

February 21, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Region IV Conference Registration Now Open

This year's Region IV conference agenda is jam packed with today's hottest motor vehicle and law enforcement topics. Don't miss this terrific opportunity to learn and discuss initiatives such as Google Glass, System Modernization, The Move to Electronic Credentials, How To Develop an Effective Marketing Campaign, Roadside Evaluations for Older Drivers, Privacy, Data Breaches and Cyber Crime, The Continuing Fight Against Fraud, Autonomous Vehicles, Real ID and much, much more. Region IV meets the first week in June in Vancouver British Columbia. Visit the Region IV webpage at <http://www.aamva.org/2014-Region-IV-Landing-Page/> to see the full draft agenda, make hotel reservations and register for the conference. Please direct questions to Sheila Prior at sprior@aamva.org or 480-275-4584.

New AAMVA Videos Now Available

AAMVA's communications team has been busy working on producing lots of informational videos that you'll not want to miss. Visit <http://www.YouTube.com/AAMVACommunications> and browse through our video library.

Recent additions are:

- Meet the Board - Rick Holcomb (<http://youtu.be/pLLM4Jub6ZI>)
- AAMVA On: Active Shooters (<http://youtu.be/1KE08opEFFQ>)
- 2014 Workshop - Active Shooter Session Promo (<http://youtu.be/kYpqq1eSNv8>)

Region I

DMV Expands Email, Text Reminder Program (New York)

The state Department of Motor Vehicles is expanding its program for electronically notifying motorists of soon-to-expire registrations and inspections, adding the ability to receive text alerts. Read the full story at StatePolitics.com.

http://statepolitics.lohudblogs.com/2014/02/18/dmv-expands-email-text-reminder-program/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

New York State Suspends Driver's License of 7,850 Tax Deadbeats

Gov. Cuomo is taking the car keys away from tax deadbeats. The Department of Motor of Motor Vehicles has suspended the driver's licenses of 7,850 motorists who owe the state more than \$10,000 in back taxes, The Post has learned. Read the full story in the New York Post.

<http://nypost.com/2014/02/17/ny-state-suspends-drivers-license-of-7850-tax-deadbeats/>

DMV Allows Maiden Names to be Added More Easily to Licenses (New York)

In a move being hailed as a victory by local women's advocacy groups, a state official says the state Department of Motor Vehicles is now providing a simpler way for married people to use their maiden names as middle names on driver's licenses. Read the full story at LoHud.com.

<http://www.lohud.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014302190071>

Region II

Department of Driver Services Warns of Unofficial DMV Websites Charging Fees (Georgia)

Department of Driver Services (DDS) Commissioner Rob Mikell urges customers to be careful of third party websites when trying to access the Georgia Driver's Manual or obtain other driver licensing services and information. Third party Internet sites such as www.DMV.org and www.Drivers-Licenses.org are not connected with or sanctioned by the DDS. Read the DDS press release.

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/news/index.aspx>

Age Limit Apparent Road Block for Texting While Driving Bills (Mississippi)

Two texting bills are up for debate at the State Capitol. While most lawmakers say texting causes distracted driving, they can't seem to pass a more aggressive texting law. It seems that the age limit is holding up passage of the bills. Read the full story at WAPT.com.

<http://www.wapt.com/news/whos-accountable/age-limit-apparent-road-block-for-texting-while-driving-bills/24521802#ixzz2thFUlwDC>

Advocacy Group Sues North Carolina DMV Claiming Discrimination

An advocacy group representing disabled people is suing the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles, charging the agency discriminates against drivers with disabilities. The lawsuit was filed Tuesday by Disability Rights NC, and it alleges that drivers with disabilities are subjected to unnecessary road testing and medical exams, based on stereotypes and generalizations about people with physical disabilities. The group says DMV is in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act. Read the full story at ABCLocal.

<http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?section=news/local&id=9436674>

New Confederate License Plate Brings Skirmishes (Georgia)

The state of Georgia has released a new specialty license tag that features the Confederate battle flag, inflaming civil rights advocates and renewing a debate on what images should appear on state-issued materials. The new specialty tag has stirred a clash between those who believe the battle flag honors

Confederate heritage and those, particularly African-Americans, who view it as a racially charged symbol of oppression. Read the full story at AJC.com.

