

February 14, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

2014 Region II Conference Registration Now Open

Join us in Biloxi, Mississippi for AAMVA's 81st Annual Region II Conference, June 21-26, 2014 at the IP Casino, Spa & Resort. Detailed information, including instructions for making hotel reservations, the Conference-at-a-Glance, and instructions for registration can be found at AAMVA's website (<http://www.aamva.org/2014-Region-II-Landing-Page/>). Look forward to seeing you in Biloxi!

Make Your Hotel and Travel Arrangements for the 2014 Region IV Conference

AAMVA's 2014 Region IV Conference will take place June 2-5, at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Center in Vancouver, BC. Visit the Region IV Conference Web site at www.aamva.org/2014-Region-IV-Landing-Page/ and make your hotel and travel arrangements today. (Registration for this event is not yet open.)

Region I

Mark your calendars for the 2014 Annual Region I Conference July 27-30

Join our host President Rob Fleming and his team in beautiful Toronto, Ontario, and prepare to experience a unique networking and educational event. This year's conference sessions will cover a wide variety of emerging and relevant topics, tailored to the AAMVA community and Region I members. In order to ensure every one of the Region I member jurisdictions has an opportunity to attend, the Region I Board has once again approved funding for each and every jurisdiction. Additionally, since the conference will be held in Canada which could result in increased travel costs for some, the funding has been increased this year to \$3,000 for each jurisdiction. We look forward to seeing you all in Ontario!

Gov. Proposes First Fuel Tax Increase in Two Decades for Transportation Projects (Delaware)

Delaware Governor Jack Markell announced Wednesday that he supports raising the state gas tax by 10 cents to help fund necessary transportation projects across the state. Read the full story in the AASHTO Journal.

<http://www.aashtojournal.org/Pages/013114DelawareGasTax.aspx>

New York State Offers Lifetime Outdoor Licenses

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has introduced the New York State Adventure License Series, which allows the purchase of lifetime licenses to fish, hunt and visit state parks. To promote the initiative, Cuomo unveiled New York's Outdoor Adventure license plates, which feature nine new plate designs. Using the familiar I Love NY marketing slogan as an anchor, they include I Love NY Hunting, Fishing and Parks.

These are available for free to those buying new Adventure Series licenses in 2014. Read the full story at BizJournals.com.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/news/2014/02/13/nys-offers-lifetime-outdoor-licenses.html>

Hope Grows for Rhode Island Bill to Extend Driver's Licenses to Undocumented Immigrants

As a growing number of states extend driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants, will Rhode Island be next? State lawmakers' efforts have garnered little support for years, but this year's landscape is different. Governor Chafee is supporting bills by Sen. Frank A. Ciccone III and Rep. Anastasia P. Williams, both Democrats from Providence, to extend "driving privilege licenses" and "driving privilege permits" to undocumented immigrants that would be separate from regular driver's licenses and permits. Read the full story in the Providence Journal.

<http://www.providencejournal.com/breaking-news/content/20140210-hope-grows-for-r.i.-bill-to-extend-drivers-licenses-to-undocumented-immigrants.ece>

Region II

A New Alabama Specialty License Plate Will Help Kids with Diabetes

A specialty plate benefiting children with diabetes is now available to drivers across the state through county licensing offices. The brightly colored tag, which says "Hope for Kids with Diabetes," costs \$50. From that, \$41.25 will directly benefit pediatric endocrinology at Children's of Alabama. Read the full story at WTVY.com.

<http://www.wtvv.com/home/headlines/A-new-Alabama-specialty-license-plate-will-help-kids-with-diabetes-244819621.html>

Lawmakers Introduce Bills to Allow Foster Kids to Get Driver Licenses (Florida)

Most observers agree Codi Crowley had a rough childhood, but she deals with it head-on and with a practical outlook far in advance of her age. Read the full story in TheLedger.com.

<http://www.theledger.com/article/20140212/NEWS/140219694>

Florida One Step Closer to Trimming Vehicle Fees

A bill moving through the Florida Senate would save truckers and other drivers a few bucks as early as this fall when paying vehicle license fees. Spurred by a tax relief package sought by Gov. Rick Scott, the bill would eventually trim about \$240 million from the fees and surcharges applied to license plate purchases, replacement or transfers and vehicle registration. Read the full story at LandLineMag.com.

http://www.landlinemag.com/Story.aspx?StoryID=26571#Uvz_ylNEPWg

New Louisiana Driver's License, ID Cards have Additional Security Features

Louisiana is transitioning to more secure driver's licenses and identification cards, according to the state Department of Public Safety. The new license has several security features, all linked to each other, including: a three-color overlay, multicolored fine-line printing and a "ghost image of the customer's photograph. Read the full story at TheTownTalk.com.

http://www.thetowntalk.com/article/20140214/NEWS01/140214008/New-La-driver-s-license-ID-cards-additional-security-features?nclick_check=1

Appeals Court: North Carolina Cannot Offer Only Anti-Abortion Plates

A federal appeals court on Tuesday upheld a 2012 court ruling that North Carolina's decision to issue special anti-abortion license plates is unconstitutional because the state doesn't offer similar plates supporting abortion rights. Read the full story at WRAL.com.

