

# April 11, 2014 - Regional News

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## AAMVA News

### Did You Miss the CDL State Success Stories Webinar?

No need to panic, we've got you covered. Simply visit AAMVA's Webinar Archives <<http://www.aamva.org/Webinar-Archives/>> page to catch up on all the information you missed. While you're there, take some time to browse through previous webinars as well.

### Standing Committee Vacancies

Serving on a committee or working group is an ideal way to influence policy, develop best practices and network with your peers. Subject matter experts from driver, vehicle, and motor carrier services disciplines can include financial responsibility, licensing, testing, and registration, titling, or inspection, among other experience and positions. Vacancies on the three standing committees occur because of resignations and end of service terms. We have several vacancies on each of the standing committee. See the positions which will be vacant on our web site at <http://www.aamva.org/Committees-and-Working-Groups/>. If you are interested in applying for membership, please download the Committee Member Application. Applications MUST be received by May 15, 2014 to be considered for October start date.

### 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/>
- Region I Conference (July 27-30) <http://www.aamva.org/2014-Region-I-Landing-Page/>

Make your hotel and travel arrangements and register online today!

## Region I

### State Officials, Safety Advocates Launch Program Targeting Teen Driver-Passenger Safety (Connecticut)

Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Melody Currey, and other safety advocates today announced the launch of a year-long teen driver-passenger safety program: "You're NOT Just Along for The Ride. Safety is EVERYONE'S Responsibility." Funded through a \$14,000 State Farm grant, the program couples safety awareness for drivers and passengers and prevention of underage drinking and distracted driving. Read the DMV press release.

<http://www.ct.gov/dmv/cwp/view.asp?Q=543018&A=807>

### **Survey: Teen Drivers Need More Practice, Education (New Jersey)**

More than seven out of 10 New Jersey drivers in a AAA survey support more education and practice for teenage drivers. According to the survey, 72 percent of people questioned said they support parent-teen orientation programs for driving, operated by AAA or the state Division of Highway Traffic Safety. AAA runs a program for parents and teens called "Dare to Prepare." In addition, New Jersey has a parent-teen orientation program called "Share the Key." According to AAA, parents and teens who complete one of these programs consider it time well spent. Read the full story at NJ1015.com.

<http://nj1015.com/survey-teen-drivers-need-more-practice-education-audio/?trackback=tsmclip>

### **For Car Thieves, the Older and Heavier the Ride, the Better (New York)**

Of all the crime declines in New York over the past two decades, the virtual eradication of car theft has been among the most complete: They are down 94 percent from the 1990s, when blaring multitune car alarms served as the city's after-hours soundtrack. But in recent months, auto thefts have unexpectedly risen — a trend the police say is driven almost entirely by thieves targeting the oldest and heaviest vehicles they can find. Read the full story in the New York Times.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/09/nyregion/for-car-thieves-the-older-and-heavier-the-ride-the-better.html?hp&\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/09/nyregion/for-car-thieves-the-older-and-heavier-the-ride-the-better.html?hp&_r=2)

### **Pennsylvania Records Lowest Number of Traffic Deaths Ever**

The number of highway deaths on Pennsylvania roads tumbled to a record low last year when 1,208 were recorded, the lowest number since recordkeeping began in 1928, PennDOT Secretary Barry J. Schoch announced today. Read the PennDOT press release.

<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/pdNews.nsf/8c5bc4e349ab4db6852576c800678468/27dc46a23dd7149985257cb40053ba8c?OpenDocument>

### **Boston Bruins License Plate Approved (Rhode Island)**

Lawmakers on Tuesday approved a new Boston Bruins license plate that would benefit state coffers and local charities. The plates would cost an extra \$40. Half the money would go to the state, while the other half would go to the Boston Bruins Foundation. The foundation must use the money to benefit Rhode Island-based charities that promote athletic activities, academics, and health. The state Senate on Tuesday approved a bill regarding the license plate plan. The House of Representatives would have to approve it, too. Read the full story at Coventry.Patch.com.

<http://coventry.patch.com/groups/politics-and-elections/p/ri-boston-bruins-license-plate-approved>

## **Region II**

### **DMV Restores Mistakenly Suspended Licenses (Florida)**

The state has restored licenses for potentially thousands of driver who had theirs suspended in error. The mistake was a result of technical problems at the DMV and issues with insurance companies. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles say 7,500 letters went out since March 31. But due to a problem with a new computer system and bad information from insurance companies, some people who received the letter should not have. Read the full story at ABC-7.com.

