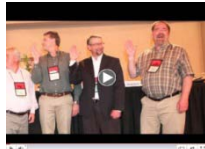


## Regional News – July, 5 2013

### 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](#):



### Region IV Conference Wraps Up

The 2013 Region IV Conference has come and gone. More than 350 representatives were in attendance and conference sessions were packed throughout the week. The conference ended with Incoming President Irwin inviting everyone to join her in Vancouver for the 2014 Region IV conference. You can view photos from this year's conference at <http://smu.gs/12dYffS>.

### 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 Region I Conference

[Region I](#) meets from July 13-18th in Dover, DE. For more information, visit the Region I Conference website [here](#).

### 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](mailto:dgraham@amva.org) or phone (703) 908-8267. For more information, see <http://www.aamva.org/Committees-and-Working-Groups/>.

## Region I News

### Connecticut DMV Adds Wi-Fi While You Wait

DMV now offers wireless internet service in all its major branch offices around the state for customers. This, along with its automated wait-time log, and Web optimization for tablet users, is part of the agency's continuing improvements with online services for customers. [Read the full article on North Haven Patch](#).

### D.C. Council Panel OKs Driver's Licenses for Illegal Immigrants

A D.C. Council committee Tuesday adopted a provision into legislation introduced by the mayor that would allow illegal immigrants to get the same driver's licenses as other D.C. residents. The Committee on Transportation and the Environment voted 5-0 in favor of a bill that would pave the way for the estimated 25,000 illegal immigrants living in the District to obtain licenses devoid of any markings that could indicate their immigration status. [Read the full article in the Washington Times.](#)

#### **[New MVA Videos Highlight What To Expect In A Driving Test \(Maryland\)](#)**

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) released 2 new videos that are integrated into its website; one that will be helpful for customers going through the driver testing process and one video that features the services that can be accessed without having to visit an MVA branch. Visit the MVA's website at [www.mva.maryland.gov](http://www.mva.maryland.gov) and enjoy the video vignettes. On the upper right hand corner of the homepage, click on "video" for a selection that have been produced for or by the MVA. [Read the full article on WFMD.com.](#)

#### **[Gas-Tax Increase Starts Today \(Maryland\)](#)**

Maryland's gas tax will increase about 4 cents per gallon today in an effort to refill transportation fund coffers. The bill that passed the Maryland General Assembly earlier this year calls for automatic tax increases unless the assembly votes against them. The bill is set to raise the state gas tax 12.1 cents a gallon by July 2015. [Read the full article in the Frederick News Post.](#)

#### **[State Police Debut New DUI Team \(Maryland\)](#)**

Just in time for the Fourth of July holiday, the Maryland State Police unveiled its new DUI enforcement team with a clear message for motorists: Don't get caught in our web. SPIDRE, or State Police Impaired Driving Effort, is a group of seven specially trained troopers assembled to combat the number of alcohol-related crashes throughout the state. The new team was introduced Tuesday at the Maryland State Police Waterloo barrack. [Read the full article in the Carroll County Times.](#)

#### **[New Jersey Looks to Increase Penalties for Left-Lane Drivers](#)**

Citing it as an effort to improve highway safety and reduce the instances of road rage, the New Jersey Assembly voted to increase fines for drivers that putt along in the left and middle lanes, instead of using them for passing and turning. If the legislation is signed by the governor, offending drivers who are caught clogging left lanes reserved for passing will see fines increase from the current \$50-200, to \$100-300. The new legislation also calls for \$50 from each violation going to a fund for creating signs reminding drivers of the left-lane law. [Read the full article on AOL Autos.](#)

#### **[Legislation Creates New Penalties for Texting While Driving \(New York\)](#)**

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today signed legislation that creates new penalties for texting-while-driving for young and new drivers to better protect New Yorkers on the road. The new law imposes the same penalties on drivers with probationary and junior licenses for texting-while-driving and using a hand-held cell phone that they now receive for speeding and reckless driving. [Read the full article in Riverhead Local.](#)

#### **[Ball Introduces Legislation to Promote Self-Driving Cars in New York](#)**

"The future is here," said State Sen. Greg Ball as he announced his recently introduced legislation to open New York roads for tech and car companies to begin testing autonomous, self-driving cars. Sen. Ball, whose 40th District includes Lewisboro and Katonah, said the bill would open roads for driverless car testing by companies like Toyota and Google to help usher in a new, safe and efficient era of self-

driving cars. Currently three states have passed laws allowing for driverless cars - Nevada, Florida and California. [Read the full article in the Lewisboro Ledger.](#)

### **Rhode Island Assembly OKs 'Choose Life' License Plates**

Rhode Island's General Assembly has voted to authorize "Choose Life" license plates. The House and Senate both voted Monday night to create the new specialty plate. Half of the plate's \$40 price would go toward faith-based efforts to prevent abortion and encourage adoption. A final vote is needed to send the proposal to Gov. Lincoln Chafee, an abortion-rights supporter. [Read the full article on Boston.com.](#)

