer's order denying driver's licenses for young immigrants who have gotten work permits and avoided deportation under an Obama administration policy. The plans for an appeal were revealed Monday in filings in federal court in Phoenix. [Read the full article in the Republic](#)

British Columbia's .05 Drunk Driving Law Reduces Deaths by 40 Percent: Study

new study suggests British Columbia's controversial drinking and driving laws have reduced the number of deaths from alcohol-related crashes by more than 40 per cent since September 2010. The study out of the University of Victoria says an estimated 104 lives have been saved since the laws were introduced, there's been a 23-per-cent reduction in the number of injuries, and property damage has been slashed by nearly 20 per cent. [Read the full article in the Calgary Herald](#)

DMV Investigators Bust Unlicensed Car Dealer Ring (California)

On June 18, 2013, Murad Alrawashdeh 24, and Rami Alrawashdeh 20 were arrested in Fresno alleging several felony counts of grand theft, altering vehicle certificates of title, vehicle odometer tampering and acting as unlicensed car dealers. A warrant is still outstanding on a third suspect, Atef Alrawashdeh 30 who is being sought by law enforcement officials. [Read the full press release at dmv.ca.gov](#)

Audit Finds Montana School Bus Drivers with Criminal Histories

There are at least 64 Montana school bus drivers with criminal records, including two with drunken-driving convictions within three years, legislative auditors said Thursday. In addition, some school districts appear to be taking advantage of a mileage reimbursement policy in which larger buses receive a higher reimbursement rate, including one district that uses a 54-seat school bus to transport two students who live in the same house each day. [Read the full article in the Great Falls Tribune](#)

Nevada Justices Reject Immigrant's Driver's License Request

The state Supreme Court has denied granting a Nevada driver's license to a man who might have been better off waiting for the new state driver's authorization cards to go into effect in January. A panel of the high court, in a unanimous 3-0 decision issued last week, refused Laszlo Schoka's petition that the Department of Motor Vehicles be ordered to grant him a driver's license. [Read the full article in the Las Vegas Review-Journal](#)

DMV Feels Major Impacts from Legislature (Nevada)

The Legislature has left town but the state Department of Motor Vehicles is gearing up to deal with almost 100 new laws, including driver privilege cards for immigrants without documentation, renewal of licenses after eight years instead of four, and a crackdown on out-of-state businesses that don't register their vehicles. [Read the full article in the Las Vegas Sun](#)

Website Offering License Renewals Fool Some Drivers (Washington)

Several websites targeting drivers across the country are promising easy online driver license renewals, but appear to be delivering little except credit card charges. These companies are using paid advertising results on the major Internet search providers like Google and Yahoo to lure customers away from the official Department of Licensing (DOL) website. This is leading to extra fees paid to unknown companies who appear to be offering little more than services already available for free using the official DOL website. Customers have reported these sites are charging as much as \$35 dollars for "customer service" assistance in renewing a driver license. [Read the full press release at dol.wa.gov](#)

Veteran Designation Option To Be Available On Wyoming Driver Licenses

Beginning July 1, Wyoming veterans will have the option of requesting a veteran designation be shown on the front of their Wyoming driver license or identification cards. The red "V" in the upper right-hand corner of the license or card will allow Wyoming veterans to validate their honorable service with a government-issued identification card. [Read the full article on dot.state.wy.us](#)

Other News

Facebook Helped Boost Organ Donor Registration

Raising awareness of organ donation on social media websites can help boost donation rates, according to a new study. Facebook began allowing users to make their status as organ donors visible in their profiles in May 2012, and on the first day of the change, about 13,000 people in the U.S. registered to become organ donors 20 times more than the average number of daily registrations. The effect of the social media initiative on its first day varied across states, ranging from a seven-fold increase in registrations in Michigan, to 100-fold increase in Georgia, the results showed. [Read the full article on Fox News](#)

The Supreme Court Rules Lawyers Can't Use DMV Records to Find Clients

In *Maracich et al. v. Spears*, a group of lawyers tried to use a state Freedom of Information Act request to get DMV records in order to find potential plaintiffs for a class action lawsuit against a number of car dealerships. The DMV acquiesced, the lawyers mass-mailed their potential clients, and the potential clients sued them, arguing this invaded their privacy. [Read more in the Washington Post](#)

State Photo-ID Databases Become Troves for Police

The faces of more than 120 million people are in searchable photo databases that state officials assembled to prevent driver's-license fraud but that increasingly are used by police to identify suspects, accomplices and even innocent bystanders in a wide range of criminal investigations. [Read the full article in the Washington Post](#)

Did You Know...

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- *In the Northern hemisphere, the beginning of the meteorological summer is 1 June. In the Southern hemisphere, the beginning of the meteorological winter is 1 June.*
- *At the start of June, the sun rises in the constellation of Taurus; at the end of June, the sun rises in the constellation of Gemini. However, due to the precession of the equinoxes, June begins with the sun in the astrological sign of Gemini, and ends with the sun in the astrological sign of Cancer.*
- *June is known for the large number of marriages that occur over the course of the month. According to one etymology, June is named after Juno (Hera). Juno was the goddess of marriage and a married couple's household, so some consider it good luck to be married in this month.*
- *According to another etymology provided by the Roman poet Ovid, June is named for the iuniores, latin for "young people" (Fasti VI.88) and that the month of May is named for the maiores, Latin for "elders".*

In Iceland, folklore says that if you bathe naked in the morning dew on the morning of June 24, you are supposed to keep aging at bay for longer.