U.S. Federal Government Shutdown Ends
AAMVA's The Week In Review For October 21, 2013

U.S. Federal Government Shutdown Ends
Sixteen days after the federal government was shutdown and a mere scant hours before the United States was set to reach its borrowing limit, Congress passed a measure (HR 2775) to reopen the government and lift the debt ceiling. President Obama subsequently signed the legislation. The Senate passed the legislation by a vote of 81 - 18. The House cleared the bill 284-144. The legislation would fund the government through January 15 at the fiscal 2013 post-sequestration spending level and suspends the debt limit until February 7th. The approximately 800,000 federal workers who were furloughed due to the shutdown will receive back pay for the past 16 days. States that used their own funds to implement operations normally paid by the federal government will be reimbursed. AAMVA members should expect all federal government operations to return to normal immediately.

Download the Archived AAMVA Webinar: Legalization of Marijuana Highway Safety Implications
In case you missed the October 16th webinar discussion with Courtney Popp (Washington State Patrol) and Brian Ursino (AAMVA), you can now view the archived webinar at http://www.aamva.org/Webinar-Archives/

Idaho Implements the Commercial Skills Test Information Management System (CSTIMS)
On October 4, 2013, Idaho began using CSTIMS for day-to-day management of their commercial skills testing. Idaho becomes the thirteenth jurisdiction using CSTIMS joining Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Idaho Transportation Department Driver Services Manager Ed Pemble tells us:
"We are very pleased to have CSTIMS up and running in Idaho. Our state is geographically large and it has always been a problem conducting "live" audits outside the Boise area. CSTIMS will allow our auditors to view upcoming tests in the more remote parts of the State, arrange travel, and conduct audits with live applicants. This will help us comply with FMCSA requirements for Third Party Examiner auditing and will result in much more effective audits. We expect to improve our overall CDL testing program with the implementation of CSTIMS.

I'd like to thank Parisa Gropper and Greg Sensiba for coming to Idaho last spring to train our administrative staff and beta examiner group on CSTIMS. We were then able to train our CDL Examiners on CSTIMS and our first "live" day was October 4. Parisa and Greg McNally at AAMVA made the transition from the practice environment to the 'live' environment go very smoothly.

We are already seeing the benefit of CSTIMS; our auditors will be busy doing live audits in areas we have not been able to audit effectively in the past."

Jurisdictions with any questions about CSTIMS should contact Parisa Gropper [pgropper@aamva.org; (703) 908-2884] or Greg McNally [gmcnally@aamva.org; (703) 908-8296].

R. Scott Waddell Announces Resignation as Commissioner and AAMVA Board Member
On Tuesday, October 15, 2013, Commissioner of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) R. Scott Waddell announced that he will be stepping down as Commissioner effective early December. (Read the BMV press release.) AAMVA has accepted Waddell's resignation as a member of AAMVA's Board of Directors, and as President of the Region III Board, effective immediately. We wish Scott the best of luck in his future endeavors!

DC DMV - Central Issuance and New DL and ID
DC DMV is changing how it issues driver licenses and identification cards. Beginning on Tuesday, November 26, 2013, DC DMV is moving to a central issuance process. Driver licenses and identification cards will no longer be issued over the counter. At the time of service, District residents will receive a temporary, paper license or identification card that will be valid for 45 days. The new credential will be mailed to the customer. Additionally, the new driver license and identification card have been redesigned. As industry best practices, the new process and look will decrease fraud. Detailed information about the upcoming changes are available in DC DMV's brochure.

GHSA Urges Parents to Leverage State GDL Programs During National Teen Driver Safety Week
What's the most important factor in keeping young drivers safe on the road? Parental involvement. While developmental and behavior issues coupled with inexperience impact teen crash risk, parents play a critical role in helping teens survive their most dangerous driving years, stressed the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA). The reminder comes at the onset of National Teen Driver Safety Week, October 20-26, which this year focuses on teens and parents working together.

The national association, which represents state highway safety offices, recently issued two reports stressing the impact parents have on what their teens do behind the wheel. Promoting Parent Involvement in Teen Driving: An In-Depth Look at the Importance and the Initiatives and Speeding-Related Fatal Crashes Among Teen Drivers and Opportunities for Reducing the Risks both point to graduated driver licensing (commonly known as GDL) as a proven tool to help parents keep their teens safe on the road. Both reports were funded by State Farm®. For more information on National Teen Driver Safety Week, visit here.

Timing of Driver's License Acquisition and Reasons for Delay among Young People in the United States
The AAA Traffic Safety Foundation has released a report that investigates the ages that young people obtain driver's licenses, as well as reasons for delaying licensure among those who did not obtain a license before turning 18. For more information, visit http://www.trb.org/main/blurbs/169646.aspx

AASHTO Driving Simulator and Texting While Driving in New Safety First Video
Safety First is back on Transportation TV this week to profile a driving simulator that is changing the way people think about texting behind the wheel. In eight short city blocks, motorists face real-world challenges as they try to read, write, send, and receive text messages while driving the speed limit. Most of the drivers crash. Find out how you can try out the simulator and what you can do to help make the nation's roadways safer. Watch Safety First and hundreds of other transportation-related videos at TransportationTV.org.