<http://www.wral.com/appeals-court-nc-cannot-offer-only-anti-abortion-plates/13379771/>

Ae Advises Drivers About Abandoned Vehicles in Storm (North Carolina)

For the safety of the traveling public and to ensure that plow and salt and sand trucks can effectively work to clear roads, NCDOT is working closely with the N.C. State Highway Patrol and local law enforcement to identify and move abandoned vehicles that are blocking travel lanes or posing an immediate safety hazard. Read the entire article in The Caswell Messenger.

http://www.caswellmessenger.com/news/article_43982802-9502-11e3-860f-001a4bcf887a.html

Oklahoma Teens Push for Ban on Texting While Driving

A group of teenagers who support a ban on texting while driving in Oklahoma are meeting at the Capitol to push for a new state law to prohibit the practice. Read the full story at News Daily.

<http://www.newsdaily.com/science/43c35879495ecd9accfaab3aa44deb53/okla-teens-push-for-ban-on-texting-while-driving>

Region III

Minnesota to Offer Enhanced Driver's Licenses and ID Cards

Starting Monday, Minnesota residents can apply for an enhanced driver's license or identification card that will allow them to re-enter the United States from Canada, Bermuda, Mexico and the Caribbean without needing a passport. Read the full story at RedLakeNationNews.com.

<http://www.redlakenationnews.com/story/2014/02/11/features/minnesota-to-offer-enhanced-drivers-licenses-and-id-cards/20174.html>

Minnesota agency delays elimination of bulk driver, vehicle data sales

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety has postponed for two months the elimination of bulk sales of driver's license and vehicle records, an official with the agency said Thursday. Read the full article on the SCTimes.com.

<http://www.sctimes.com/viewart/20140213/NEWS02/302130049/Minnesota-agency-delays-elimination-bulk-driver-vehicle-data-sales>

Lawsuit Challenging Nebraska's Denial of Driver's Licenses to Immigrants Thrown Out

A federal judge on Wednesday threw out a lawsuit challenging Nebraska's authority to deny driver's licenses to "dreamers" — young undocumented immigrants who have received temporary authorization to live and work in the United States. Read the full story in the World-Herald.

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20140212/NEWS/140219495/1707>

Teen Driving Bill Would Require Driver's Ed Until 21 (Ohio)

Driver's education classes could be mandated for thousands more young drivers after an amendment is added to a bill, creating further restrictions for teen drivers. The amendment would require people age 18, 19 or 20 to pay one of Ohio's hundreds of driving schools for instruction and supervised driving before they would be allowed to take a driver's test. Read the full story at The Post.

<http://thepost.ohiou.edu/content/teen-driving-bill-would-require-driver%E2%80%99s-ed-until-21>

Ohio Department of Public Safety and Ohio University Scripps College of Communication Announce Communicating for a Safer Ohio Initiative

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) is tapping the social media generation in a partnership, titled Communicating for a Safer Ohio, with Ohio University's nationally-recognized Scripps College of Communication, in an effort aimed at harnessing college students' innovative communication ideas to contribute to a safer Ohio. Read the BMV press release.

<http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/>

BCI Hires Three Auditors to Monitor Facial Recognition (Ohio)

Six months after Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine rolled out facial recognition technology, more than 26,500 people inside and outside the state still have access to the system, and one of the only security reforms to occur has been stronger passwords. Read the full story at CoshoctonTribune.com.

<http://www.coshoctontribune.com/article/20140212/NEWS01/302120027/BCI-hire-3-auditors-monitor-facial-recognition>

Suspending or Revoking License Doesn't Always Deter Wisconsin Drivers; 88,000 Violations Last Year

Tens of thousands of Wisconsin drivers continue to drive even though their licenses have been suspended or revoked. More than 74,000 people were convicted last year of driving with a suspended

license, and another 14,000 people were convicted of driving with a revoked license, the Post-Crescent Media reported. Read the full story in the Star Tribune.

