

May 8, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

Register for Region II Conference by **COB Today** to Receive **EARLY BIRD Discount!**

Why wait? The Early Bird discount for the Region II Conference will only be available through close of business today (May 8th): Register now! The conference will be held at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center in Montgomery, Alabama, June 21-24. Take advantage of opportunities to network with your peers, share challenges and opportunities, and to learn how industry solutions can help you address your challenges. Visit the site at <http://www.aamva.org/2015-Region-II-Conference-Home/> for more information and register online at <https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>. Still have questions? Contact Patrice Aasmo at paasmo@aamva.org or 571-435-2861.

Register Online for AAMVA Conferences

- Region IV Conference -- June 1-4 -- Park City, Utah
Conference Web site | Register Online
<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=5613> |
<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>
- Region II Conference -- June 21-24 -- Montgomery, Alabama
Conference Web site | Register Online
<http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6368> |
<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>
- Region I Conference – July 12-15 – Hershey, Pennsylvania
Conference Web Site | Register Online
<http://www.aamva.org/2015-Region-I-Conference-Home/> |
<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>
- Annual International Conference – August 25-27 – Des Moines, Iowa
Conference Web Site | Register Online
<http://www.aamva.org/2015-AIC-Home/> |
<https://www.aamva.org/profile/ListAllEventRegistrations.aspx>

Region I

New Hampshire Preps Agile, Off-the-Shelf Solution for the DMV

Descriptions of the Department of Motor Vehicles don't usually include words like "speed" and "efficient technology." But an IT upgrade for the driver's license program at New Hampshire's DMV

could change that thinking and serve as a model for other agencies nationwide. Read the full story at GCN.com.

<http://gcn.com/articles/2015/05/01/dmv-modernization.aspx>

Class Action Lawsuit Claims Automatically Suspending Driver's Licenses Of Delinquent Child Support Payers Is Unconstitutional (New Jersey)

A class action lawsuit is challenging the automatic suspension of driver's licenses imposed on parents who are behind on their child support payments. Read the full story at Patch.com.

<http://patch.com/new-jersey/wayne/class-action-lawsuit-claims-automatically-suspending-drivers-licenses-delinquent-child-support>

New Jersey Law for Aggressive Driving Education is Inspired by Teen Paralyzed in Road Rage Crash

The dangers of aggressive driving will be part of New Jersey driver training and testing as a result of a new law inspired by a road rage crash that left a Hamilton teenager paralyzed a decade ago. Read the full story at NJ.com.

http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2015/05/new_law_tests_motorists_on_aggressive_driving_insp.html

Applying for N.J. Driver's License Should Also Register You to Vote: lawmaker

With voter turnout in New Jersey hitting record lows in recent years, a state lawmaker is seeking to test out automatic voter registration. Read the full article in NJ.com.

http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/05/time_to_try_automatic_voter_registration_in_nj_law.html

Region II

Deal Signs \$900M Transportation Bill, Gas Tax Increase (Georgia)

Gov. Nathan Deal has signed a new \$900 million transportation bill into law which includes changes to the state's gas taxes and new fees on electric cars and hotel visits. Read the full story at WSBTV.com.

<http://www.wsbtv.com/news/news/local/deal-signs-900-million-transportation-package-into/nk8XQ/>

Gov. Beshear Dedicates New State Police Academy Campus (Kentucky)

Governor Steve Beshear formally dedicated the new Kentucky State Police Academy today, unveiling a facility designed to provide current and future troopers with enhanced knowledge and skills to serve and protect the citizens of the Commonwealth. Read the full story at SurfKY.com.

<http://surfky.com/index.php/component/content/article/123-general-news-for-all-sites/60002-gov-beshear-dedicates-new-state-police-academy-campus>

Governor to Sign Law Banning Texting While Driving (Oklahoma)

Texting and driving in Oklahoma will be against the law soon. Anyone who is caught texting and driving can be pulled over and given a \$100 ticket. The new law is named after a state trooper who paid the ultimate price and his partner. Read the full story at KOCO.com.

