

February 6, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Meet With Members One On One at the Workshop's QuickConnect Reception



Close out the first day of the Workshop with this unique one-on-one opportunity where exhibitors and qualified sponsors get a chance to meet with jurisdiction representatives. This year's format will allow jurisdictions to select, based on company descriptions, which industry members they would like to meet with to discuss products and services, or to provide answers to current challenges. Don't

wait! Register for the Workshop online today

<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx> so we can set up your one-on-one meeting while there are still time slots available!

AAMVA Awards Submissions Due February 14th

There's still time to apply for AAMVA's awards program before the submission deadline, February 14, 2015. AAMVA's awards program honors individuals, teams and organizations who have committed their time and resources to safety initiatives, outstanding customer service, and public affairs and consumer educational programs throughout North America. Awards are presented both at the regional and international levels. Learn more about the new AAMVA Awards Program and download submission forms online at www.aamva.org/AAMVA-Awards/. Don't forget - submission forms for the awards are due February 14, 2015. Apply today!

Region I

New DeIDOT Secretary Sworn In (Delaware)

Jennifer Cohan is now officially Delaware Governor Jack Markell's newest cabinet member. The former director of the state's Division of Motor Vehicles was sworn in Tuesday as the 10th secretary of The Delaware Department of Transportation. The full article and video is available on NewsWorks.com.

<http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/delaware/item/78079-new-deldot-secretary-sworn-in-video>

Lawyer Challenges DMV Rule on Blood-Alcohol Content (New Hampshire)

The lawyer for a teenager indicted on charges he had been drinking and smoking marijuana after striking two women last year in Hampton Beach is challenging a rule that allows the state to round up his blood-alcohol content. Read the full story at SFGate.com.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Lawyer-challenges-DMV-rule-on-blood-alcohol-6061266.php>

Major Changes to N.J. Drunk Driving Law Reach Christie's Desk

A proposed law to drastically change the way New Jersey punishes drunken drivers has hit Gov. Chris Christie's desk. The bill, which passed the state Senate 29-4 today after passing the Assembly in June, would allow most drivers convicted of drunken driving for the first time to reduce their license suspensions from the current three to seven months to just 10 days. Read the full story at NJ.com.

http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/02/major_changes_to_nj_drunk_driving_law_reach_christ.html

Bill to Refund Drivers License Fee for Veterans Passes NYS Senate

Veterans who paid money to get a special recognition on their driver's license are one step closer to getting a refund. Any veteran could get a special notation added to their license when they renewed it, but they had to previously pay extra. Read the full story at WNYT.com.

<http://wnyt.com/article/stories/S3696374.shtml?cat=300>

Two More Admit Guilt in CDL Test-Taking Scheme (New York)

Two more people have pleaded guilty to charges in a widespread fraudulent Commercial Driver's License test-taking scheme in New York State, following a joint federal and state investigation. Read the full story at TruckingInfo.com.

<http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/story/2015/02/two-more-admit-guilt-in-cdl-test-taking-scheme.aspx>

Road Safety Group Calls for Pa. to Improve Its Highway Safety Laws

A road safety group is calling for a change in state law to allow police to pull drivers over for not wearing a seat belt. A report from the Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety also takes issue with few state restrictions for teen drivers, and the lack of a uniform motorcycle helmet law. Vice President Cathy Chase says the number of deaths on the roads is falling, but Pennsylvania is lagging behind the national average. Read the full article on witf.org.

<http://www.witf.org/news/2015/02/pa-has-just-as-many-traffic-deaths-as-new-york-with-7-million-fewer-residents.php>

Vermont Wants to Replace Faded License Plates

The Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles wants motorists to replace faded license plates. The state says plates that have faded to the point they are hard to read must be replaced. The department says a problem with the manufacturing process of plates produced between 2003 and 2005 may cause fading. State law allows those plates to be replaced at no cost to the owner. Read the full story at WPTZ.com.

<http://www.wptz.com/news/vermont-wants-to-replace-faded-license-plates/31065162>

Lawmakers Ponder Organ Donation Policy (Vermont)

Rep. Barbara Rachelson (D-Burlington) was hoping to boost the number of Vermonters who are registered to donate their organs when they die. As Rachelson approached fellow legislators about signing on to a bill, some proudly told her that they were registered as donors, only to pull out their driver's licenses to discover it wasn't true. Read the full story at SevenDaysVT.com.