<http://www.startribune.com/local/244883661.html>

Region IV

Girl, 10, Crashes SUV Into Colorado DMV Office

A 10-year-old girl has been cited for reckless driving after her mother's SUV crashed into a Division of Motor Vehicles office in the Denver suburb of Parker. Police Sgt. Andy Coleman says a woman parked outside the office Monday and left her 12- and 10-year-old daughters in the vehicle. That's when the younger girl apparently started the car and put the vehicle in gear. Read the full story at ABC News.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/girl-10-crashes-suv-colorado-dmv-office-22454976>

Bill Would Allow 80 MPH Speed Limit on Idaho Interstate

Idaho drivers could save five minutes traveling from Boise to Idaho Falls if lawmakers approve legislation to raise speed limits on certain roads. The increase would allow the Idaho Transportation Department to choose to increase legal speeds from 75 to 80 miles per hour on the interstate and from 65 to 70 miles per hour on state highways. Read the full story at MagicValley.com.

http://magicvalley.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/bill-would-allow-mph-speed-limit-on-idaho-interstate/article_db265346-93aa-11e3-abad-0019bb2963f4.html

Nevada DMV Responds To Increased Wait Times With New Notification Program

Wait times at the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles in Reno have doubled since the first of the year. There are a number of reasons for the long waits, but a new program could help customers deal with the delays. Read the full story at Capital Public Radio.

<http://www.caprado.org/articles/2014/02/12/nevada-dmv-responds-to-increased-wait-times-with-new-notification-program/>

Saskatchewan Drivers Facing Heftiest Vehicle Insurance Rate Hike in 15 Years

Drivers in Saskatchewan are facing a possible, average 5.2 per cent hike on their vehicle insurance rates, beginning this summer. Saskatchewan Government Insurance is seeking the increase that, if approved, will be the largest for the provincial Crown corporation in more than 15 years. Read the full story at Metro News.

<http://metronews.ca/news/regina/938673/sgi-seeks-5-2-per-cent-rate-hike-highest-increase-in-15-years/>

Saskatchewan Gives Green Light to Tougher Rules for New Motorcycle Riders

The Saskatchewan government is giving the green light to recommendations aimed at improving motorcycle safety. Saskatchewan Government Insurance says the province has approved all proposed changes put forward last week by a motorcycle review committee. Read the full story in the Canadian Underwriter.

<http://www.canadianunderwriter.ca/news/saskatchewan-gives-green-light-to-tougher-rules-for-new-motorcycle-riders/1002911501/>

House Approves 80 mph Speed Limit Bill (Utah)

The House approved a bill Friday that would allow the speed limit to be raised as high as 80 mph on highways and freeways throughout the state. Read the full story in Deseret News.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865595939/House-approves-80-mph-speed-limit-bill.html>

Senate Proposal Raises Gas Tax (Washington)

The coalition controlling the Washington Senate released a \$12 billion transportation package that would raise gasoline taxes by 11.5 cents a gallon over three years and finish several major projects, including Spokane's north-south freeway. Read the full story in the Spokesman Review.

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2014/feb/14/senate-proposal-raises-gas-tax/>

Other News

Poll Finds Older Drivers Have Greater Concentration

ONLY 60% of drivers concentrate when they are behind the wheel, according to an overseas poll by IAM/Vision Critical of nearly 1500 drivers. However, there was good and bad news in these research. Read the full story at MyDailyNews.com.

<http://www.mydailynews.com.au/news/poll-finds-older-drivers-have-greater-concentration/2167170/>

Chinese National Convicted of Running Driver's License Ring

A federal jury in Las Cruces convicted a Chinese national Tuesday of 64 felonies for running a ring that helped immigrants illegally obtain New Mexico driver's licenses. After about three hours of deliberations, the jury found Hai Gan, 56, of The Colony, Texas, guilty on 51 counts of fraud and other charges. He faces a sentence of hundreds of years in prison, as well as the forfeiture of four homes he owns in New Mexico and Texas. Read the full story in the Santa Fe New Mexican.

http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/chinese-national-convicted-of-running-driver-s-license-ring/article_abf980e8-6806-5c2c-821c-f320c64c0b28.html?TNNoMobile

ATRI Research Examines Safety Impacts of Driver Simulator Training

A new research white paper examining safety impacts of simulator training for truck drivers was released today by the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI). The report, Safety Impacts of Truck Driver Simulator Training, investigated the effectiveness of using customized truck driving simulators to target specific driving behaviors that have been associated with increased crash risk. Read the press release on <http://www.atri-online.org/>.

Did You Know

Winter Driving Tips

With more winter in store for us yet, it's not too late to brush up on some winter driving tips. Check out some of these resources:

- Driving in Snow and Ice (Edmunds)
<http://www.edmunds.com/car-safety/driving-on-snow-and-ice-10-safety-tips.html>
- Winter Driving Tips (CarTalk)
<http://www.cartalk.com/content/winter-driving-tips-7>
- Safe Winter Driving (OSHA)
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/SafeDriving.pdf>
- Checklist and Tips for Safe Winter Driving (NHTSA)
<http://www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/pdf/WinterDrivingTips2012.pdf>