

May 29, 2015 - Regional News

AAMVA News

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 York Lawmakers Want to Regulate Motorized Bicycles

Two state lawmakers from Queens have introduced bills to regulate motorized bicycles used commercially with safety and insurance requirements. Read the full story at WIVB.com.

<http://wivb.com/ap/ny-lawmakers-want-to-regulate-motorized-bicycles/>

New York DMV's Decision to Reject 'Choose Life' License Plates Upheld by Appeals Court

New York State Department of Motor Vehicles had the right not to choose a "Choose Life" specialty plate, a federal appeals court ruled Friday. The DMV rejected the Children First Foundation's plate back in 2002, saying it was the state's "policy not to promote or display politically sensitive messages" on its license plates. Read the full story at NYDailyNews.com

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/ny-dmv-reject-choose-life-slogan-plates-article-1.2232272>

NY DMV: More Motorcycle Permit Holders Opt for Safety Course

New York officials say more motorcycle permit holders are taking a state-sanctioned safety course. The Department of Motor Vehicles says 70 percent of motorcycle permit holders in New York last year took motorcycle safety courses, up from 51 percent in 2010. Read the full story at TheDailyStar.com.

http://m.thedailystar.com/news/state/ny-dmv-more-motorcycle-permit-holders-opt-for-safety-course/article_639b9e01-3956-5049-86a6-f83f0d2a0124.html?mode=jqm

State Senator has Plan to Stop DMV from Selling Personal Information (New York)

A local state senator has unveiled a new plan to stop the DMV from selling your information without your permission. The state DMV made 60-million dollars last year by selling information from drivers licenses and car registrations. Read the full story at WHEC.com.

<http://www.whec.com/article/stories/s3810218.shtml>

State Lawmakers Considering Driver's Licenses For Undocumented Immigrants (Rhode Island)

Once again, lawmakers are considering legislation that would allow undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses in the Ocean State. The House Judiciary Committee holds a hearing on the proposal Tuesday. Read the full story at RIPR.org.

<http://ripr.org/post/state-lawmakers-considering-drivers-licenses-undocumented-immigrants>

Region II

Senate Advances Change to Arkansas Drunk Driving Law

The Arkansas Senate has endorsed a change to the state's driving while intoxicated law that could prevent a more than \$50 million loss in federal highway funds. Read the full story at THV11.com.

<http://www.thv11.com/story/news/politics/2015/05/27/senate-panel-advances-change-to-arkansas-dwi-law/28008259/>

GA Driver Services Receives International Honor for Community Service

Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) Commissioner Rob Mikell announced today that the Agency has received a Communitas Award for Excellence for outstanding community service efforts. DDS raised over \$33,000 for charities during the most recent Georgia State Charitable Contributions Program (SCCP). Read the press release for more information.

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/news/newsdetail.aspx?id=379>

Lawmakers Drafting Bill to Enforce Stricter Truck Driving Laws in wake of Fatal Accidents (Georgia)

Georgia lawmakers are looking to enforce stricter driving laws for truck drivers after 10 people died on Interstate 16 in the last month. The first accident happened in Bryan County and killed five Georgia Southern nursing students and five more people were killed last week in Pooler. Investigators believe both accidents were caused by a truck driver. Read the full story at WTOC.com.

<http://www.wtoc.com/story/29159362/lawmakers-drafting-bill-to-enforce-stricter-truck-driving-laws-in-wake-of-fatal-accidents>

North Carolina DMV Issues New License Plate Stickers to Save Money

Starting today, North Carolina vehicle owners will get a new kind of license plate sticker when they buy or renew their license tags. The new registration stickers show the month and year that a license plate expires. Read the full story at FAYObserver.com.

http://www.fayobserver.com/news/local/n-c-dmv-issues-new-license-plate-stickers-to-save/article_0e2f8eeb-2586-5914-bf40-fb891309e62c.html

North Carolina Senate Tucks School Bus Safety Bill in Committee

North Carolina lawmakers are debating a bill that would increase school bus safety and penalize drivers who pass stopped school buses. Read the full story at WNC.com.

