

January 31, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Upcoming AAMVA Webinar Discusses the Government's Role in Identity Establishment

Identity is the starting point in the delivery of high value services, benefits and entitlements. As such, the initial establishment of identity by an authoritative party is the foundation upon which other services are built. It is a given in the U.S. that a "Single Government Issued Credential" at higher levels of assurance is a non-starter. But does that mean there is no role for Register now for the upcoming webinar, Government's Role in Identity Establishment on February 5th from 2-3 PM (EST). Hosted by Geoff Slagle, AAMVA Director of Identity Management, the webinar will feature speakers Anil John, U.S. Federal Government Service at the General Service Administration's Office of Government-Wide Policy and Mike Farnsworth, Program Manager, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. Register online today.

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/931337449>

Region I

DMV Offers New Online Check on Whether Driver's License Is Valid (Connecticut)

The Department of Motor Vehicles announced Wednesday a new online lookup for checking whether a driver's license is valid. The new online service at www.ct.gov/dmv/licensecheck allows anyone to put in a driver's license number and a message will return whether the license is valid. Read the full story at ConnecticutPlus.com.

http://www.connecticutplus.com/cplus/information/news/News_1/DMV-Offers-New-Online-Check-on-Whether-Driver-s-License-Is-Valid2147021470.shtml

New DMV Analysis Shows State's Teen Driving Laws Are Working (Connecticut)

As January marks the 10th anniversary for Connecticut imposing restrictions and stronger safety standards on teen drivers, a recent DMV analysis shows these standards have brought large decreases in crashes, injuries and deaths in the last decade. Read the DMV press release.

<http://www.ct.gov/dmv/cwp/view.asp?Q=538750&A=807>

Push Renewed to Give Illegal Immigrants Bay State Driver's Licenses (Massachusetts)

The largest immigrant advocacy group in New England is again pushing lawmakers to support a bill that would allow foreign-born residents living in the country illegally to secure Massachusetts driver's licenses. Read the full story in [Cape Cod Times](http://CapeCodTimes.com).

<http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20140126/NEWS11/140129775/-1/NEWS06>

Now Easier for Seniors to Renew Driver's Licence in Ontario

Ontario is retooling the driver's licence renewal program for motorists 80 years of age and older. Currently, drivers 80 and over must pass a written knowledge test every two years to keep their licence. The Ministry of Transportation announced Tuesday that it will drop the written exam and instead require seniors to take two screening tests. Read the full story in The Toronto Sun.

<http://www.torontosun.com/2014/01/28/ontario-retooling-drivers-licence-renewal-for-seniors>

Corbett Asks Court to Reverse Decision on Voter ID (Pennsylvania)

A judge made a host of mistakes in deciding to throw out the Pennsylvania's requirement that voters display photo identification, lawyers for Gov. Tom Corbett argued in a court filing Monday. Read the full story at CumberLink.com.

http://cumberlink.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/corbett-asks-court-to-reverse-decision-on-voter-id/article_caaaa57a-87d5-11e3-9452-0019bb2963f4.html

Region II

The Florida Highway Patrol Celebrates Its Diamond Anniversary

The start of 2014 marks the beginning of an important milestone for the Florida Highway Patrol. Seventy-five years ago, the Florida Legislature created the Patrol as part of the Department of Public Safety. Today, FHP is known as one of the finest law enforcement agencies in the country and continues to meet the high standards of service that the residents and visitors of Florida have come to expect of those that wear a Florida State Trooper uniform. Read the press release.

<http://www.flhsmv.gov/news/pdfs/PR012714.pdf>

Governor Scott's Budget Proposal Promotes Public Safety and Improves Motor Vehicle Services (Florida)

Governor Rick Scott's "It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget" provides a continuing commitment to public safety and to improve motor vehicles services in Florida. The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles today released agency highlights included in the Governor's proposed 2014-2015 budget. Read the DMVHS press release.

<http://www.flhsmv.gov/news/pdfs/PR012914.pdf>

Florida Highway Patrol Graduates First-Ever Dual Recruit Classes

Today, the Florida Highway Patrol graduated ninety-five new troopers from FHP's Training Academy, marking the first time in the Patrol's 75-year history that two recruit classes trained and graduated simultaneously. The graduates join the more than 1,800 troopers who patrol the state's roads each day to provide protection and assistance to Florida residents and visitors. Read the DHSMV press release.

