

December 5, 2014 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Reserve Your Seat for AAMVA's December Webinars

AAMVA is pleased to announce two upcoming webinars that are now open for registration:

1. NMVTIS State Web Interface (SWI) Training (December 16th at 2:00 PM)

Learn the quick and easy benefits of the NMVTIS State Web Interface (SWI) Training. The SWI application allows state users to perform instant title verification against NMVTIS using a web browser and an internet connection. The SWI application also has a Help Desk feature that allows state users to make data correction to their Title and Brand data submitted in error. The system also features a hierarchical role base security model that allow state administrators to manage the addition and removal of users in their DMV community. (This webinar is for AAMVA jurisdiction and federal government members only.) Click here to login and register for the webinar.

<http://www.aamva.org/Exclusive-Members-Only-Webinars/?LangType=1033>

2. Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) - A tool for Law Enforcement and DMV Investigators (December 17th at 2:00 PM)

The Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program provides services and resources that directly impact law enforcement's ability to successfully resolve criminal investigations and prosecute offenders, while providing the critical officer safety event deconfliction to keep the men and women of our law enforcement community safe. (This webinar is for AAMVA jurisdiction and associate members only.) Click here to login and register for the webinar.

<http://www.aamva.org/Exclusive-Members-Only-Webinars/?LangType=1033>

Region I

Former Region I President and AAMVA Board Member Retires

Frank D'Onofrio, Deputy Minister of ServiceOntario, will retire from Ontario. Frank started his OPS career in 1980 as a researcher in the Ministry of Transportation (MTO). His career spanned a number of progressively responsible positions at the Ministry, including ADM of Road User Safety and as acting Deputy Minister. Frank's public service journey then took him to ServiceOntario, where he served as ADM since 2006, and then Deputy Minister since 2012. Frank has played a leadership role in developing ServiceOntario into a modern, efficient and customer service oriented organization. After visiting a number of frontline ServiceOntario operations, I can attest to the incredible pride and professionalism that ServiceOntario employees bring to their roles thanks to Frank's efforts. Frank has achieved a long

list of accomplishments as an excellent OPS leader, and is widely known as a consensus builder and collaborator. His contribution to the public service has been significant, and he will leave a very strong legacy of service and dedication. I have asked Frank if he could be available to provide advice and guidance to the OPS as ministries conduct comprehensive program reviews to improve outcomes. I would like to thank him in advance for his continued interest in public service. Frank's last day will be December 31, 2014.

More Than 5,000 Undocumented Residents Sign Up For Drivers License Test (Connecticut)

Nearly 5,400 undocumented Connecticut residents made appointments to take a written driving test from the Department of Motor Vehicles Monday as the state began the first phase of its "Drive Only" license program. Read the full story at CTNewsJunkie.com.

http://www.ctnewsjunkie.com/archives/entry/more_than_5000_undocumented_residents_sign_up_for_drivers_license_test/

PennDOT Promoting Elder Driver Safety

With the number of older drivers increasing, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is promoting Older Driver Safety Awareness Week, Dec. 1-5. Read the full story at ChaddsforDrive.com

<http://chaddsfordlive.com/2014/12/02/penndot-promoting-elder-driver-safety/>

Quebec Issues New Class 6E Driver's Licences

The Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) will gradually issue new driver's licences to Class 6E attestation holders between December 8, 2014 and late March 2015. From now on, Class 6E, which authorizes its holder to drive three-wheeled motorcycles, will be indicated directly on Québec driver's licences. Read the brief for more details.

<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=5987&libID=5963>

DMV Striving for Improvement Despite Another Change in Leadership (Rhode Island)

The administrator of the Rhode Island Department of Motor Vehicles announced plans to leave his position, meaning his replacement will be the fifth person to hold that job in less than four years. Read the full story at WPRI.com.

<http://wpri.com/2014/12/03/dmv-striving-for-improvement-despite-another-change-in-leadership/>

Region II

Gay Couple Sue DMV Over Driver's License Names (Florida)

A gay couple sued the state's motor vehicle agency for revoking drivers' licenses they said they received by showing their marriage license from New York, the latest challenge to Florida's ban on same-sex unions. Read the full story at ReviewJournal.com.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/trending/feed/gay-couple-sue-dmv-over-driver-s-license-names>

Deal appoints Lynne Riley as Revenue commissioner (Georgia)

Gov. Nathan Deal announced today that state Rep. Lynne Riley (R-Johns Creek) will succeed Doug MacGinnitie as Department of Revenue commissioner, effective Jan. 11. Riley today submitted her resignation from the House. "Lynne brings three decades of accounting experience and expertise on tax policy from her time on the House Ways and Means Committee," Deal said. Read full the press release.

