

March 28, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

New Webinar Added: CDL Workshop Follow Up - State Success Stories

Join us on Wednesday, April 9th at 2:00 PM (EST) for the CDL Workshop Follow Up – State Success Stories webinar. The purpose of this webinar is to continue the conversations around compliance best practices from different jurisdictions. Due to time constraints at the February CDL Workshop in Houston, a few jurisdiction presentations did not occur. Presenters have graciously agreed to provide their presentations via AAMVA Webinar series, so that their colleagues from other jurisdictions can benefit from their lessons learned and best practices. <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/693005809>

Upcoming AAMVA Events

Get all the details on these upcoming events:

- Region IV Conference (June 2-5) <http://www.aamva.org/2014-Region-IV-Landing-Page/>
- Region II Conference (June 22-26) <http://www.aamva.org/2014-Region-II-Landing-Page/>

Make your hotel and travel arrangements and register online today!

Region I

New State Law Allows School Busses to Record Sound (Pennsylvania)

It used to be if you to be if you had a camera on a school bus, you could only record video. However, thanks to a new state law, now you not only can see what's happening — you can hear it as well. School bus video has been around for years. Some of the images captured from around the nation are disturbing. But by law in Pennsylvania, it was all video and no sound allowed. Read the full story at Pittsburgh.CBSLocal.com.

<http://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2014/03/24/new-state-law-allows-school-buses-to-record-sound/>

Fees Set To Go Up To Offset Transportation Bill Spending (Pennsylvania)

The cost of driver's licenses, personalized plates and more than 30 other motor vehicle fees are increasing statewide - some by more than double. Some of those fee increases will kick in next week and motorists can expect more to follow this summer. The rising costs are part of the massive transportation package signed into law last fall. The bill is designed to pump \$2.3 billion over the next five years into the state's crumbling roads, bridges and mass transit systems. Read the full story at LancasterOnLine.com.

http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/fees-set-to-go-up-to-offset-transportation-bill-spending/article_88f98510-b4fd-11e3-9a2b-001a4bcf6878.html

Region II

Staying Alive on I-75; Six States Partnering to Keep Motorists Safe (Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan)

The Florida Highway Patrol is collaborating with five other states in an effort to keep the roadways safe and fatality-free today through March 30. All six states that line Interstate 75 (Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan), will be participating in an intensified enforcement effort called "Staying Alive on I-75." By all states working together, the entire 1,786 miles of I-75 will be covered under this enforcement action. The "Staying Alive on I-75" is being conducted in support of a nationwide initiative by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to reduce traffic fatalities in the United States by 15 percent this year. Read the DHSMV press release.

<http://www.flhsmv.gov/news/pdfs/PR032814.pdf>

GA Driver Services Commissioner Appoints New General Counsel

Department of Driver Services (DDS) Commissioner Rob Mikell has selected Cassandra A. Williams for the position of General Counsel. Williams previously worked as a Senior Associate at the law firm of Drew, Eckl, & Farnham in Atlanta. Read the press release for more information.

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/news/newsdetail.aspx?id=339>

Immigrants To March For North Carolina Driver's Licenses

Immigrant families and their supporters are set to march in hopes of being able to drive in North Carolina. Those who support driver's licenses for immigrants living illegally in North Carolina are scheduled to march Saturday from banks on Fayetteville Street to the Governor's Mansion. Organizers estimate that 400 people will march. Read the full story at CBSLocal.com.

<http://charlotte.cbslocal.com/2014/03/22/immigrants-to-march-for-nc-drivers-licenses/>

Region III

Tighter Indiana Scooter Rules Signed into Law

The new law will require scooter operators to obtain license plates from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, have valid state ID and pass a road sign test. The new rules take effect in January. . . The law keeps the minimum age to operate scooters at 15, while raising their maximum speed to 35 mph and banning them from interstates. Read the full story at KokomoTribune.com.

<http://www.kokomotribune.com/statenews/x787235056/Tighter-Indiana-scooter-rules-signed-into-law>

Kansas Starts Printing Veteran Driver's Licenses

Kansas residents who served in the military may now get the word "veteran" printed on their state-issued driver's licenses and photo ID cards. The Department of Revenue announced this week that the service is available to veterans with an honorable or general discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions. Read the full story at NewsDaily.com.