<http://www.wncn.com/story/29157975/nc-senate-debates-school-bus-safety-bill>

Texas Senate Unanimously Passes Drunk Driving Bill

Today, the Texas Senate unanimously passed HB 2246 to help prevent drunk driving and save lives on Texas. HB 2246 allows any drunk driver to go on an ignition interlock for 90 days to one year in lieu of an administratively imposed license suspension after a drunk driving arrest. Read the full story at WeatherFordDemocrat.com.

http://www.weatherforddemocrat.com/news/texas-senate-unanimously-passes-drunk-driving-bill/article_dd46fcf0-04c1-11e5-8451-af44cee9b6cd.html

TxDmv Launches New Board Meeting Video Streaming System

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) is bringing government closer to the people by enhancing the technology of its video streaming system. The new features will be available during the next board meeting scheduled for Friday, May 29 at 8 a.m. Read the TXDMV press release.

http://www.txdmv.gov/reports-and-data/doc_download/5118-new-video-streaming-release-may-2015

Bill that Would Ban Texting and Driving in Texas Dies in Senate

The bill that would ban texting and driving in Texas -- HB 80 -- has died in the Senate. The Office of Republican Rep. Tom Craddick released a statement saying the Senate did not allow the bill to be brought up for consideration. Read the full story at ABC13.com.

<http://abc13.com/news/bill-that-would-ban-texting-and-driving-in-texas-dies-in-senate/746682/>

Region III

Comprehensive Drunk Driving Legislation Approved by House (Illinois)

Legislation initiated by Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White strengthening the state's DUI laws was approved today by the Illinois House of Representatives. Read the SOS press release.

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/news/2015/may/150526d1.pdf>

Renew your Driver's License at Library Kiosks (Iowa)

You now can renew your driver's license at self-service stations at the Iowa City and North Liberty libraries. The Iowa Department of Transportation renewal kiosk is a web-based device that uses touch-screen technology to allow each customer to renew their own driver's license or ID, including a secure update of the photo that will appear on the customer's new card. Read the full story at Press-Citizen.com.

<http://www.press-citizen.com/story/news/local/2015/05/28/renew-drivers-license-library-kiosks/28078203/>

ACLU Sues Michigan Over Transgender Driver's Licenses

The state of Michigan is being sued over its refusal to change gender identities on driver's licenses without a new birth certificate. The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan is representing six transgender people who no longer recognize their birth gender. But the ACLU says the secretary of state won't allow them to change their license unless they present an amended birth certificate. Read the full story at Detroit.CBSLocal.com.

<http://detroit.cbslocal.com/2015/05/21/aclu-sues-michigan-over-transgender-drivers-licenses/>

Study: Devices Lower Repeat Drunk Driving Rate (Michigan)

For the last four years, Michigan courts have been using ignition interlocks to prevent convicted drunk drivers from becoming repeat offenders, with some positive results. Read the full story at LansingStateJournal.com

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/local/2015/05/21/study-devices-lower-repeat-drunk-driving-rate/27723079/>

Driver's License Arrests Are 'Epidemic,' Police Chief Says (Minnesota)

One in six drivers stopped by police on Minneapolis streets do not have a driver's license. A Department of Justice study found that 37 percent of all Minneapolis arrests in 2014 are from drivers without licenses and the warrants from those stops. Read the full story at Minnesota.CBSLocal.com.

<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2015/05/26/drivers-license-arrests-are-epidemic-police-chief-says/>

Some Young Immigrants Heading to DMV Today to Apply for Driver's Licenses after Lawmakers Override Ricketts' Veto (Nebraska)

Lines might be longer than normal at Nebraska driver examination offices Friday after state lawmakers passed legislation to provide driver's licenses to children of illegal immigrants. Read the full story at Omaha.com.

http://www.omaha.com/news/legislature/some-young-immigrants-heading-to-dmv-to-apply-for-driver/article_7b916450-0557-11e5-a7f9-ff3ddbdaeb70.html

