

May 30, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

AAMVA Region I President Accepts New Position with Ontario Ministry of the Environment

Region I President, Rob Fleming, has been asked to take on and has accepted a new position with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment: Assistant Deputy Minister of Integrated Environmental Policy. He begins the new position on Monday June 2nd. Fleming will be stepping down from his roles on the AAMVA International and Region I Boards, and from the Finance and Audit Committee. Though the Region I Board has not yet made a determination about a new Region I President, they have confirmed that the Region I Conference will take place in Toronto as planned. AAMVA wishes Rob Fleming all the very best in all that life has to offer as he moves forward, and thanks him for supporting the association through the years.

Website Maintenance Alert

The AAMVA website will be undergoing maintenance beginning at 8 pm (ET) on Saturday, May 31. The website will not be accessible for approximately two hours. We expect it to be live and operational by 12 am, Sunday, June 1.

Early Bird Registration for Annual International Conference Ends July 17th

Take advantage of AAMVA's early bird registration rate for the 2014 Annual International Conference. Get registered today and take part in this year's exciting conference at the splendid Dover Downs Hotel & Casino in Dover, Delaware. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to meet and share ideas with fellow jurisdiction members, industry experts, and innovative leaders. Visit www.aamva.org/2014-AIC-Landing-Page/.

Cellphone Roaming Charges May Apply While at the Region IV Conference in Vancouver

Those traveling to Canada for a Region IV Conference in Vancouver may want to contact their cellular phone provider to request Canadian coverage. Doing so will reduce phone expenses while at the conference by avoiding roaming costs.

Region I

Deal Reached on Drunken Driver Limited License (New Hampshire)

House and Senate negotiators reached a tentative deal Tuesday on legislation allowing a limited driver's license for first-time drunken drivers to go to work, medical treatment, school or other locations approved by a New Hampshire judge. Read the full story at Reformer.com.

http://www.reformer.com/news/ci_25846290/deal-reached-drunken-driver-limited-license-new-hampshire

Trooper Killed During Traffic Stop (New York)

A 13 year veteran of the New York State Police was killed during a traffic stop Thursday along I-81. State Police say 42 year-old Trooper Christopher Skinner was on a traffic stop at around noon near Exit 6, when he was struck by a passing vehicle. Police say the driver continued and abandoned his vehicle before running into the nearby woods, when he was taken into custody at around 1:00 p.m. Trooper Skinner was killed instantly in the accident. Read the full story at CBS6Albany.com.

<http://www.cbs6albany.com/news/features/top-story/stories/trooper-killed-during-traffic-stop-16526.shtml#.U4eY1MVRTD4.twitter>

Immigrants Seek Pennsylvania Support on Issuing Driver's Licenses

For a decade, Pennsylvania allowed undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses. Now immigrants in the commonwealth face long odds to restore the old rule. The undocumented Pennsylvania residents who gathered Wednesday at the state Capitol – some with U.S.-born children, some whose spouses had been deported – said that as Washington dithers on overhauling immigration laws, state lawmakers could do something to help immigrants contribute to the commonwealth's economy. Read the full story at NewsWorks.org.

http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/item/68489-immigrants-seek-pa-support-on-issuing-drivers-licenses?linktype=hp_impact

Region II

Four new Florida specialty license plates on tap, while two may see retirement

For those keeping track at home, there's four more specialty license plates that could be on Florida's roads in the future, yet two others might be driving off into the sunset. The Legislature passed CS/CS/SB 132, which now awaits the governor's signature. If signed, it will create tags for Fallen Law Enforcement Officers, Florida Sheriffs Association, Keiser University and Moffitt Cancer Center. Read the full article in the Orlando Sentinel.

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/features/os-new-florida-specialty-license-plates-2014-20140530,0,1830198.story>

Drivers' Licenses: Costing More, but Lasting Longer (Louisiana)

It looks like the cost of a driver's license is going up—but so is the length of time between renewals. . . State budget cutbacks have created longer waits at the Office of Motor Vehicles, and a recent efficiency report is suggesting closing at least 18 OMVs as a way for the state to save even more money. State

Police Superintendent Col. Mike Edmonson suggested the longer license period as a convenience for Louisiana drivers. Read the full story at WRKF.org.

<http://wrkf.org/post/drivers-licenses-costing-more-lasting-longer>

Louisiana lawmakers agree to allow REAL ID driver's licenses

Worries that Louisiana residents could one day need a passport to board domestic airline flights persuaded lawmakers Thursday to repeal a six-year-old law. The state law kept Louisiana from issuing driver's licenses that comply with security mandates required under the federal REAL ID law. Read the full article in Shreveporttimes.com

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/viewart/20140530/NEWS01/305300042/Louisiana-lawmakers-agree-allow-REAL-ID-driver-s-licenses>

Thunder Tag Fastest-Growing Oklahoma Special License Plate, Tax Commission Says

State officials say the Oklahoma City Thunder specialty license plate is the fastest-growing tag produced by the state. The Oklahoma Tax Commission has issued 7,150 special license plates with the Thunder logo and the prefix THU or THD followed by numbers. According to The Journal Record (<http://bit.ly/1jdoTyl>) that number doesn't include non-logo, personalized plates that include combinations like THNDR, the buffalo mascot RMBL or Kevin Durant's jersey No. 35. Read the full article in the Daily Reporter.