<http://www.abc-7.com/story/25209135/dmv-restores-mistakenly-suspended-licenses#.UObImINGI8E>

### **DMV Employee Arrested, Accused Of License Fraud (Florida)**

An investigation led to the arrest of a Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicle employee. Florida Highway Patrol arrested Driver License Examiner Tiffany Denise Sanders on Wednesday for official misconduct and driver license fraud. She worked at the Northside Driver License Office, located at 7900 Northwest 27 Avenue. Read the full story at Miami.CBSLocal.com.

<http://miami.cbslocal.com/2014/04/10/dmv-employee-arrested-for-license-fraud/>

### **DMV Now Letting Private Contractors Renew Driver's Licenses (Louisiana)**

Like most people Charity Laughlin's time is precious. She has to get her driver's license renewed, but only has an hour lunch break. Rather than wait at the Department of Motor Vehicles, Laughlin is headed to Pedersen Title Company. Read the full story at KPLCTV.com

<http://www.kplctv.com/story/25187319/dmv-now-letting-private-contractors-renew-drivers-licenses>

### **Licensing All Drivers in North Carolina**

Earlier this week the Budget & Tax Center released an analysis of the economic and fiscal impacts of providing all drivers a license regardless of immigration status. The findings suggest that more than 250,000 undocumented immigrants could be eligible for a license and their children too. Read the full story at Pulse.NCPolicyWatch.org.

<http://pulse.ncpolicywatch.org/2014/04/11/licensing-all-drivers-in-north-carolina/>

### **North Carolina's Teen Driving Log Results in Fewer Fatalities, More Violations**

The numbers of teen driving deaths and injuries have fallen in North Carolina but moving violations are up since the state's General Assembly imposed new requirements on young drivers and their parents before teens can drive fully on their own, North Carolina's Division of Motor Vehicles said. The legislature directed DMV to study if a 2011 law that demands young people learning to drive fill out driving logs that confirm adult supervision in their cars is effective. Read the full story at InsuranceJournal.com.

<http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/southeast/2014/04/10/326024.htm>

### **DMV Announces Military Commercial Driver Skills Test Waiver (South Carolina)**

The South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) announced today that the agency will allow qualified military service members to waive the commercial skills test to obtain a commercial driver license effective April 14, 2014. Read the DMV press release.

<http://www.scdmvonline.com/DMVNew/news%20releases/PR%20-%20Military%20CDL%20Waiver%204-10-14.pdf>

### **Governor McAuliffe Announces Successful Launch of DMV/VDH Vital Records Partnership (Virginia)**

Governor Terry McAuliffe today announced the successful launch of the partnership of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Division of Vital Records to provide increased access to Virginia birth certificates. As of March 1, 2014, copies of Virginia birth certificates are available statewide at all 75 DMV customer service centers and five mobile offices. Read the press release. <https://governor.virginia.gov/news/newsarticle?articleId=3848>

## **Region III**

### **Iowa Senate Rejects House's Ideas for Drunken Driving Rule Change Involving Ignition Locks**

The Iowa Senate has rejected amendments to a bill attempting to change Iowa's law dealing with drunken drivers. The Senate on Monday voted against a House provision to mandate the installation of ignition interlock devices for all drunken driving offenders. As part of the House plan, offenders could receive restricted licenses if they installed the devices, allowing them limited driving privileges. Read the full story at GreenFieldReporter.com.

<http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/view/story/755e9a10c600422ca4e4fbf751299b1a/IA--Drunken-Driving-Restrictions>

### **State Issues First License Plates for Autonomous Vehicles (Michigan)**

Michigan Department of Transportation officials announced Wednesday that Quantum Signal has become the first company to receive manufacturer plates under a new Michigan law that broadens eligibility in automated vehicle testing on the state's roadways. Read the full story at AASHTOJournal.org.

<http://www.aashtojournal.org/Pages/040414MDOTplates.aspx>

## **Region IV**

### **License Plate Data Storage Under Review: State Legislation Aimed at Driver Privacy, would Restrict how Information is Gathered and Sold (California)**

Public companies and government agencies keeping tabs on drivers with license plate readers throughout California have prompted a local legislator to try and strike a balance between public safety

and individual privacy rights. State Sen. Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo, authored legislation that would restrict how information gathered by automated license plate recognition systems is shared and sold, while at the same time making the data more accessible to law enforcement. Read the full story at [SMDailyJournal.com](http://www.smdailyjournal.com).