<http://www.koco.com/news/Governor-to-sign-law-banning-texting-while-driving/32811820>

Virginia Man Sues Police Over License Plate Database

In what appears to be a legal first, a Virginia man has sued the Fairfax County Police Department for collecting images of his license plate in a massive database. Read the full story at Wired.com.

<http://www.wired.com/2015/05/virginia-man-sues-police-license-plate-database/>

Region III

Nearly \$50,000 in Bribes Paid in Kansas Driver's License Fraud Case, Documents Show

A former Kansas state worker accused of issuing dozens of fraudulent driver's licenses allegedly received nearly \$50,000 in bribes over two years, according to newly released court documents. Read the full story at KansasCity.com.

www.kansascity.com/news/local/crime/article20195817.html#storylink=cpy

John Kasich Orders Minimum Standards for Police Departments to Improve Community Relations (Ohio)

Ohio Gov. John Kasich took steps Wednesday toward establishing minimum standards that police agencies across Ohio will have to adhere to on issues such as hiring and training of officers and the use of force, including deadly force. Read the full story at Cleveland.com.

http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2015/04/john_kasich_orders_minimum_sta.html

Hundreds Change Driver License To Reflect Gender Identity (Ohio)

Since September 2009, 604 people have changed their driver's license to reflect a change in gender identity. BMV Registrar Don Petit said, "There were people approaching the BMV saying, 'hey, I need to change this information.'" Read the full story at WOSU.org.

<http://radio.wosu.org/post/hundreds-change-driver-license-reflect-gender-identity>

Ohio's Payment Plan Helps Get Driver's Licenses Reinstated (Ohio)

Melissa Linville sees it all the time — the cycle of debt that people struggle to break when they are told they can't legally drive anymore. Sometimes, it's because they didn't pay child support. Or they can't afford to pay an insurance company's judgment against them. And then, they drive again — to punch the time clock at work or drop off a kid at school — and get caught behind the wheel. That leads to more fines, longer suspensions and bigger debts. Read the full story at Dispatch.com.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/05/03/ohios-payment-plan-helps-get-drivers-licenses-reinstated.html>

Online Chat: A New DMV Customer Service (Wisconsin)

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) recently implemented a new live chat service for seven of its popular online services. Read the DOT press release.

www.wisconsin.gov/news

Region IV

Availability of Energy-Efficient Vehicle License Plates has Ended (Arizona)

The availability of energy-efficient license plates for owners of qualified vehicles has ended as the maximum number of plate applications has been reached, the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division announced today. Read the DOT press release.

<http://azdot.gov/media/News>

Man Arrested After Fight at DMV (California)

Police arrested a man on suspicion of resisting arrest and battery on a peace officer after a fight at the Department of Motor Vehicles office in Santa Rosa Wednesday afternoon. A police officer saw Santa Rosa resident Jorge Leopold Jr., 20, standing over a man and punching him around 2:30 p.m. in the DMV parking lot at 2570 Corby Ave., Sgt. Eric Litchfield said. Read the full story at SFBay.ca.

<http://sfbay.ca/2015/04/30/man-arrested-after-fight-at-dmv/>

'Yellow Alert' System for Hit-and-Runs Given Another Chance (California)

Assembly member Mike Gatto is trying again to get the governor's signature on legislation that would allow law enforcement to use California's network of digital signs to inform the public of serious hit-and-run incidents. Read the full story at TechWire.net.

<https://www.techwire.net/yellow-alert-system-given-another-chance/>

Efforts to Reduce Nevada DMV Lines Move Forward in Legislature

A joint budget subcommittee on Tuesday voted to support both short- and long-term fixes to help reduce long wait times at crowded Department of Motor Vehicle offices in Southern Nevada. Read the full story at ReviewJournal.com.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/nevada-legislature/efforts-reduce-nevada-dmv-lines-move-forward-legislature>

Cars Talking to Cars? UDOT About to Launch Tests to Help Development (Utah)

Utah agency helps create “connected-vehicle” systems that could reduce accidents, save fuel and reduce pollution. Imagine if cars could talk to one another or with traffic signals. Such conversations could help avoid collisions caused by fallible humans, or smooth out travel to save fuel costs and cut pollution. Actually, the Utah Department of Transportation is involved with experiments seeking to develop such systems and perhaps transform driving forever. Read the full story at SLTrib.com.