Bike Tax Floated as Possible Transportation Budget Measure (Wisconsin)

Bike advocates are fuming at a possible state budget measure to impose a \$25 tax on new bikes. "The irony is the Republicans have been looking for ways to cut taxes on business," said Dave Cieslewicz, executive director of the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin. "But for some reason they've singled out the bike industry as the one industry they want to tax." Read the full story at Host.Madison.com.

http://host.madison.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/wisconsin-bike-tax-floated-as-possible-transportation-budget-measure/article_2a4763fa-a2e5-567d-bc25-02ba4758e778.html#ixzz3asNPiljr

Region IV

California Could Soon Legalize Motorcycle Lane-Splitting

Motorcycle lane-splitting — the rush-hour time saver for bikers that enrages many drivers — may be poised for formal legalization. California would be the first state to sanction the traffic-evading tactic, already widespread on traffic-choked freeways of Los Angeles. Read the full story at LATimes.com.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/autos/la-fi-hy-motorcycle-lanesplitting-20150528-story.html>

Program to Grant Driver's Licenses to Undocumented Immigrants Begins (Colorado)

A program to grant driver's licenses to an estimated 150,000 undocumented workers in Colorado began Tuesday in Denver and will at two other Department of Motor Vehicle locations on June 1, but already it is facing problems. Read the full story at KDVR.com.

<http://kdvr.com/2015/05/26/program-to-grant-drivers-licenses-to-undocumented-immigrants-begins/>

CBI Forensic Services Laboratory Earns Prestigious Accreditation (Colorado)

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) proudly announces its Forensic Services section received international accreditation from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) International Organization of Standards (ISO) on May 27, 2015. Read the DPS press release.

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cbi/news/cbi-earns-calea-accreditation>

Colorado State Patrol Cadet Killed, Trooper Injured when Fleeing Driver Crashes into Accident Scene

A 21-year-old Colorado State Patrol cadet was killed and a highway trooper who was training him was seriously injured Saturday morning when a fleeing suspect crashed into an accident scene they were investigating, according to police. Read the full story at NYDailyNews.com.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/patrol-cadet-killed-fleeing-driver-police-article-1.2233736>

Settlement in Hawaii Driver's License Discrimination Lawsuit

Just as trial was about to start in lawsuit claiming Hawaii discriminates against drivers with limited English skills, a settlement has been reached. Read the full story at HawaiiNewsNow.com.

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/29183279/settlement-in-hawaii-drivers-license-discrimination-lawsuit>

Idaho Launches Industry-First Driver Record Dashboard

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) launched the nation's first Driver Record Dashboard, accessible at www.accessidaho.org/itd/monitoring. The new information tool serves as a comprehensive, interactive driver's license record monitoring service for small to medium business fleets. Read the full story at EGov.com.

<http://www.egov.com/news/press-releases/2015/05/06/idaho-launches-industry-first-driver-record-dashboard>

Budget Panel Authorizes \$1 DMV Fee to Overhaul IT System (Nevada)

Customers could soon be seeing a \$1 fee at the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles as the agency raises money for a new computer system. The Senate Finance Committee voted Monday to approve SB502, which authorizes a \$1 technology fee on any paid transaction at the DMV. The provision would expire in 2020. Read the full story at Tri-CityHerald.com.

http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2015/05/25/3577347_budget-panel-authorizes-1-dmv.html?rh=1

SGI Announces New Insurance Options for Motorcyclists (Saskatchewan)

The Government of Saskatchewan has announced increased insurance options for motorcycle riders in the province. Don McMorris, the minister responsible for SGI, said that a new third option will cater to riders who feel they require fewer benefits in the event of a collision. This third option will come at a lower cost. Read the full story at CBC.ca.News.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/sgi-announces-new-insurance-options-for-motorcyclists-1.3089162>

Other News

Craigslist Car Scams Are on the Rise, Especially in Midwest

An insurance group is warning consumers of a widespread scam in which fraudsters are buying cars on Craigslist with bogus checks. The National Insurance Crime Bureau has identified nearly 100 instances throughout the Midwest of Craigslist car sales in which the buyers used fake bank checks. Read the full story at [TheFiscalTimes.com](http://www.thefiscaltimes.com).

