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**DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER OUR 43rd YEAR**

**Timothy Franco, President Tony Parenti, Executive Director, Editor Nick Schock, First Vice-President Mark Wilson, Operations Secretary**

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| *REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING:* December 6, 2017 – 10:00 AM at Mastoris Diner 144 US Highway 130, Bordentown, NJ. BREAKFAST SERVED FREE OF CHARGE COMPLIMENTS OF NJPTOA.

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| ***PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE*:**  As the end of this meeting comes to a close so does my term as your President.   I have so many people to thank, all the committee chairs, the Board of Directors and all of you that did the work. I am proud of the good work that they did. I’ve had a lot of good memories during my term that I will cherish the rest of my life. I always tried to do what is best for the Association and for the most part I think I succeeded. I wish whoever we elect to take my place the very best and I will remain in the Association to assure a smooth transition. I also want to thank the members. Without you we wouldn’t have had the success we experienced for these 43 years. I have found that the President is always fully supported, people volunteer for things, and everyone is pulling in the same direction. I will really miss it, although I am looking forward to going back and sitting where you are! I am forever grateful to you and forgiving me this opportunity - “my greatest honor.” Thank you and I hope to see you at the breakfast at Mastoris Diner. Stay Safe - Tim. ***LICENSE SUSPENSION***: Driver's license suspension laws around the country are having unexpected negative effects, a report released Tuesday by the Legal Aid Justice Center found. According to the Virginia-based group, forty-six create a vicious cycle of debt by denying motorists their right to drive when they are unable to pay speeding ticket fines or other court-enforced debts that have nothing to do with driving. "Those who can't pay, lose their licenses and consequently suffer a never-ending cycle of debt and incarceration, so long as the law forces them to choose between driving illegally and forsaking the needs of their families," the center's litigation director Angela Ciolfi said in a statement. The biggest offenders are Michigan, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and Texas, where more than five million licenses have been suspended for failing to pay tickets or other court debt. These individuals usually live from paycheck to paycheck and are hit hard when their license is used as a form of debt collection. "It is often said that driving is a privilege," the report noted. "But for most people, the ability to drive legally to jobs, medical appointments, places of worship, and the grocery store is no more a privilege than it is to work, eat, pray, and care for their families." California, Georgia, Kentucky and Wyoming are the only states that do not suspend licenses for debt collection purposes. In the rest of the country, suspensions last until the debt is paid, often without any limit on the duration of the punishment. In nineteen states, the law makes suspension mandatory upon the failure to pay a ticket. The US Department of Justice last year filed a brief [calling the practice unconstitutional](http://www.thenewspaper.com/news/50/5082.asp). The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) agrees that driver's license suspensions should only be used to take dangerous drivers off the road, not enforce unrelated laws. "Eliminating driver license suspensions for non-highway safety violations will significantly reduce the burden on departments of motor vehicles, law enforcement, the courts and society," the AAMVA working group on licensing found. "When a law enforcement officer encounters a suspended driver, their ability to help ensure the safety of drivers on the roadways and their availability to respond to calls for service are reduced." California's ban on license suspensions for non- payment of tickets took effect in June. ***YOU ARE PULLED OVER:*** A motorists allegedly displaying flashing lights and honked his horn while stopping a Kentucky Cop who was driving his personal vehicle. When the officer Identified himself as a Louisville cop, the fake cop let him off – the fake cop was soon arrested! ***SNOW MELTS:*** In recent years, the cities have replaced traditional traffic signal bulbs with LED bulbs, thinking that they would modernize the cities. Unfortunately, they missed one huge dilemma that now threatens lives. The new LED lights don’t burn as hot as traditional bulbs, so they don’t melt snow off the lens and cause a real problem for motorists and pedestrians.  As of November 19, 2017 there were 537 traffic fatalities in NJ compared to 537 during the same period in 2016. AN INCREASE OF 00 DEATHS.