<http://www.smdailyjournal.com/articles/news/2014-04-07/license-plate-data-storage-under-review-state-legislation-aimed-at-driver-privacy-would-restrict-how-information-is-gathered-and-sold/1776425121052.html>

### **New National Record: 11 Million Californians Say “YES!” to Saving Lives as Registered Organ, Eye & Tissue Donors**

11 million Californians are registered organ, eye and tissue donors. With this new milestone, California broadens its footprint as the largest organ, eye and tissue donor registry in the country and the world. Donate Life California, which manages the state-authorized donor registry, joined the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) today to announce this milestone and to kick off National Donate Life Month. Read the DMV press release.

[http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/newsrel/media\\_center/index.htm](http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/newsrel/media_center/index.htm)

## **Other News**

### **North American Conference on Elderly Mobility**

The 2014 North American Conference on Elderly Mobility is scheduled to be held at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, May 11-14, 2014. The Conference will feature best practices in older adult mobility and highlight new developments since the conference was first held in 2004. They've lined up some excellent session speakers for the event. Of particular interest to the AAMVA community would be the Driver Screening and Assessment Track (view the agenda

<https://classic.regonline.com/custImages/380000/382342/2014NACEMAgendaCurrentPDF.pdf>).

Registration for the event is now open, so check out the Conference Web site today!

(<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1322274>)

### **A Remarkably Small Idea that Could Reduce Distracted Driving**

There are at least two ways to think about the problem of distracted driving. We could try to get people to cut down on all of the stuff that's distracting them -- texting, fielding phone calls, fiddling with in-car navigation screens at 50 miles an hour. Or we could acknowledge that drivers will probably keep doing all of those things anyway and try to mitigate the harm. Read the full story at [WashingtonPost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com).

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/04/07/a-remarkably-small-idea-that-could-reduce-distracted-driving/>

### **Microsoft Wants to Put the Windows Mobile Experience in Cars**

The Battle of the Dashboard is underway, and Microsoft, one of the stalwarts of the connected car set, aims to stay relevant with the introduction of “Windows in the Car.” The very beta version of Microsoft’s new infotainment system was demoed at the Build developer’s conference, and it brings the Windows back-end that powers dozens of automotive dashes and adds a “Metro” skin to bring the company’s branding front and center. Read the full story at [Wired.com](http://www.wired.com).

<http://www.wired.com/2014/04/windows-in-the-car/>

## Did You Know

### SPRING CLEANING

What's the Story Behind Spring Cleaning?

It's that time of year again. I have begun the annual ritual of Spring Cleaning: sweeping, disinfecting every surface you can think of, reorganizing closets and cupboards, going through dressers, depositing bags of clothes and other items at the local thrift store. Even as I sat in front of my laptop struggling to come up with a topic for this week's Did You Know column, I found mind wandering thoughts of cleaning...and organizing...and getting rid of unwanted and unused items. So, I figured if you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

Here's what online searches have taught me:

- First of all, I'm not alone in this strange desire to clean my house. Spring cleaning has become nearly ritualized in the West.
- The origins of the tradition of cleaning in the spring are unclear, although there are some interesting theories.
- In times past, when people kept their houses shut tight against the cold of winter, heated them with coal and oil and wood, and lighted them with candles, the coming of spring signaled a welcome opportunity to make a dingy habitation fresh again.
- Spring cleaning may have more to do with simple biology. It's possible that we spring clean simply because we wake up from a winter long melatonin-induced stupor and find more energy as the days grow longer when spring arrives.
- Most probably, spring cleaning evolved as a natural response to the need to store things like heavy blankets and other winter equipment, and to the fact that cleaning can be challenging in the winter because the cold weather makes it hard to air a house out, while wet and freezing conditions contribute to buildups of mud, salt, and other materials on floors and around the house.
- Some people use spring cleaning as an excuse to sort their possessions, discarding things which are no longer used and bringing them to charities or throwing them away, depending on their condition. The habit of setting aside a specific time in the spring to sort through possessions can be useful for people who tend to accrue things.

So, how about it? Are you feeling the urge to clean and invigorate your surroundings as well? Learn more about spring cleaning online:

- Why do we traditionally clean our homes at the beginning of spring? (howstuffworks.com) <http://home.howstuffworks.com/home-improvement/household-hints-tips/cleaning-organizing/spring-clean-in-spring.htm>
- What is Spring Cleaning? (WiseGEEK) <http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-spring-cleaning.htm>
  
- Spring Cleaning: Its History and Importance (Encyclopedia Britannica Blog) <http://www.britannica.com/blogs/2008/04/spring-cleaning/>