<http://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2014-11-07/deal-appoints-lynne-riley-revenue-commissioner>

North Carolina Likely to Join Legislative Push on Uber, Lyft

North Carolina has become an attractive market for smartphone-based car services such as Uber and Lyft, which are drawn to the state's mid-sized cities that have college students and young professionals but lack extensive mass transit. It's also one of many states where little regulation exists outside of traditional cab and limo services. Read the full story at TheIndependent.com.

http://www.theindependent.com/news/national/nc-likely-to-join-legislative-push-on-uber-lyft/article_31ea5133-2f95-5bfb-9ac4-f23187f788e0.html

Tennessee IDs Made for Undocumented Immigrants

The IDs in question look similar to old Tennessee driver's licenses. Sabrina Jacal, the owner of the business making the IDs, said she has no problem making the identification for undocumented immigrants. Read the full story at WSMV.com.

<http://www.wsmv.com/story/27476920/tennessee-ids-made-for-undocumented-immigrants#>

Push to Ban Driver Texting Gains Speed (Texas)

Jennifer Smith was disappointed last year because a bill that would have outlawed texting while driving in Texas never came up for a vote in the state Senate. But Smith — whose 61-year-old mother Linda Doyle was killed six years ago when a motorist talking on his cellphone ran a red light and broadsided Doyle's car — is not giving up on the proposed legislation. Read the full story at Amarillo.com.

<http://amarillo.com/news/local-news/2014-11-23/push-ban-driver-texting-gains-speed>

Jerris Brown retires from U.S. Virgin Islands

Jerris Brown, Director of U.S. Virgin Islands Bureau of Motor Vehicles is scheduled to retire on December 31, 2014. A successor has not yet been named. Jerris has been involved with AAMVA for many years and we wish him well.

Customer Service Centers Now Offer Three-Year Registration Renewals (Virginia)

Three-year vehicle registration renewals are now being offered at all Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) customer service centers and DMV Select offices. Previously, customers visiting DMV had the option to renew their registration for one or two years. The three-year renewal not only saves customers time – but it also saves them a few dollars. Read the DMV press release.

http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/general/news/pressReleases/#/News_Article:9061

Region III

Iowa DOT Sponsors TraumaHawk App to Help Save Lives

A smartphone app sponsored by the Iowa DOT and developed by the University of Iowa is being used to enhance communication between first responders and emergency room staff at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Use of the app by eastern Iowa law enforcement and first responders is part of a research study of emergency response times. Read the DOT press release.

<http://www.transportationmatters.iowadot.gov/2014/11/iowa-dot-sponsors-traumahawk-app-to-help-save-lives.html>

DeWine Sues Marysville-Area Used-Car Dealer over Lack of Vehicle Titles (Ohio)

Attorney General Mike DeWine has sued a Marysville-area used-car dealer for allegedly failing to provide vehicle titles to buyers. Woda Automotive and its owner, Donald Woda, face a lawsuit in Union County Common Pleas Court. Read the full story at Dispatch.com

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/business/2014/12/01/dewine-sues-marysville-area-used-car-dealer-over-lack-of-vehicle-titles.html>

Region IV

Arizona: Court Rules Against Governor on Licenses

The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on Monday turned down Gov. Jan Brewer's request to reconsider its ruling that blocked her policy of denying driver's licenses to young immigrants who have avoided deportation under an Obama administration policy. The refusal affects 20,000 young immigrants in Arizona. Read the full story at NYTimes.com.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/25/us/arizona-court-rules-against-governor-on-licenses.html? r=0>

Attorney General Kamala D. Harris Issues Consumer Alert on Scams Targeting Immigrants and their Families (California)]

Attorney General Kamala D. Harris today issued a consumer alert to Californians about possible scams targeting immigrants and their families. Read the full story at HighlandNews.net

http://www.highlandnews.net/news/crime_and_fire/article_d92bc190-7be2-11e4-b514-cba4af89c93d.html

ITD Wins National Awards for Keeping Roads Safe (Idaho)

The Idaho Transportation Department is getting national recognition for the second year in a row. ITD was recognized by the American Associates of State Highway and Transportation officials for its winter road maintenance system. Read the full story at KTVB.com.

<http://www.ktvb.com/story/news/local/2014/12/03/itd-road-awards/19832579/>

New Driver's Licenses with Veteran Designations Now Available (Idaho)

The Idaho Department of Transportation held a press conference Nov. 10, announcing special veteran designations on state-issued driver's licenses. Idaho is the 48th state to do so. Read the full story at TheIndNews.com.