<http://www.flhsmv.gov/news/pdfs/PR013014.pdf>

Cell phone photo could be sub for paper driver's license in Georgia

Soon, Georgia motorists could whip out a cellphone picture of their driver's license when stopped by police instead of lugging around the plastic version. Read more at Jacksonville.com.

<http://mayportmirror.jacksonville.com/news/georgia/2014-01-30/story/cell-phone-photo-could-be-sub-paper-drivers-license-georgia#ixzz2rzXlitNX>

Extra Scrutiny for Elderly Drivers Fails in Virginia Senate

An attempt to increase oversight of "mature" drivers in Virginia failed in the state Senate on Wednesday after a spirited debate between lawmakers worried about their elderly parents and those more concerned with angry elderly voters. Read the full story in the Washington Post.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/extra-scrutiny-for-elderly-drivers-fails-in-virginia-senate/2014/01/29/f928dc6a-890f-11e3-a5bd-844629433ba3_story.html

Region III

Motor Vehicle Registration, Renewal, Transfer and Vehicle Property Tax Payment January Deadlines Extended

State Revenue Commissioner Julie P. Magee announced today that the January 2014 motor vehicle registration, renewal, transfer and vehicle property tax payment deadlines have been extended through Feb. 10, 2014, for all Alabama residents affected by county office closings due to severe winter weather conditions, occurring Jan. 28, 2014. Read the press release.

http://revenue.alabama.gov/news/01302014_1.pdf

Scooter License Plate Bill Clears Indiana Panel

Motorized scooters would need to have license plates under a bill approved by an Indiana House committee. The committee voted unanimously Tuesday to forward the proposal to the full House for consideration. The bill sets a \$17.30 charge for registering the scooters with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and a \$10 annual excise tax charge. Read the full story at WTHR.com.

<http://www.wthr.com/story/24572772/2014/01/29/scooter-license-plate-bill-clears-ind-panel>

Judge Refuses to Dismiss Lawsuit Over Denial of Nebraska Driver's Licenses to Immigrants

A judge has refused to dismiss a lawsuit targeting Nebraska's denial of driver's licenses for immigrants who came into the country as children with their families. Read the full story in The Republic.

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/990c8bc542ce4f79bc5c46a28a5a4e81/NE--Immigrant-Driver-Licenses-Lawsuit>

Morse Road BMV Office Under Investigation, Shut Down (Ohio)

A deputy registrar for a local bureau of motor vehicles private driver's license facility is being investigated for misappropriation of funds. The registrar resigned from the facility located at 1472 Morse Road on January 6; just days before state officials shut down the location on January 10. Read the full story at NBC4I.com.

<http://www.nbc4i.com/story/24531486/oshp-investigating-deputy-registrar-at-drivers-license-bus>

WisDOT RFP: Document Management and Workflow System

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is seeking proposals for a document management and workflow system that will provide for capture and routing of documents to processors, handling of associated payments, and archiving of documents for later viewing. Document management issues such as purging also will be addressed in this initiative. Image capture includes paper documents (mail, fax, hard copy), system generated documents, and other related electronic correspondence. View the VendorNet Bid Announcement.

<http://publicnotices.wi.gov/NoticeView.asp?Inid=999919296>

Region IV

Immigrant Driver's Licenses Prompt Concerns About Required Documents, Legal Risk (California)

With California preparing to offer driver's licenses to immigrants in the country illegally, the documentation needed to prove residency and the use of personal information emerged as key concerns at a Department of Motor Vehicles hearing on Tuesday. Read the full story in the Sacramento Bee.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/01/29/6109930/immigrant-drivers-licenses-prompt.html#storylink=cpy>

Motor Transportation Police is Awarded Top Five for the Innovations in American Government Award (New Mexico)

New Mexico's Smart Roadside program, an advanced commercial vehicle enforcement screening system, has been recognized as one of the "Top 5 Innovations in Government" by the Ash Center at the Harvard Kennedy School. This state-wide program automatically identifies high-risk commercial vehicles

making roads safer and enhancing New Mexico's Motor Transport Police Division roadside operations. Read the NM Motor Transport Police press release.

<http://www.nmmtdpolice.org/index.php/category/news/>

Lack of Seat Belt Usage Tied to Nearly Half of 2013 Utah Roadway Fatalities, Report Says

According to a report released this week by the Utah Department of Transportation, almost half of the people who died on Utah roadways in 2013 were not wearing a seat belt (excluding pedestrian, bicyclist, and motorcyclist fatalities). Read the full story in the AASHTO Journal.