<http://www.newsdaily.com/united-states/30664b381b7f88596bb1158b524120b2/kansas-starts-printing-veteran-drivers-licenses>

Pedestrian Fatalities Dip in Ohio

National transportation officials have been trying to reduce what had become a growing number of pedestrian deaths in traffic crashes, and preliminary data show the trend might be reversing. A recent report from the Governors Highway Safety Association found that pedestrian traffic fatalities dropped nationwide in the first half of 2013. That's the first decrease since 2009. Ohio was one of 25 states where fewer pedestrians were killed. Read the full story in the Columbus Dispatch.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/03/24/pedestrian-fatalities-dip.html>

Panel Approves Bill that Allows Tesla Motors to Operate 3 Stores in Ohio

Tesla Motors will be able to open a third Ohio location after striking a deal with the state's auto dealers on a bill that would have blocked the electric car company's expansion in the state. The Senate Finance Committee advanced on Tuesday a bill that prevents auto manufacturers from selling their automobiles directly to customers in Ohio, while grandfathering in Tesla's two existing auto dealer licenses. An amendment to the bill allows Tesla to obtain a license for a third store and service center in Ohio. Read the full story at Cleveland.com.

http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2014/03/panel_approves_bill_that_allow.html

Wisconsin State Patrol Welcomes 30 New Officers to its Ranks

After 23 weeks of intense training, 30 cadets were sworn in and received their badges as Wisconsin State Patrol officers during a graduation ceremony in Tomah on Friday, March 21. Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary Mark Gottlieb administered the oath of office. Read the DOT press release.

www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news

Region IV

California DMV Says No Evidence of Computer System Breach

The California Department of Motor Vehicles Saturday said there is no evidence showing a direct breach of its computer system but it would open an investigation "out of an abundance of caution." Earlier

Saturday, security blogger Brian Krebs reported that banks in California and elsewhere were alerted by MasterCard about compromised cards that had all been used for online transactions at the California DMV. The agency said it would pursue its investigation in conjunction with state and federal law enforcement. Read the full story at NBCNews.com.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/business/consumer/california-dmv-says-no-evidence-computer-system-breach-n59726>

Billboard Campaign Shames California Commuters For Texting While In Traffic

You shouldn't text while driving, period. But you definitely shouldn't do so while driving on the 101 Freeway in San Francisco unless you want your picture plastered across the city. Texting While in Traffic (TWIT), a new project spearheaded by San Francisco graphic designer Brian Singer, essentially photo shames commuters caught texting while in traffic by plastering photos of their behavior on 11 billboards throughout the city, Gizmodo reports. Read the full story at Consumerist.com.

<http://consumerist.com/2014/03/26/billboard-campaign-shames-california-commuters-for-texting-while-in-traffic/>

California DMV to Open Five Facilities to Process Illegal Immigrant Driver License Applications

The California Department of Motor Vehicles is setting up new facilities to process driver's license applications for illegal immigrants alone. Last year, Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law a bill, AB 60, which will allow illegal immigrants to obtain the documents beginning Jan. 1, 2015. The bill was signed along with a number of other laws seen as favorable to undocumented immigrants. Read the full story on The Daily Caller.

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/03/27/california-to-open-facilities-for-only-illegal-immigrants-drivers-licenses/>

Bill Would Remove Info from Vehicle Registrations (Colorado)

The Colorado House gave preliminary approval to a bill Tuesday to remove some identifying information on motor vehicle registration cards. Under current law, those cards include vehicle owners' home addresses and signatures certifying that they have auto insurance. Read the full story in The Daily Sentinel.

<http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/bill-would-remove-info-from-vehicle-registrations/>

Roadside Hit-and-Run Alerts Become Law in Colorado

Colorado will be the first state to issue statewide roadside and broadcast alerts for hit-and-run crashes under a bill signed into law Tuesday. The law creates an Amber Alert-style notification system when authorities are looking for vehicles involved in serious hit-and-run crashes. The system includes quickly alerting the media and issuing bulletins on electronic highway signs that describe the fleeing vehicles. It will be implemented next year. Read the full story in Gazette.com.

<http://gazette.com/roadside-hit-and-run-alerts-become-law-in-colorado/article/1517058>

Mom of Transgender Child Wants ID Rules Changes; Youngster has Identified as a Girl Since Age 3 (Saskatchewan)

The mother of a transgender child wants the Saskatchewan government to remove any record of a person's sex on birth certificates. Fran Forsberg has filed a complaint to Saskatchewan's Human Rights Commission on behalf of her six-year-old child, Renn, after the province's Vital Statistics Agency refused to change Renn's sex designation from "Male" to "Female" on the youngster's birth records. Read the full story at CBC.CA.News.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/mom-of-transgender-child-wants-id-rules-changed-1.2584966>

Saskatchewan Law Strips British Columbia Residents Rights to Sue

Reasons for judgement were released this week by the BC Supreme Court, Vancouver Registry, confirming that Saskatchewan's restrictive 'no-fault' auto insurance scheme strips the right of out of Province visitors from seeking tort compensation when injured through the wrongful driving of another in Saskatchewan. In this week's case (Ngo v. Luong) the parties were BC residents driving in Saskatchewan. The Defendant lost control of the vehicle flipping over and causing injury to the passenger. The Plaintiff started a lawsuit in BC Supreme Court hoping to get around Saskatchewan's no-fault system. Mr. Justice Ehrcke found that Saskatchewan's laws applied and stripped the Plaintiff's right to seek damages in tort. Read the full story at ILSTV.com.