<http://www.sevendaysvt.com/OffMessage/archives/2015/02/02/organ-donor-bill-getting-noticed>

Region II

Bill Would Add 'Boating Under the Influence' to Driving Record (Florida)

Life could get more difficult for drunken boaters who drive cars — and for drunken drivers who also pilot boats. A legislative bill filed Monday would put "boating under the influence" convictions on a person's driving record, so they would be considered prior offenses if someone were later found guilty of driving under the influence, and vice versa. Read the full story at Sun-Sentinel.com.

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-bui-dui-20150202-story.html>

Ga. Lawmaker Proposes Bill Regulating Ride Sharing Service

The chairman of the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee has sponsored a bill to regulate the popular ride-sharing service Uber. Republican Rep. Alan Powell of Hartwell said Wednesday that House Bill 190 would require strict criminal background checks for drivers. Powell says Uber would be put on a "level playing field" with other taxis and limousines and ensure that citizens that drivers on not criminals. Read the full article in The Telegraph.

http://www.macon.com/2015/02/04/3568357_ga-lawmaker-proposes-bill-regulating.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy

Interlock Device Supporters Rally for New Legislation in Frankfort (Kentucky)

They say their loved ones have been killed or severely injured by drunk drivers who were given a slap on the wrist. Supporters of a new Kentucky law aimed at getting tough on drunk driving converged on Frankfort Tuesday. Supporters call the legislation life saving and officials say it won't cost the commonwealth. Read the full story at WDRB.com.

<http://www.wdrb.com/story/28016137/interlock-device-supporters-rally-for-new-legislation-in-frankfort>

SCDMV Hosts Driver Suspension Eligibility Week

The South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has announced the upcoming Driver Suspension Eligibility Week for drivers with certain license suspensions. Driver Suspension Eligibility Week will be held March 16-20, 2015 in all DMV offices across the state. During Driver Suspension Eligibility Week, South Carolina drivers who have lost their driving privileges for suspensions included in

the program may be able to reduce or clear the remaining time of their suspensions. Read the SC DMV press release.

<http://www.scdmvonline.com/DMVNew/>

Texting-While-Driving Foes Push for State Law in Austin (Texas)

In the last four years, Jeanne Brown has made the six-hour drive from her West Texas home to the Capitol more times than she can count. Each visit, she carries a photo of her 17-year-old daughter, Alex, who died in a car crash, and the unshakable hope that the state will deem it illegal to text while driving. She was there again Tuesday, joining lawmakers who have reintroduced an anti-texting bill, trying to bring Texas in line with 44 other states that have outlawed that practice to reduce distracted driving accidents. Read the full story at DallasNews.com.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/state-politics/20150203-texting-while-driving-foes-push-for-state-law.ece>

Vehicle Registration and Inspection Stickers are Partnering Up in Texas

Get ready for a new Texas Two Step. Today the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV), the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) joined State Senator Royce West and county tax assessor-collectors for “Two Steps, One Sticker Day” at the state Capitol in Austin. The event highlighted the state’s transition to having just one sticker for vehicle inspection and registration. Read the DOT press release.

http://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/TXDMV/2015/02/02/file_attachments/361311/Two%2BSteps%2BOne%2BSticker%2BNews%2BRelease.pdf

Region III

Voter ID, Winner-Take-All Election Bills Advance From Committee (Nebraska)

Let the battles begin. Two election measures guaranteed to generate partisan--tinged controversy advanced to the full Legislature Wednesday. Legislative Bill 111 would require most Nebraska voters to show a driver’s license or other government-issued photo identification before casting a ballot. Read the full article on Omaha.com.

http://www.omaha.com/news/legislature/voter-id-winner-take-all-election-bills-advance-from-committee/article_b4435e93-69f3-5f34-9e0f-0a95a55aeddd.html?mode=story

Proposed Distracted-Driving Fines Could Fund Driver's Ed for Some (Ohio)

Want to skip taking your driver’s test? It could become a reality under a proposed plan to change the state’s driver training, testing and safety efforts that officials call “the most comprehensive” ever made. The plan, which needs lawmakers’ approval as part of Gov. John Kasich’s overall proposed budget, also

calls for additional fines for distracted drivers that would help subsidize driver's -education courses for those who can't afford them. Read the full story at Dispatch.com.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/02/04/proposed-driver-education-changes.html>

Safety Belt Use Lagging in Wisconsin

Safety belt use in Wisconsin is at an all-time high, with 85 percent of drivers and passengers buckling up. Now for the not-so-good news: the state's seatbelt compliance rate still lags behind the national average of 87 percent and ranks well below neighboring states — all of which are above 90 percent. Read the full article in greenbaypressgazette.com.