<http://www.ajc.com/news/news/state-regional-govt-politics/new-confederate-license-plate-brings-skirmishes/ndSjT/>

Panel Nixes Crackdown on Teen Drivers' Cellphone Use (Virginia)

An attempt to crack down on cellphone use by teenage drivers was stopped in its tracks today by a House of Delegates subcommittee. Sen. George Barker's bill (SB139) would have made it a primary offense for a person under 18 with a provisional driver's license to use a cellphone while behind the wheel. Read the full story at HamptonRoads.com.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2014/02/panel-nixes-crackdown-teen-drivers-cellphone-use>

Region III

State Begins Campaign on Driver Cellphone Ban (Illinois)

The state of Illinois has begun a public awareness campaign to remind drivers that all hand-held cellphone use is now illegal. Under a law that took effect Jan. 1, Illinois drivers can only use speakerphones or headsets that feature voice-activated or one-digit dialing. Read the full story in the Quad City Times.

http://qctimes.com/news/state-and-regional/illinois/illinois-begins-campaign-on-driver-cellphone-ban/article_99e7288a-a64c-55a3-95b7-913d42daf80d.html

Illinois Earns Top Rating for Fighting Drunk Driving

Mothers Against Drunk Driving gave Illinois a top rating for the state's efforts against drunken driving. The organization released its annual national report last month. It gives Illinois a five-star rating for continued efforts with in-car devices to test blood-alcohol levels. Last summer, the state began requiring convicted drunk drivers to install cameras with these devices. This was a key reason for the high rating. Read the full story at NorthernStar.info.

http://northernstar.info/from_ap/illinois/article_c6f8a099-cbe7-520a-a0a8-d95f74d852c4.html

Bill Would Allow Eight-Year Driver's Licenses (Kansas)

A Kansas House committee is considering a bill that would allow state residents to renew their driver's licenses for eight years, rather than the current six years. Read the full story at HutchNews.com.

http://www.hutchnews.com/news/local_state_news/article_179ff798-9b06-11e3-95f8-001a4bcf887a.html

US Sikhs Allowed to Wear Turbans in DL Photos (Minnesota)

A Sikh American has won a legal victory in the US state of Minnesota allowing Sikhs to wear their turbans in driving license identification photographs. Read the full story at OutlookIndia.com.

<http://news.outlookindia.com/items.aspx?artid=829643>

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Two texting bills are up for debate at the State Capitol. While most lawmakers say texting causes distracted driving, they can't seem to pass a more aggressive texting law. It seems that the age limit is holding up passage of the bills. Read the full story at WAPT.com.

<http://www.wapt.com/news/whos-accountable/age-limit-apparent-road-block-for-texting-while-driving-bills/24521802#ixzz2thFUlwDC>

Home-Buying Scammer Caught in Craigslist Odometer Fraud (Missouri)

A man who is still on federal supervised release after a \$1 million home buying scheme collapsed pleaded guilty to a new crime Wednesday and admitted defrauding car buyers on Craigslist by rolling back odometers. Read the full article in the St Louis Post-Dispatch.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/home-buying-scammer-caught-in-craigslist-odometer-fraud/article_20ae39c8-4bbb-5742-b0f7-42c0be376596.html

Region IV

Arizona MVD Participates in Arizona StandDown

Sheila Prior and her husband joined members of the Arizona MVD for "Arizona StandDown". The annual event helps the state's homeless and at-risk military veterans connect with services ranging from VA health care and housing, to ID/driver's licenses and legal aide. Read Sheila's blog post to learn more.

<http://www.aamva.org/blogs.aspx?blogid=109>

New Bill Could Partially Restrict Teen Phone Use While Driving (Arizona)

Some big changes could be coming for teen drivers. A new bill wants to prohibit teens from using their cell phones behind the wheel. Read the full story at MyFoxDetroit.com.

www.myfoxdetroit.com/story/24773751/2014/02/20/new-bill-could-restrict-teen-phone-use-while-driving#ixzz2tsC4snQD

Bill Banning Cellphone Use Near Schools Advances (Alaska)

A legislative committee advanced a bill Thursday allowing municipalities to ban the use of cellphones while driving in a school zone or on school property. The Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee signed off on the measure, which would give municipalities such an option since state law stipulates all traffic laws must be uniform across Alaska. Read the full story in the Anchorage Daily News.