### **Rhode Island DMV and Forte Payment Systems Team Up to Give Customers More Ways to Pay**

Forte Payment Systems has partnered with Rhode Island Department of Motor Vehicles to offer a more secure and convenient payment solution to its customers. Credit card payments are now taken using VeriFone Point-of-Sale devices at five DMV branch locations and nine AAA locations. [Read the full article on PRWeb.](#)

### **DMV Warns Rhode Island Drivers of Unofficial Online Sites Claiming to Offer Renewal Services**

The Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles is warning drivers seeking to renew their license or registration online not to be fooled by unofficial websites. The division said Tuesday that several sites have appeared recently claiming to offer renewal services and information. The division says the only official place to complete renewals or do other online business is [dmv.ri.gov](http://dmv.ri.gov) and customers should make sure the site says "Official State Site" at the bottom. The DMV provides all forms and information free of charge. [Read the full article in The Republic.](#)

### **Ping, Ping, Ping go the Drivers with Suspended Licenses (Vermont)**

The first thing you learn when you see a license plate reader in action is that there are a remarkable number of people driving around Vermont illegally. As Winooski Deputy Police Chief Rich Benoit sat along East Allen Street on a recent day, the reader alerted him to a potential infraction about once every 10 cars. [Read the full article in the Burlington Free Press.](#)

## **Region II News**

**North Carolina DMV Cautions Buyers to Watch for Flooded Cars** State officials are cautioning used car buyers to be on the lookout for flooded vehicles in the wake of storms that recently swept across most of the state. The North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles' License and Theft Bureau says buyers need to wary of deals that look too good to be true since the cars might have been flooded. State inspectors say buyers can do several things to look for signs of flooding in a vehicle, including checking for rust around the vehicle, checking to see if there are water lines in the car's interior or under the vehicle and making sure all of the electronics are working. [Read more in the Charlotte Observer.](#)

### **New Law Makes Texting and Driving Primary Offense (Virginia)**

Starting Monday, July 1, 2013 a new law will make texting and driving a primary offense. According to the Virginia DMV, a person convicted of texting while driving will receive a \$125 fine for the first offense and a \$250 fine for subsequent charges. The new law also increases the penalties for a person convicted for reckless driving to include a mandatory \$250 fine if the person was texting while driving recklessly. [Read the full article on WSLs.com](#)

### **Legislators Seek to Repeal Hybrid Tax (Virginia)**

Two Northern Virginia state legislators will introduce bills to repeal Virginia's new tax on hybrid and electric vehicles on the first day of the next legislative session, they announced Monday, when the tax took effect. [Read the full article in The Washington Post.](#)

## Region III News

### **Jesse White Announces Key Upgrade to Ignition Interlock Program Requiring Camera Installation (Illinois)**

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White was joined by traffic safety advocates today to announce a key upgrade to Illinois' innovative Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device (BAIID) program, which now requires an in-car camera to accompany every BAIID installation. The law change took effect July 1 and provides additional accountability to a program that has received national acclaim as a model in the fight against drunk driving. [Read the press release.](#)

### **BMV Admits It Overcharged For Driver's Licenses (Indiana)**

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles is admitting to overcharging motorists for driver's licenses for at least the last six years, and the agency has immediately cut the price of a license as a result. The overcharge was caused by a miscalculation that was discovered after a class-action lawsuit was filed in March, claiming that drivers had been overcharged by up to \$40 million since 2007. [Read the full article on Indiana Public Media.](#)

### **Gay Youth Group's Specialty License Plate Being Sold Again On BMV's Website (Indiana)**

Friday the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana prevailed on its case to reinstate a specialty license plate for a nonprofit group that provides counseling and guidance to gay and lesbian youth. Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles Commissioner R. Scott Waddell directed the agency to reinstate IYG's participation in the Specialty Group Recognition program "effective immediately." The direction follows a June 26 ruling by the Administrative Law Judge ordering the plate be reinstated and finding that the BMV's requests for "clarification" in a June 14 Order of Remand were "improper." [Read the full article on INCnow.com.](#)

### **Iowa Law Makes Veteran IDs Easier to Get**

An update to Iowa law will allow veterans to have a "veteran" designation put on his or her driver's license. The change goes into effect July 1, and will let veterans add the designation to their licenses at any time. In the past the designation could only be put on the card at the time of renewal. [Read the full article on SiouxlandNews.com.](#)

### **Nixon Signs Bill Blocking Scanning of Documents for Driver's Licenses (Missouri)**

Perhaps in an effort to put an end to an ongoing political battle over the practice, Gov. Jay Nixon has signed legislation blocking the Department of Revenue from scanning and storing documents required to get a driver's license. [Read the full article on KRCU.org.](#)

### **BMV Announces Reduction in Fee for Late Registration (Ohio)**

Effective July 1, 2013, the current fee for late renewal of motor vehicle registration will be reduced from \$20 to \$10. In addition, the previous 7-day grace period associated with the fee has been extended to 30 days. [Read the press release.](#)