<http://www.aashtojournal.org/Pages/012414UtahFatalities.aspx>

Bill Introduced to Raise Freeway Speed Limit (Utah)

A bill was introduced Tuesday that would allow for higher speed limits on more Utah freeways. Rep. Jim Dunnigan, R-Taylorsville, is sponsoring HB80, which would allow the Utah Department of Transportation to determine the eligibility of freeways for increased speed limits. Read the full story at DeseretNew.com.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865595059/Bill-introduced-to-raise-freeway-speed-limits.html>

Study Criticizes Wyoming for Giving Learner's Permits at Age 15

A new report says the 15-year-old age requirement to get a learner's permit in Wyoming is too young. But students in Rosie Brown's Thursday morning driver's education class Natrona County High School were having none of it. Read the full story in the Star-Tribune.

http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/study-criticizes-wyoming-for-giving-learner-s-permits-at-age/article_550cadfa-e3cd-5c41-9fc8-e513278d032b.html

Other News

More Teens Waiting To Get Their Driver's License, Studies Show

A growing number of teenagers are waiting a considerable time to get their driver's license after becoming eligible – a trend experts attribute to an array of societal and economic shifts ranging from the diminishing role of the automobile in the American psyche to the cost of gasoline. Read the full story at FoxNews.com.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2014/01/27/more-teens-waiting-to-get-their-drivers-license-studies-show/>

Digital Billboards Ruled Safe, But Controversy Continues

While digital billboards are popular with advertisers and outdoor ad companies, they've also attracted criticism for a range of reasons, including aesthetics and safety concerns, especially the threat of distracted driving. Read the full story at MediaPost.com.

<http://www.mediapost.com/publications/article/218214/digital-billboards-ruled-safe-but-controversy-con.html>

CSA Impacts on Drivers and Law Enforcement Explored in New ATRI Research

The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI), the trucking industry's not-for-profit research organization, today released Compliance, Safety Accountability: Assessing the New Safety Measurement System and Its Implications – 2013 Update. This is the first in a new series of ATRI white papers covering a multitude of research topics critical to the trucking industry. This white paper expands on ATRI's previous CSA impacts research among commercial drivers and enforcement personnel. Approximately 7,800 driver responses were analyzed over a three-year period examining perceptions, attitudes and knowledge of CSA. In addition, ATRI partnered with the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance to obtain a baseline level of enforcement personnel knowledge of CSA. Read the press release.

<http://www.atri-online.org/>

Did You Know

The Big Deal This Weekend? Super Bowl XLVIII

Finally! Super Bowl XLVIII is upon us! The champions of the American Football Conference (Denver Broncos) will play against the champions of the National Football Conference (Seattle Seahawks). Kickoff is 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, in MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

First and foremost, we want to stress safety. Designate a driver on game day. Watch this safety message on drinking and driving. <http://www.thenewscenter.tv/home/headlines/Staying-Safe-During-the-Super-Bowl-242812151.html>

Now for some fun facts about Super Bowl XLVIII:

- The game has been played outside and has been in the north – but this is the first time it's outside in the north. New Jersey becomes the 10th state to host a Super Bowl. With the exception of Indiana, Michigan and Minnesota, the game is always in warmer climes.
- MetLife Stadium will have 1,600 workers on standby to shovel and get things ready in case of snowy weather. Among the snow-melting machines that could be used is one that can melt 600 tons of snow per hour.
- For the coin toss, in 47 Super Bowls, heads has turned up 24 times and tails 23.
- Every year you think this figure can't go up, and every year it seems to. A 30-second ad spot is going for about \$4 million. That's \$133,333.33 per second.

Read more facts at:

http://www.cleveland.com/entertainment/index.ssf/2014/01/super_bowl_xlviii_seattle-denv.html

More Game Day Resources:

- Animal Planet's Puppy Bowl: <http://www.animalplanet.com/tv-shows/puppy-bowl>
- Hallmark Channel's Kitten Bowl: <http://www.hallmarkchannel.com/kittenbowl>
- Game Day Menus: <http://www.foodnetwork.com/big-game.html>
- Bring a Snack: <http://www.foodandwine.com/super-bowl-recipes>
- Super Bowl Commercials: <http://www.nfl.com/videos/nfl-super-bowl-commercials>