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**NOVEMBER 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:* November 1, 2017 – 10:00 AM at AAA Building, Hamilton, NJ.  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ***PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE*:** Please consider running for an officer position in the NJPTOA.  Our Association will conduct elections of officers at the December meeting when all positions are  open. If you plan on jumping in for any office either make your choice known and notify the  nominating committee which I will appoint at the November meeting. As my term is winding down, I  look back and wonder where the time went. I had a good run and was proud to serve as President  for the past 4 years. I wish all future officers of the Association the very best. Although I will be  leaving office I will still be a proud member of this great Association. Stay Safe - Tim. |   ***LIVING IN CHINA COULD BE VERY COSTLY:*** In China: when pedestrians are hit by cars many of them don’t live through the experience. The following report from [Slate](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/foreigners/2015/09/why_drivers_in_china_intentionally_kill_the_pedestrians_they_hit_china_s.2.html), says some people are running over pedestrians multiple times to make sure they’re dead. Slate recounts a story about a BMW driver running over a 2-year-old girl multiple times: **“Stop! You’ve hit a child,” the girl’s grandmother exclaimed.** However, the BMW backed over the child again in response—and then a third time apparently to make sure the girl was dead. The driver left the vehicle and tried to make a deal with the family members: **“Don’t say that I was driving the car,” the driver said. “Say it was my husband. We can give you money.”** Chinese law makes it cheaper to actually kill a person with a car than to injure them. When someone is killed, the accused pays a series of fees that amounts to approximately $30,000. But if they injure someone, the law indicates the victim has to be taken care of for life, which can cost millions. Road safety remains a major issue in China. State-run Xinhua, a Chinese Communist Party mouthpiece, reported that in 2012, poorly maintained roads and bad driving habits resulted in 70,000 deaths and 300,000 injuries each year. In an environment as chaotic as this, many motorists believe they can get away with murder. ***TRAFFIC STOPS:*** On June 3, 2016, Deputy Leonard R. Armijo was on Interstate 40 in Bernalillo County when he spotted in his rear view mirror a Chevrolet Tahoe SUV driving in the slow lane a half-mile back. He claims he noticed a commercial truck behind the Tahoe swerve and change lanes, which he believes was caused by the Tahoe's traveling at 61 MPH on an uphill stretch of the 75 MPH freeway. Once over the hill, the Tahoe hit 72 MPH. The deputy stopped the vehicle and began writing a ticket for driving too slowly to Rudis Alexander Cornejo, who was carrying nine illegal aliens with him at the time. The court was only asked to rule on whether the traffic stop itself was valid, and US District Judge M. Christina Armijo (no relation to the deputy) found the prosecutor's arguments entirely implausible. "For example, the deputy gave no consideration as to whether the commercial truck was speeding or was following too close to the Tahoe." US Attorney James D. Tierney tried to argue that, under the *Heien* precedent, the stop was valid even if the deputy was wrong about the minimum legal speed on Interstate 40. Again, the court held firm. Tierney argued that the deputy would continue pulling over cars for the same "violation," even if the evidence were suppressed in this case. Judge Armijo rejected the idea. "To accept the government's cost-benefit argument in the context of this case would be to vitiate the Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable seizures," the judge concluded. "Deputy Armijo violated defendant's Fourth Amendment right to be free from an unreasonable seizure.  ***WET LEAVES SLIPPERY AS ICE:*** Autumn is upon us and drivers need to adjust their driving habits accordingly. In some situations wet leaves on the roadway can just as slippery as road ice and drivers need to reduce their speed when braking and negotiating turns where wet leaves accumulate. |   As of October 19, 2017 there were 473 traffic fatalities in NJ compared to 472 during the same period in 2016.  AN INCREASE OF 01 DEATH.