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|  Atlantic  | 31 | 37 | -06 | Bergen  | 22 | 32 | -10 |
|  Burlington  | 38 | 45 | -07 | Camden  | 37 | 28 | +09 |
|  Cape May  | 12 | 11 | +01 | Cumberland  | 21 | 28 | -07 |
|  Essex  | 36 | 44 | -08 | **Gloucester**  | **40** | **24** | **+16** |
|  Hudson  | 23 | 25 | -02 | Hunterdon  | 06 | 17 | -11 |
|  Mercer  | 22 | 16 | +06 | Middlesex  | 36 |  42 | -06 |
|  **Monmouth**  | **36** | **48** | **-12** | Morris  | 28 | 17 | +11 |
|  Ocean  | 45 | 36 | +09 | Passaic  | 15 | 19 | -04 |
|  Salem  | 15 | 14 | +01 | Somerset  | 20 | 16 | +04 |
|  Sussex  | 05 | 12 | -07 | Union  | 29 | 24 | +05 |
|  Warren | 08 | 12 | -04 |   |  |  |  |
| Deaths: Driver 291/291, Passenger 73/85 Pedalcyclist 16/17 Pedestrian 145/144 Crashes 497/509 ***DISTRACTED DRIVING:*** If you’re driving down the highway, do you think there is ever a circumstance when it’s safe or smart to close your eyes for five seconds? Of course you don’t. Keeping your eyes on the road is one of the first things we all learn about safe driving. So why would anyone ever think it is okay to text when behind the wheel, or do anything else that takes your attention from driving? It takes about five seconds, on average, to read or send a text. Not a lot of time. But, in that span of time, with your eyes on your phone and not on the road, a vehicle travelling 55 miles per hour can travel the length of a football field. In that instant, over that distance, a life can be taken—maybe even yours. Distracted driving killed 3,477 people on America’s roads in 2015. If you’re caught texting and driving you’ll be pulled over and ticketed because you’re putting your life and your neighbors’ lives at risk. Most of us have been scolded for bringing a device to the dinner table, taking out a phone in the middle of a party, or checking Twitter or Snapchat during an office meeting. (If you haven’t, you’re more disciplined than most.) But when you’re behind the wheel being distracted by your phone it’s an invitation to a deadly disaster. Distracted driving is also about more than just electronic diversions. It’s anything you’re doing behind the wheel that undermines safe driving, including eating and drinking, fiddling with the music or the A/C, or checking yourself out in the mirror. Recently, a driver even became distracted by her dog who was riding with her. She took her eyes off the road, crossed the center line, and [crashed head-on into a sheriff’s deputy’s vehicle in Davis County, Utah](http://news3lv.com/around-the-web/caught-on-video-dashcam-shows-doggy-distracted-drivers-crash-in-utah). ***BUYING A USED CAR:*** It can be difficult to detect when a vehicle’s odometer has been altered. The following is a list of tips to help used car buyers detect odometer fraud: Ask to see the title and compare the mileage on it with the vehicle’s odometer. Compare the mileage on the odometer with the mileage indicated on the vehicle’s maintenance or inspection records. Search for oil change and maintenance stickers on windows or door frames, in the glove box or under the hood. Check that the numbers on the odometer gauge are aligned correctly. If they’re crooked, contain gaps or jiggle when you bang on the dash with your hand, walk away from the purchase. Examine the tires. If the odometer on your car shows 20,000 or less, it should have the original tires. Look at the wear and tear on the vehicle — especially the gas, brake and clutch pedals — to be sure it seems consistent with and appropriate for the number of miles displayed on the odometer. Request a CARFAX Vehicle History Report to check for odometer discrepancies in the vehicle’s history. If the seller does not have a history report, use the car’s VIN to order vehicle history report online. ***TIRF DRUG PREVENTION DRIVING:*** The Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF), in partnership with State Farm® Canada, has launched a Drug-Impaired Driving Learning Centre (DIDLC) available in both official languages. The Centre is a web-based resource designed to share the latest research about the problem, increase awareness, and inform the development of effective strategies to tackle it. According to TIRF’s National Fatality Database, 44.5% of drivers killed in road crashes tested positive for drugs in 2013; a larger proportion than those drivers testing positive for alcohol (31.6%). Whereas young drivers were more likely to test positive for marijuana, older drivers were more likely to test positive for prescription drugs.  ***ICELAND PAINTS 3D CROSSWALKS TO SLOW SPEEDERS:*** In the small fishing town of Ísafjörður, Iceland, an exciting development in road safety has just popped up. A new pedestrian crossing was painted that appears to be a cleverly-detailed optical illusion. The innovative design give foot-travelers the feeling of walking on air, it also gets the attention of drivers, who will be sure to slow down their speed once they spot the seemingly floating ‘zebra stripes.’ Commissioner Ralf Trylla called for its placement in Ísafjörður after seeing a similar project being carried out in New Delhi, India**NEXT MEETING: December 6, 2017 – Mastoris Diner, 144 US Highway 130, Bordentown, NJ** **ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SAFETY BELTS AND BULLET PROOF VEST WHILE ON DUTY** **NJ Police Traffic Officers Association****PO Box 664****Voorhees, NJ 008043****856-220-1433****E-MAIL:** **njptoa@hotmail.com****2018 INVOICE**

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| DATE | ITEM | AMOUNT |
| 1/1/2018 | Annual Membership Dues for Police Department | $50.00 |
|  |  |  |
|  | **TOTAL:** | **$50.00** |

**DATE:** 1/1/2018 **SIGNED: Nicolas Schock, President**.**Our Tax ID number is 22-2344113****Copies of purchase orders can be faxed to 856-783-0012 or scanned for an e-mail and sent to** **NJPTOA@Hotmail.com****.****Note:** If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail instead of by postal mail, please send your request to njptoa.tparenti@gmail.com**(Please check mailing label. Correct if necessary by phone call, text, or e-mail)**Top of Form |

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