<http://www.sltrib.com/news/2413155-155/cars-talking-to-cars-udot-about>

Other News

The World’s First Self-Driving Semi-Truck Hits the Road

License plates are rarely an object of attention, but this one’s special—the funky number is the giveaway. That’s why Daimler bigwig Wolfgang Bernhard and Nevada governor Brian Sandoval are sharing a stage, mugging for the phalanx of cameras, together holding the metal rectangle that will, in just a minute, be slapped onto the world’s first officially recognized self-driving truck. Read the full story at Wired.com.

<http://www.wired.com/2015/05/worlds-first-self-driving-semi-truck-hits-road/>

Clock Ticks Down on Highway Funding

Congress has just weeks to sift through several options for short-term highway funding, as Republicans scramble to ensure that a shutdown of infrastructure projects doesn’t occur this summer. There’s little doubt among lawmakers that some sort of highway funding extension will materialize before the May 31 deadline, be it through July, September or the end of the year. Read more on TheHill.com.

<http://thehill.com/policy/finance/241291-clock-ticks-down-on-highway-funding>

Driver’s Licenses Prove Increasingly Less Necessary Among Millennials

Getting behind the wheel is increasingly less important among young Americans as in years past. A 2012 report published by the Frontier Group and the U.S. PIRG Education Fund found fewer Millennials are obtaining driving licenses than ever before. Read more in USA Today.

<http://college.usatoday.com/2015/05/07/drivers-licenses-proving-increasingly-less-necessary-among-millennials/>

Did You Know

HISTORY OF MOTORCYCLES AND MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

Spring is in the air, and motorcycles are hitting the roads to take advantage of the warmer weather. Other drivers on the roads should be alert and be ready to share the road safely the increasing number of riders on the roads.

This week's column focuses on the history of motorcycles and motorcycle safety:

- The classic American Perfecto motorcycle jacket with epaulets and diagonal zipper, made famous by Marlon Brando in *The Wild One*, (1954) was invented in 1928 by Irving Schott, of Schott NYC in New York City.
- In 1928, the first front-wheel brakes on Harley-Davidson motorcycles were met with skepticism.
- Interest in developing motorcycle helmets began in 1935, when T.E. Lawrence (better known as Lawrence of Arabia) suffered a fatal motorcycle crash. His neurosurgeon, Hugh Cairns, began the research that would eventually lead to the development of the motorcycle crash helmet.
- In 1945, 198,000 motorcycles were registered in the U.S.
- The first patent for a motorcycle helmet was submitted in 1953 by Professor C. F. "Red" Lombard.
- In 1958, the California Highway Patrol set an example by requiring their motorcycle officers to wear helmets.
- 1961: Australia introduced the world's first mandatory motorcycle helmet law.
- In 1966, the American National Safety Standard for Motorcycle Helmets was introduced, requiring performance standards for helmets that manufacturers were obligated to meet.
- In 1972, FMVSS 123 standardizes motorcycle controls.
- In 1974, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) introduced their Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 218 (FMVSS 218) for Motorcycle Helmets.
- In 2012, Alpinestars developed a racing suit with built-in airbags to help protect riders from crashes.

Learn more about the history of motorcycles and motorcycle safety online:

- Evolution of Motorcycle Safety (Rosenberg & Gluck, LLP) <http://www.lilawyer.com/evolution-motorcycle-safety/>
- A Brief History of Motorcycling (NHTSA) <http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/pedbimot/motorcycle/00-NHT-212-motorcycle/history5-6.html>
- The History and Future of Motorcycles and Motorcycling (TotalMotorcycle.com) <http://www.totalmotorcycle.com/future.htm>
- History of Motorcycle Helmets (Eagleleather.com) <http://www.eagleleather.com/The-History-of-Motorcycle-Helmets-586/>

- A Brief History of the Motorcycle: From Boneshakers to Superbikes (esuranceblog.com)
<http://blog.esurance.com/a-brief-history-of-the-motorcycle-from-boneshakers-to-superbikes/#.VUzcsfIVhBc>