### **[New Ohio License Plate Available Today Celebrates Lake Erie and Raises Funds for its Health](#)**

A new license plate option for Ohio drivers celebrates Lake Erie while raising money for its protection and preservation. The Lake Erie Commission designed the new plates. Drivers who purchase them or the Marblehead Lighthouse plates support the Lake Erie Protection Fund. The fund provides grant money for projects that protect, preserve and restore the lake and its watershed. The plates cost an extra \$25; \$15 of that goes to the fund. The majority of the fund's money comes from license plate sales. [Read the full article on Cleveland.com.](#)

### **[Speed limit jumps to 70 mph Monday on Ohio interstates](#)**

Motorists will be able to drive a little faster on many Ohio highways starting today (July 1st). The speed limit will climb from 65 mph to 70 mph on portions of six interstates. Ohio lawmakers earlier had approved raising the limit in non-urban areas, with the change taking effect July 1. [Read the full article on Ohio.com.](#)

### **[Crashes, Traffic Deaths Down in Ohio Through First Half of 2013](#)**

Ohioans seem to be avoiding each other a little more this year . . . and that's a good thing.

The State Highway Patrol shows a 2.5 percent drop in crashes through the first half of 2013 compared to 2012, according to preliminary statistics posted online. Better yet, traffic fatalities are down 22 percent. There have been 427 people reported killed on Ohio roads through the end of June; last year, there were 549 in the same period. [Read the full article on Cleveland.com.](#)

### **[New Teen Texting And Driving Law Starts Monday \(South Dakota\)](#)**

Young kids dream about the freedom that comes with driving. However, starting on Monday, South Dakota's youngest drivers have one less freedom. A new law, passed by the 2013 Legislature, prohibits anyone who holds a learner's permit or a restricted minor's permit from using any handheld communication device while driving. [Read the full article on Keloland.com.](#)

## **Region IV News**

### **[California gas tax hike kicks in for drivers](#)**

Just in time for the Fourth of July, a new hike in the California gas tax is kicking in Monday.

Prices are going up 3.5 cents. California drivers were already paying 36 cents a gallon in state taxes, but the hike means drivers will pay 39.5 cents. Including the other local, state and federal taxes, California drivers will be paying 72 cents in taxes on each gallon alone, making for the highest prices in the nation. [Read the full article on abclocal.com/kabc.](#)

### **[2012 Crime in Colorado Report Available Via CBI Website](#)**

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has released the 2012 Crime in Colorado Report. The report includes statewide crime statistics reported by 252 law enforcement agencies across Colorado. Overall,

an increase of 2.9% in crime was reported for 2012. The 2012 report can be accessed at <http://cbi.state.co.us> and then click on the Crime in Colorado link in the resources section.

### **State Ranks Highest in Highway Fatalities (Montana)**

A report released from the Reason Foundation ranks the overall quality of Montana's Highway system fifth best in the nation. It's good news, but the Treasure State is down three spots from 2012. The ranking suffered because Montanans aren't buckling up. [Read the full article on KULR8.com.](#)

### **The Human Cost of Driving Drunk in Texas**

Approximately every 20 minutes, there is an alcohol-related car crash in Texas. Each one of the 1,170 deaths caused by drunk driving in Texas last year were represented by an individual flag in front of the Gerald D. Hines Waterfall by Williams Tower Wednesday, June 26, as the Texas Department of Transportation held a press conference announcing the launch of [facesofdrunkdriving.com](http://facesofdrunkdriving.com), a website that shares the stories of more than a dozen people whose lives and families were irreparably altered by a person who chose to get behind the wheel after consuming alcohol, as well as the agency's support of the "no refusal" activities conducted by law enforcement across the state this holiday weekend. [Read the full article on YourHoustonNews.com.](#)

### **Forces Joining to Push for Transportation Tax Hike in Utah**

Utah legislators feared to utter the words "tax hike" during the recession and the fragile economy that followed. But now business leaders, state administrators and local governments are pushing lawmakers to increase taxes for roads and mass transit, warning that doing nothing will have dire consequences. [Read the full article in the Salt Lake Tribune.](#)

### **Did You Know...**

*Did you know...*

- *The average age of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence was 45.*
- *1 out of 8 signers of the signers were educated at Harvard (7 total).*
- *The initial date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress was July 2, 1776.*
- *Congress revised the Declaration for final approval on July 4, 1776.*
- *The only two signers of the Declaration of Independence who later served as President of the United States were John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.*
- *Both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson (bitter rivals) died on the same day, July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration.*
- *Congress made Independence Day an official unpaid holiday for federal employees in 1870. (In 1938, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday)*
- *There were an estimated 2.5 million people living in the newly independent nation in 1776. Total U.S. population in 2011 was 311.6 million.*
- *Every 4th of July the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia is tapped (not actually rung) thirteen times in honor of the original thirteen colonies.*