<http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/view/story/7c41684dd8604ff0a2ccad30d7dedac4/OK--Thunder-License-Plates>

Governor McAuliffe Announces Personnel Transition at Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control

Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe announced that Rick Holcomb, the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, will become acting Chief Operating Officer at the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) following the retirement of W. Curtis Coleburn. Read the full story in the Daily Progress.

http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/coleburn-steps-down-at-virginia-abc-holcomb-temporary-coo/article_5524d2a0-dacb-11e3-8595-0017a43b2370.html

Region III

Vehicle Renewal Sticker Receipt Legislation Approved by General Assembly (Illinois)

Legislation proposed by Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White to allow a printed receipt from the Secretary of State to serve temporarily as the vehicle renewal sticker was approved today by the Illinois General Assembly. The measure now goes to the governor's office for his consideration. Read the SOS press release.

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/news/home.html>

More than 200 vehicles inspected at safety checkpoint (Iowa)

Twelve citations were issued during a traffic checkpoint in Marshalltown Friday that inspected 209 vehicles. The Marshall County Sheriff's Office and the Marshalltown Police Department held the checkpoint from 4:30-8:30 p.m. in the northbound lanes of South Center Street across from Marshall Town Center as part of the Memorial Day Weekend Traffic Enforcement Program. Read the full article in the Times-Republican.

<http://www.timesrepublican.com/page/content.detail/id/572010/More-than-200--vehicles-inspected-at-safety-checkpoint.html?nav=5005>

Drunken Drivers Back Behind the Wheel? Not so Fast (Nebraska)

A new state law intended to allow repeat drunken drivers to obtain ignition interlock devices more quickly has hit a roadblock. The law allows drunken drivers who lost their licenses for 15 years to apply immediately for an interlock device that permits them to drive during their revocation. Read the full story at Omaha.com.

http://www.omaha.com/news/metro/drunken-drivers-in-nebraska-back-behind-the-wheel-not-so/article_ea5bef1e-de4b-5601-b1bc-3f0aa7335337.html

New Legislation Would Only Allow Traffic Cameras When An Officer Is Present (Ohio)

As a virtual ban on traffic cameras has stalled in the Ohio Senate, critics of the devices are now throwing their support behind proposed regulations that the legislature approved eight years ago. Under legislation introduced in the Ohio Senate earlier this week, municipalities wouldn't be allowed to use cameras to issue tickets for speeding or running a red light unless a law enforcement officer is present. Read the full story at Cleveland.com.

http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2014/05/new_ohio_legislation_would_ban.html#incart_river

Ohio Cities in Statehouse Fight to Save Red-Light Cameras

City advocates and police officials say that a bill requiring officers to be present at every red-light camera location would essentially ban use of the devices. The battle over the use of red-light cameras continues at the Statehouse, where supporters say they are proven to reduce traffic accidents, but opponents see them as little more than municipal cash grabs. Read the full story in the Columbus Dispatch.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/05/28/cities-fight-to-save-red-light-cameras.html>

Ohio BMV Issues Identification Cards to Minor Aged Children

For the first time, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) traveled to a local school, Columbus Preparatory Academy, to issue State of Ohio Identification (ID) cards to minor-aged children whose parents voluntarily requested them. BMV staff processed applications, took digital photos and issued Ohio ID cards to eligible children. The IDs will be printed at BMV headquarters and mailed to the children after the final processing has been completed. Read the full story at TimesBulletin.com.

<http://www.timesbulletin.com/Content/News/Community-News/Article/Ohio-BMV-issues-ID-cards-to-minor-aged-children--/2/1170/187935>

Region IV

Uber to California Lawmakers: This Means War

The California Assembly passed a bill Tuesday that would require ridesharing companies to provide their drivers with commercial liability insurance. In response, Uber Technologies took a markedly more severe tone compared to statements made earlier this month, calling the legislation an "attack on innovation and the technology industry." Read the full story in the Sacramento Business Journal.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/news/2014/05/28/uber-to-california-lawmakers-this-means-war.html>

Bill to Restrict Vehicle-Tracking Technology Fails (California)

The state Senate on Wednesday failed to pass a bill that would have placed restrictions on vehicle-tracking technology to protect people's privacy. Lawmakers rejected SB893 by Sen. Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo, on an 18-15 vote. The bill fell short of the 21 votes needed. Read the full story in the San Francisco Chronicle.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Bill-seeks-to-restrict-vehicle-tracking-technology-5511523.php>

Campaign for Immigrant Driver's Cards Ramps Up (Oregon)

A coalition of groups in Oregon is preparing for what they say could be a hard-fought campaign to approve a ballot measure granting driving privileges to people who can't prove they are legal residents of the U.S. Unions, immigrant-rights groups and a hospitality-industry lobby group have started pouring money into the YES on Oregon Safe Roads campaign account, which launched in early May and has raised \$35,000 so far. Read the full story at KATU.com.