<http://www.ilstv.com/saskatchewan-law-strips-bc-residents-right-to-sue/>

Other News

Alcohol's Role in Traffic Deaths Vastly Underreported, Study Shows

While much progress has been made in the fight against drunk driving, a new study from U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism indicates that alcohol-related traffic deaths are still vastly under-reported on death certificates. Read the full story at FoxNews.com.

<http://www.foxnews.com/health/2014/03/24/alcohols-role-in-traffic-deaths-vastly-underreported-study-shows/>

More Drivers Need to Get Recalled Cars Fixed, Insurance Group Says

An insurance industry study found that repairing recalled vehicles can reduce dangerous incidents for drivers. The Highway Loss Data Institute – an arm of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety – looked at claims for car fires that were not caused by a crash. These are fires that start with electrical issues and fuel system defects, problems that are a fairly common source of manufacturer recalls. The insurance industry research organization compared the rate of non-crash fire claims for vehicles

highway loss data institute recall study during the period from 2007 to 2012. Read the full story in the Los Angeles Times.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/autos/la-fi-hy-insurance-group-pushes-recall-repairs-20140327,0,7888236.story#ixzz2xBJMeKhh>

Does Google Glass Distract Drivers? The Debate Is On

Shane Walker hops into his Toyota Prius hybrid and puts on his Google Glass. It's a lightweight glasses frame with a tiny computer built into the lens. Google is at the forefront of a movement in wearable technology, gadgets we put on our bodies to connect us to the Internet, and perhaps nothing embodies that more than Glass. But the eyewear is raising eyebrows outside the high-tech industry. Before Glass even hits stores, lawmakers in several states want to ban it on the roads. Read the full story at NPR.

www.npr.org/blogs/alltechconsidered/2014/03/24/289802359/does-google-glass-distract-drivers-the-debate-is-on

Did You Know

TO PRANK OR BE PRANKED...A CELEBRATION FOCUSED PURELY ON SHENANIGANS AND MISCHIEF

There is a day which occurs once a year that some look forward to with trepidation, while others anticipate and plan for years in advance. That day is April Fool's Day which falls on the 1st of April every year and is celebrated by millions around the world.

If there is a celebration that is observed by millions around the world, then perhaps it's worth brushing up on what the day really is all about.

- Some historians believe the April Fools' customs began in France, although no one knows for sure.
- It may stem from a calendar change in 16th century France -- the moving of New Year's Day from April 1 to January 1 when the Gregorian calendar was adopted. People who continued to celebrate New Year's Day on April 1st rather than the new date of January 1st were referred to as "April fools" and others played tricks on them.
- Others say that the occasion evolved from festivals of spring renewal when people hid their identities.
- It used to be that pranks had to be completed in the morning in most English-speaking countries. Pranks later in the day were frowned upon, but that custom seems to have gone by the wayside and the whole day of April 1 is considered fair game for joking.
- In Scotland, the event lasts two days. April 1 is Hunt-the-Gowk Day ("gowk" means "cuckoo"), and April 2 is Taily Day. Tricks are played both days, with the latter focusing on pranks aimed at people's bums, or bottoms. This is said to be where the "Kick Me" sign originated.
- In New York City, fake press releases about an April Fools' Day Parade has been issued every year since 1986. Other cool pranks: In 1996, Taco Bell Corp. duped consumers by running a full-

page ad in major newspapers claiming that it had purchased the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia and will be renaming it the "Taco Liberty Bell."

- In 1957, the BBC reported about "spaghetti crops" in Switzerland and many requested information on growing their own spaghetti trees, completely oblivious to the fact that it was an April Fools Joke
- Google is a big celebrator of the holiday, and in 2013 it unveiled Google Nose, a prank it called "the next *scentsation* in search" because one could search aromas and sniff them, through his/her computer.

Learn more about April Fool's Day:

- April Fool's Day Fast Facts (CNN) <http://www.cnn.com/2013/08/16/world/april-fools-day-fast-facts/>
- No kidding: April Fools' Day trivia, fun facts and famous pranks <http://www.chicagonow.com/tween-us/2014/03/april-fools-day-trivia/>
- What Is April Fool's Day? 4 Fast Facts About All Fool's Day <http://www.latintimes.com/what-april-fools-day-4-fast-facts-about-all-fools-day-161776>