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/news/local/2015/02/04/seatbelt-use-wisconsin-traffic-fatalities/22867917/>

Region IV

Lawmaker: Standardizing special license plates would reduce confusion (Arizona)

Arizona's dozens of special license plates are a way to not only express individuality but to support causes such as breast cancer awareness or one's favorite state university. But a state lawmaker contends the many designs on these plates can make it difficult for law enforcement and those who witness crimes to distinguish them from out-of-state plates. Read the full story at CronkiteNewsOnline.com.

<http://cronkitenewsonline.com/2015/02/lawmaker-standardizing-special-license-plates-would-reduce-confusion/>

DMV Bribes Kept DUI Drivers on Roads (California)

A San Diego DMV official admitted setting aside DUI suspensions and slipping arrestees temporary driver's licenses in exchange for bribes of designer purses and cash from local attorneys, federal prosecutors said Tuesday. Alva Benavidez, 51, pleaded guilty in San Diego federal court Tuesday to one count of conspiracy to accept bribes, the U.S. Attorney's Office said. Read the full story at UTSanDiego.com.

<http://m.utsandiego.com/news/2015/feb/03/dmv-bribe-dui-driver-benavidez-guilty/>

California Assembly Bill Would Digitize Driver's Licenses, Identification Cards

There might come a day when a cop asks to see your driver's license, and you simply whip out your cell phone and activate an app. San Fernando Valley Assemblyman Matt Dababneh (D-Encino) this week

introduced AB 221, legislation that would let the Department of Motor Vehicles develop a mobile application for a digital driver's license, which would be accessed via smartphone. Read the full story at DailyNews.com.

<http://www.dailynews.com/government-and-politics/20150204/california-assembly-bill-would-digitize-drivers-licenses-identification-cards/1>

Colorado Immigrant Driver's License Program Cut Back

More than 100 immigrants expecting to get a driver's license on Monday, and thousands expecting to get a license over the next few months, will have to wait. Starting today, the Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles is reducing the number of offices offering immigrant driver's licenses from five to one after Republicans in the Joint Budget Committee rejected requests to allocate funds for the program. Read the full story at TheDenverChannel.com.

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/colorado-immigrant-drivers-license-program-cut-back>

Marijuana Involved in 12 Percent of Colorado State Patrol DUI Cases

Approximately one in every eight citations issued by the Colorado State Patrol last year for impaired driving involved suspected marijuana use, according to new statistics from the agency. The numbers are the first year-long data the state has ever released on stoned driving, and they add new context to an ongoing debate over whether marijuana legalization will make Colorado's roads less safe. But they also provide far from a conclusive answer to the question. Read the full article in The Denver Post.

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_27421987/marijuana-involved-12-percent-colorado-state-patrol-dui

House Committee Approves Bill to Establish Colorado's First Felony Drunk Driving Law

Many repeat drunk drivers would face automatic felony charges under a new bill approved Thursday by Colorado's House Judiciary Committee. The measure does not mandate jail time, but would make any driver convicted of their fourth DUI a felon, opening the door to stricter penalties. In some circumstances, those penalties would also apply to drivers convicted of three DUIs within seven years. Read the full story at TheDenverChannel.com.

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/call7-investigators/house-committee-approves-bill-to-establish-colorados-first-felony-drunk-driving-law>

State Selects Vendors for Road Usage Charge Program (Oregon)

As Oregon prepares to launch the nation's first large-scale road usage charge (RUC) program, the state DOT announced Verizon, Azuga and Sanef as its primary vendors on the project. All three companies must still receive official ODOT certification before the project gets underway. Read the full story at RoadsBridges.com.

<http://www.roadbridges.com/traffic-management-oregon-selects-vendors-road-usage-charge-program>

Other News

Study Suggests Gas Tax Revenue Simply Won't Cut It

According to a report issued Wednesday by the Center for American Progress (CAP), the long-held idea that highways can pay for themselves is really little more than a myth. In a country that has seen 179 million more vehicles on the roads since the 1960s, what is of surprise is that this is, in fact, of surprise at all. Read the full story at RoadsBridges.com.