<http://www.katu.com/politics/local/Campaign-for-immigrant-drivers-cards-ramps-up-260834871.html>

Hoback Seeks Tougher Penalties for Impaired Drivers (Saskatchewan)

Boasting the worst record for impaired driving in Canada, Saskatchewan's statistics aren't just bad, they're staggering. Recognizing Saskatchewan's impaired driving rate of 683 incidents per 100,000 people - more than double the national average - Prince Albert MP Randy Hoback said that it made sense for him to tackle the issue head-on. Read the full story in the PAHerald.

<http://paherald.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

Other News

Google's self-driving car: What's it like and is it safe?

The Google self-driving car is for real, and the prototype is here. The cute Tata Nano lookalike works on sensors and software, and one can reach their destination by just at the push of a button. Read the full article in FirstPost.

<http://tech.firstpost.com/news-analysis/googles-self-driving-car-whats-it-like-and-is-it-safe-224585.html>

Google: We're Building A Car with No Steering Wheel

Google will build a car without a steering wheel. It doesn't need one because it drives itself. The two-seater won't be sold publicly, but Google said Tuesday it hopes by this time next year, 100 prototypes will be on public roads. Though not driving very quickly — the top speed would be 25 mph. Read the full story at BigStory.AP.org.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/google-were-building-car-no-steering-wheel>

Tesla Motors Given Junk Credit Rating by Standard & Poor's

Tesla was given a junk credit rating by Standard & Poor's because of "considerable uncertainty" about its long-term prospects. Tesla's B-minus credit rating is six levels below investment grade. Tesla has a smaller scale than peers and limited demand for its products, S&P said. Read the full story at LATimes.com.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-tesla-junk-rating-20140527-story.html>

States Receive Teen Driving Grants to Address Risky Behaviors

Car crashes remain the leading cause of death for 15- to 20-year-olds in the U.S. To help combat this problem, the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) announced today that six of its member State Highway Safety Offices have been awarded \$100,000 in grants from Ford Driving Skills for Life (Ford DSFL). Read the GHSA press release for more details.

<http://www.ghsa.org>

Chinese Inventor Builds Electric Scooter Out of a Suitcase

Step aside, rolling luggage — here's a new take on the wheeled suitcase. An amateur Chinese inventor has built an electric scooter out of a regular suitcase. He Liangcai, of Central China's Hunan Province, just patented the invention. The makeshift moped seats two adults and features a GPS, a horn and a theft alarm. The suitcase-scooter weighs about 15 pounds and reaches a top speed of 12 mph. It runs on a rechargeable battery. Read the full story at NYDailyNews.com.

Did You Know

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

The days are getting warmer, and more and more motorcycles are hitting the roads. Motorcycle riders have a whole realm of safety issues that other drivers on the road don't have. My online search pulled up a lot of safety information for motorcyclists--here are just a few:

- **Take a motorcycle safety course:** The class will teach you about the traffic safety laws that apply to motorcycles in your state, how to respond to emergency situations on a motorcycle, and give you a chance to try out your new skills in a controlled environment. The instructors will also give you tips about motorcycle maintenance and how to avoid unsafe situations.
- **Wear the proper safety gear:** Since a motorcycle offers little protection in a crash, what riders wear is part of the crash protection system.
- **Protect your feet:** When riding a motorcycle, you want sturdy shoes. Look for something with a rugged sole. Shoes with smooth soles make it easier for you to slip. Motorcycle shoes should also have sturdy ankle supports and a low heel. You want something that makes it easier for you to balance. Look for shoes or boots in a durable material, like leather, for better protection.
- **Always wear a DOT-approved helmet.**
- **Never ride your motorcycle after drinking.** Alcohol greatly impairs your ability to safely operate a motorcycle. If you have been drinking, get a ride home or call a taxi. Don't let friends ride impaired. Take their keys away.

Check out these resources for more motorcycle safety information:

- Top 10 Motorcycle Safety Tips (Discovery News) <http://news.discovery.com/autos/drive/top-10-motorcycle-safety-tips.htm>
- Motorcycle Safety (CDC) <http://www.cdc.gov/features/motorcyclesafety/>
- 31 Life-Saving Motorcycle Safety Tips (Motorcycle Safety Tips) <http://www.motorcycle-safety-tips.com/>
- 10 motorcycle safety tips for new riders (Consumer Reports) <http://consumerreports.org/cro/2013/04/10-motorcycle-safety-tips-for-new-riders/index.htm>