<http://www.adn.com/2014/02/06/3309603/hearing-set-for-cell-phone-ban.html>

Officials Seek Cause of Crash that Killed 2 CHP Officers

Authorities said they are still trying to sort out the details of a crash that killed California Highway Patrol officers Juan Gonzalez and Brian Law in the Central Valley. Investigators on Monday described the sequence of events but stressed the investigation was still ongoing. Read the full story in the Los Angeles Times.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-2-chp-officers-killed-officials-seek-cause-of-crash-20140218,0,7382958.story#ixzz2th6v50u1>

Hawaiian Language Driver's License Test Soon Available

Even though Hawaiian is one of the official languages of the state, Hawaii residents won't be able to take driver's license exams in the language until next month. The state Department of Transportation is preparing to make Hawaiian an exam language starting March 17. It will be one of the few official transactions that can be conducted in Hawaiian. Read the full story in the Insurance Journal.

<http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/west/2014/02/18/320661.htm>

House Kills Inattentive Driving Bill After Debate (Idaho)

A bill to punish drivers who get behind the wheel with a known, untreated medical condition died on the House floor. The 49-19 vote came Thursday after opponents argued it was too broad, and could open up even those who were trying to control their condition to charges. Read the full story in the Idaho Statesman.

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/2014/02/20/3040481/house-kills-inattentive-driving.html>

Senate OKs New License Plate Replacement Rule (Washington)

The requirement that car owners periodically replace license plates would go away under a measure approved unanimously by the Senate. Senate Bill 5785 passed the chamber late Monday night and now heads to the House for consideration. Under the bill, license plates would only need to be replaced when the vehicle changes ownership. Currently, license plates must be replaced every seven years. Read the full story at News Daily.

<http://www.newsdaily.com/united-states/f9e4c4cc0d4558814ff4dea9845025bb/senate-oks-new-license-plate-replacement-rule>

Other News

Driving Age 'Rising to 18' with Tough New Test Designed to Slash Road Carnage (U.K.)

The driving age will effectively rise to 18 in a major overhaul of how young people are prepared for the road. Learners will still be granted their provisional licence from 17, but will need a year to pass a beefed-up test. It means the minimum age at which a new driver could realistically go out on his or her own will be 18. Read the full story in the Daily Mail.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-504651/Driving-age-rising-18-tough-new-test-designed-slash-road-carnage.html>

Homeland Security Seeking License Plate Tracking System

Is it a key new tool to get criminals off the streets -- or a way for the government to invade your privacy? The Department of Homeland Security wants to create a nationwide database with every American's license plate number according to a posting the agency issued looking for vendors to build the tracking system. But there are few details about what privacy safeguards would be put in place. Read the full story at KIROTV.com.

<http://www.kirotv.com/news/news/national/homeland-security-wants-use-license/ndS8R/>

US Agency Ordered to Drop License Plate Database Solicitation

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security demanded the cancellation of a plan to access or buy commercial databases for tracking license plates nationwide after criticism from privacy advocates. Read the full story on BusinessWeek.com.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-02-20/u-dot-s-dot-agency-ordered-to-drop-license-plate-database-solicitation>

Accident Rates Improving for Older Drivers

Safety researchers expressed concern a decade ago that traffic accidents would increase as the nation's aging population swelled the number of older drivers on the road. Now, they say they've been proved wrong. Today's drivers aged 70 and older are less likely to be involved in crashes than previous generations and are less likely to be killed or seriously injured if they do crash, according to a study released Thursday by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Read the full story at AP.org.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_AGING_AMERICA_OLDER_DRIVERS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2014-02-20-19-19-12

Did You Know

This week we were saddened yet again to have to add two more names to AAMVA's Law Enforcement Memorial (<http://www.aamva.org/law-enforcement/>).

According to statistics collected by the FBI, 95 law enforcement officers were killed in line-of-duty incidents in 2012. Of these, 48 law enforcement officers died as a result of felonious acts, and 47 officers died in accidents. In addition, 52,901 officers were victims of line-of-duty assaults.

Our deepest respect and sympathy to the families and agencies of those officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Following are some links to more law enforcement information resources and information on how you may be able to assist the families of fallen officers:

- AAMVA Law Enforcement Memorial <http://www.aamva.org/law-enforcement/>
- National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund <http://www.nleomf.com/>
- Officer Down Memorial Page <https://www.odmp.org/>
- Bureau of Labor Statistics <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/police-and-detectives.htm>
- Federal Bureau of Investigation <http://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/fbi-releases-2012-statistics-on-law-enforcement-officers-killed-and-assaulted>
- National Criminal Justice Reference Service <https://www.ncjrs.gov/lresources/statistics.html>
- Bureau of Justice Statistics <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=7>