<http://www.roadbridges.com/roadbridges-study-suggests-gas-tax-revenue-simply-won%E2%80%99t-cut-it>

Coming to a Car Near You: Electronic License Plates

An uninsured driver cruising down the freeway has nowhere to hide from police. License plates, seemingly drawn from science-fiction, give him away by flashing a message telling everyone his coverage has lapsed. It's a future pushed by Compliance Innovations, a South Carolina startup developing the technology. The idea is to replace metal license plates—used for almost as long as cars have existed—with digital screens that are connected wirelessly to mobile phone networks. Read the full story at Fortune.com.

<http://fortune.com/2015/01/30/coming-to-a-car-near-you-electronic-license-plates/>

White House Seeks to Nearly Triple NHTSA Defect Budget

The White House on Monday proposed to triple the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's defect investigation budget to \$31.3 million, as the agency pledged to step up efforts to alert motorists about uncompleted recalls. That's up from \$9.7 million in the current budget year and \$10.6 million in 2014. Automakers recalled nearly 64 million vehicles in 2014 — more than twice the previous record of 30.8 million that was set in 2004. NHTSA would more than double personnel, and add new equipment and data mining tools. Read the full story DetroitNews.com.

<http://www.detroitnews.com/story/business/autos/2015/02/02/white-house-seeks-nearly-triple-nhtsa-defect-budget/22755261/>

Uber and Google Reportedly Go To War Over Self-Driving Taxis

As far as companies go, Google and Uber have been pretty close. Google Ventures is one of Uber's biggest investors, and Uber is the only third party listed as a transportation method in Google Maps, which will kick users right out to the Uber app. With Uber's biggest expense being the drivers and Google working on a self-driving car, it was often speculated that the two companies would partner up, or Google would just acquire Uber. Today, all at once, this chummy relationship seems to have unraveled. Read the full story at Arstechnica.com.

<http://arstechnica.com/cars/2015/02/uber-and-google-reportedly-go-to-war-over-self-driving-taxis/>

Geico Wants to Expand Ridesharing Policy Offer: CEO Nicely

Giant auto insurer Geico plans to roll out its new ridesharing insurance policy across the country, according to the company's CEO. "We want to insurer Uber drivers," Geico CEO Tony Nicely told Liz Clamanin of Fox Business News in a rare interview. Read the full article in the Insurance Journal.

<http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2015/02/05/356682.htm>

Virginia Tech Undertakes Restart Study, Looking for 250 Driver Participants

The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute is looking for some 250 truck drivers to participate in the Congressionally-mandated study that could ultimately determine whether drivers have unlimited use of the 34-hour restart provision or whether they will only be allowed a restart only once every 168 hours and then must include two consecutive 1 a. m.-5 a.m. time periods. Read the full article in TheTrucker.com.

<http://www.thetrucker.com/News/Stories/2015/2/5/VirginiaTechundertakesrestartstudylookingfor250driverparticipants.aspx>

The Top State DMV Websites in America - 2015 Annual Rankings

DMV.com, a portal for driver and motor vehicle information has reviewed and ranked the websites of every state DMV agency and released its 2015 State DMV Website Rankings. Each state DMV website was ranked using a comprehensive scorecard that evaluated the design, usability and content of these sites as well as the scope of the online services they offer. The state agencies were then ranked from best to worst by an overall website score. Read the full story at Yahoo! Finance.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/top-state-dmv-websites-america-220100077.html>

Did You Know

AUTO INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

As the saying goes, "Out with the old, in with the new." Yes, we've said goodbye for good to some vehicles we've grown accustomed to seeing on the roads. But as you can imagine, 2015 is promising to be an exciting year for the auto industry. Innovation, technological advances and collaboration with experts outside the auto industry, is already transforming the industry as we know it.

Learn more online:

- What The Top Automotive Stories Of 2014 Mean For You In 2015
http://www.washingtonpost.com/cars/what-the-top-automotive-stories-of-2014-mean-for-you-in-2015/2015/01/02/d2b99b6c-92a2-11e4-a66f-0ca5037a597d_story.html
- 2015 Auto Industry Trends <http://www.strategyand.pwc.com/perspectives/2015-auto-trends>
- Auto Industry Looks Bright in 2015 – With a Few Challenges
<http://www.automotive.ventures/auto-industry-looks-bright-2015-challenges/>
- Top 10 Cars That Are Being Discontinued After 2015 <http://www.insidercarnews.com/10-cars-that-are-being-discontinued-after-2015/#ixzz3QygZHOWk>
- Death List 2015: The Cars That Won't Be Back Next Year (Car Connection via YouTube)
<http://youtu.be/f0N1lQp6QJ8>