<http://www.theindnews.com/2014/12/02/53462/december-2014-issue>

Some Lawmakers Want to Increase Interstate Speed Limit to 80 mph (Montana)

Four legislators are having separate bills drafted for the 2015 session to raise the daytime speed limit on Montana interstate highways from 75 mph to 80 mph, and in one case, 85 mph. Read the full story at HelenAir.com.

http://helenair.com/news/local/some-lawmakers-want-to-increase-interstate-speed-limit-to-mph/article_65c076fa-32f5-5e12-81f4-39c89f718a23.html

Uber Looks to Expand Ride-Sharing App to Saskatchewan

Popular ride-sharing app called Uber, which connects riders and drivers, and is now considering expanding its services to Saskatchewan. Read the full story at GlobalNews.ca.

<http://globalnews.ca/news/1698717/uber-looks-to-expand-ride-sharing-app-to-saskatchewan/>

Saskatchewan Unveils Two New Retro Licence Plates

Two new retro licence plates – the Collector plate and the Vintage Roughrider plate – will be available for Saskatchewan residents to pre-order through SGI, just in time for the holiday season. Read the full story at SWBooster.com.

<http://www.swbooster.com/News/2014-12-02/article-3959738/Saskatchewan-unveils-two-new-retro-licence-plates/1>

Traffic Stops for Texting While Driving Increase (Utah)

The number of people stopped for texting while driving on Utah's highways has increased sharply since lawmakers expanded the law to ban dialing phones or checking email behind the wheel, according to new numbers from the Utah Highway Patrol. Read the full story at DeseretNews.com.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/765663405/Traffic-stops-for-texting-while-driving-increase.html>

Other News

Businesses Already Using, Testing Autonomous Vehicles

While private passenger autonomous vehicles are still being tested by Google and other car manufacturers and state legislators mull rules governing driverless vehicles on roadways, their commercial use has already begun. Read the full story at ClaimsJournal.com.

<http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2014/11/25/258212.htm>

Senior Drivers Support Tougher Driving Laws for Themselves

While senior drivers favor tougher driving laws, from bans on wireless devices to ignitions interlocks for first time DUI offenders, an overwhelming majority support greater scrutiny in the license-renewal process for themselves and their peers, according to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety's latest report on aging Americans. Read the full story at HeraldOnline.com.

<http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/12/01/6576941/senior-drivers-support-tougher.html>

Honda to Expand Air Bag Recall Nationwide

Honda is expanding a recall of driver's side air bags to all 50 states, The Associated Press reports. The National Highway Safety Administration has demanded that Japanese supplier Takata Corp. recall driver side airbags nationwide, rather than only in states with high humidity, which was the initial focus of an investigation into exploding airbags. Read the full story at KCRA.com.

http://www.kcra.com/national/honda-to-expand-air-bag-recall-nationwide/30036680?treets=sac&tml=sac_natlbreak&ts=T&tmi=sac_natlbreak_1_10050212032014

New Marijuana Breath Test Could Determine If A Driver Is Under The Influence Of Pot

Even if law enforcement officials suspect a motorist may be driving under the influence of marijuana, they still have to rely on blood tests to determine how much THC is in the driver's system. These tests do not provide immediate results that are available during a traffic stop. So, researchers from Washington State University are developing a marijuana breathalyzer that can detect THC concentrations using a driver's breath sample. Read the full story at MedicalDaily.com.

<http://www.medicaldaily.com/new-marijuana-breath-test-could-determine-if-driver-under-influence-pot-312648#.VH4rwrGbP64.twitter>

Did You Know

WHAT IS PASTAFARIANISM?

We've all seen the headlines and I'm fairly certain there are others out there who are at least a little curious about what it all means. I did a quick search on the internet and this is some of what I found.

- The Flying Spaghetti Monster (FSM) is the deity of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster or Pastafarianism (a portmanteau of pasta and Rastafarian), a movement that promotes a light-hearted view of religion and opposes the teaching of intelligent design and creationism in public schools.
- The Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, while having existed in secrecy for hundreds of years, only recently came into the mainstream when this letter was published in May 2005.
- By design, the only dogma allowed in the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster is the rejection of dogma. That is, there are no strict rules and regulations, there are no rote rituals and prayers and other nonsense. Every member has a say in what this church is and what it becomes.
- Pastafarians believe pirates, the original Pastafarians, were peaceful explorers and it was due to Christian misinformation that they have an image of outcast criminals today
- Pastafarians are fond of beer
- Every Friday is a Religious Holiday
- Pastafarians do not take ourselves too seriously
- Pastafarians embrace contradictions

So there you have it. The next time someone wearing a colander as headgear wants to pose for a driver's license photo, you'll at least have some idea of what it's all about.

Learn more online:

- Flying Spaghetti Monster (Wikipedia) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flying_Spaghetti_Monster
- About the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster (Venganza.org) <http://www.venganza.org/about/>
- What is a Pastafarian? (Life in the Fastlane) <http://lifeinthefastlane.com/what-is-a-pastafarian/>
- What is Pastafarianism (YouTube) <http://youtu.be/7sfnnJBk3aY>