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | COUNTY | 2017 | 2016 | CHANGE | COUNTY | 2017 | 2016 | CHANGE | | Atlantic | 28 | 30 | -02 | Bergen | 20 | 27 | -07 | | Burlington | 33 | 37 | -04 | Camden | 35 | 26 | +09 | | Cape May | 11 | 16 | -05 | Cumberland | 20 | 23 | -03 | | Essex | 30 | 35 | -05 | Gloucester | 33 | 22 | +11 | | Hudson | 18 | 24 | -06 | Hunterdon | 06 | 10 | -04 | | Mercer | 21 | 17 | +04 | Middlesex | 30 | 37 | -07 | | Monmouth | 33 | 38 | -05 | Morris | 27 | 15 | +12 | | Ocean | 41 | 32 | +09 | Passaic | 12 | 17 | -05 | | Salem | 14 | 14 | -0- | Somerset | 20 | 17 | +03 | | Sussex | 05 | 10 | -05 | Union | 28 | 20 | +08 | | Warren | 08 | 12 | -04 |  |  |  |  | | Deaths: Driver 266/264. Passenger 67/70. Pedalcyclist 13/13 . Pedestrian 127/125. Crashes 446/448  ***RED LIGHT CAMERA:*** Red light camera-related studies focusing on the safety aspect are numerous in the literature, mostly in the form of 'before-after' analyses where the researchers analyze the effect of red light camera deployment on the number of intersection-related crashes," the study explained. "However, much less focus has been given by researchers towards the impact of red light cameras on violation behavior "A total of 10,944 observations were recorded by the Windy City's cameras, operated by Redflex Traffic Systems. Statistical analysis confirmed that increasing the yellow time from 3 seconds to 4 seconds had more of a positive impact than any other variable in the study when it came to reducing red light running. Other factors proved to have far less impact, such as having a higher speed limit or a wider intersection. Longer yellow phase duration increases the probability of drivers passing through an intersection before the signal turns red, avoiding a violation," the study noted. The study then examined the impact of adjusting each variable on related behaviors, such as turning right on red, or running the red light by a mere fraction of a second. These are the infractions that make up the bulk of the Chicago program's annual revenue. In every test, the longer yellows came out on top in terms of effectiveness. The findings on the longer yellow timing are consistent with past independent research. "This practice has shown promising results according to a number of studies." "Bonneson and Zimmerman found that an additional 0.5 to 1.5 seconds of the amber indication interval (as long as the total time did not exceed 5.5 seconds) decreased red light camera violations by up to 50 percent." Increasing the duration of the yellow timing at intersections in Chicago, Illinois by one second would have the greatest impact on reducing red light running. That was the finding of a team of Northwestern University researchers who took advantage of the data gathered by 152 red light cameras over the course of six years to gain insight into the factors that play a significant role in red light running. ***USE CARE WHEN BUYING A USED CAR:*** The impact of this year’s hurricane season will be fixed on American lives for years to come. Whether it was Harvey or Irma, or is an unnamed storm yet to make landfall, the scary task of rebuilding, for many, has just begun. And even if you weren’t in the path of a storm, your next shopping trip for a used vehicle means you need information to protect yourself from buying a flood-damaged vehicle. With nearly one million family and company vehicles damaged or destroyed by the storms so far, the need for new and used cars will be intensified. Protect yourself by being familiar with what to look for when buying a used car.  ***CASH INCENTIVE TO SUSPEND DRIVER LICENSE****:* Driver's license suspension laws around the country are having unexpected negative effects, a report released by the Legal Aid Justice Center found. According to the Virginia-based group, 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. "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.  NEXT MEETING: November 1, 2017 – AAA Building, Hamilton, NJ.  . **ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SAFETY BELTS AND BULLET PROOF VEST WHILE ON DUTY**  Top of Form | | | | | | | | | | |  | | | | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | | |  | | |  | | |  | | **NJ Police Traffic Officers Association**  **PO Box 664**  **Voorhees, NJ 008043**  **856-220-1433**  **E-MAIL:** [**njptoa@hotmail.com**](mailto:njptoa@hotmail.com)  **2018 INVOICE**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | DATE | ITEM | AMOUNT | | 1/1/2018 | Annual Membership Dues for Police Department | $50.00 | |  |  |  | |  | **TOTAL:** | **$50.00** |   **DATE:** 1/1/2018 **SIGNED: Timothy Franco, 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**](mailto: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](mailto:njptoa.tparenti@gmail.com)  **(Please check mailing label. Correct if necessary by phone call, text, or e-mail)** | | | | |  | |  | |  | | |
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