<http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/2015/05/08/Craigslist-Car-Scams-Are-Rise-Especially-Midwest>

BRP Recalling 1,375 Can-Am Spyder Three-Wheeled Motorcycles in Canada

Quebec-based BRP Inc. is recalling more than 7,000 of its 2013 Can-Am Spyder three-wheeled motorcycles in Canada, the United States and elsewhere to fix problems that could lead to fires. Read the full story at [CTVNews.ca](http://www.ctvnews.ca).

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/autos/brp-recalling-1-375-can-am-spyder-three-wheeled-motorcycles-in-canada-1.2391386>

Obama's Immigration Action Stay is Upheld

A split federal appeals court on Tuesday let stand a lower court's ruling that has stymied Obama administration plans to shield up to 5 million people from deportation, including young immigrants known as "Dreamers." Read the full story at EEDition2.LATimes.com.

<http://eedition2.latimes.com/Olive/ODE/LATimes2/LandingPage/LandingPage.aspx?href=TEFULzIwMTUvMDUvMjc.&pageno=Ng.&entity=QXlwMDYwMA..&view=ZW50aXR5>

Ford Recalls Nearly 423K Vehicles for Power Steering Problem

Under pressure from U.S. safety regulators, Ford is recalling nearly 423,000 cars and SUVs in North America because the power-assisted steering can fail while they're being driven. Read the full story at Tri-CityHerald.com

http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2015/05/27/3579830_ford-recalls-nearly-423k-vehicles.html?rh=1

Did You Know

SUMMER CAR CARE TIPS

- Check your tires. An under-inflated, over-inflated, worn down or misaligned tire can be extremely dangerous, particularly in hot summer weather.
- Change the oil and oil filter. Oil is the lifeblood of your car. It keeps hardworking engine parts running clean, smooth and cool. Most of us do a lot of heavy driving during the summer when an engine is more likely to overheat.

- Check the hoses and belts. Check hoses for cracks, leaks and loose connections. Hoses should be firm, never soft and malleable. Belts can also be visually checked for cracks and damage. Take note if the belt looks excessively slick or smooth.
- Replace your windshield wipers. Winter can be tough on windshield wipers. Ice, snow, salt and extreme temperatures make cracks and tears in the rubber that lower the effectiveness of the wipers. If your wipers are leaving visible streaks or take several passes to clear away light rain, they need to be replaced.
- Check the coolant and radiator. Check under the hood and make sure that your coolant levels are fine. The general rule is to flush your radiator and add new coolant at least every two years. Flushing the radiator is done with a special chemical that cleans debris and build-up on the inside of the radiator. For summer driving, coolant should be added as a 50/50 mixture of antifreeze and water. You can even buy premixed coolant so you don't have to bother with the measurements.
- Clean your battery. The best way to keep your battery running smoothly is to keep it clean. Regularly detach the battery cables and wipe off the terminals. Make sure the battery is strapped down tightly and that all connections are secure.
- While air conditioning can be a drag on fuel economy in stop-and-go driving, keeping the windows up and the a/c on improves aerodynamics and is ideal on the highway. Plus, it will keep the driver and passengers comfortable and reduce driver fatigue.

Learn more online:

- Top 10 Summer Car Maintenance Tips (Auto.HowStuffWorks.com) <http://auto.howstuffworks.com/car-driving-safety/accidents-hazardous-conditions/summer-car-maintenance.htm>
- Hot Summer Car Care Tips (Autotrader) <http://www.autotrader.com/research/article/car-news/170070/hot-summer-car-care-tips.jsp>
- Getting Your Vehicle Ready For Summer (ASE.com) <http://www.ase.com/News-Events/Publications/Glove-Box-Tips/Getting-Your-Vehicle-Ready-For-Summer.aspx>
- Tips for Summer Car Care (caranddriver.com) <http://www.caranddriver.com/news/tips-for-summer-car-care-car-news>