

# Plate Talk

Official Publication of the Minnesota Deputy Registrar's Association

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## From the President's desk...

Greetings Deputies and staff and welcome to the Fall of 2021!

The MDRA Board would like to express gratitude for the successful September Annual Conference held in St. Cloud. The opportunity to gather and see our friends and colleagues meant so very much to those individuals able to attend. The guest speaker Jesse Ross was able to connect with his audience with an inspirational speech mixing both humor, leadership, and mentorship.

The Covid 19 Pandemic is still having an impact on the Deputy Registrar offices. Many offices are still experiencing unanticipated staff shortages related to Covid 19 exposure or positive Covid tests.

An additional unfortunate outcome of the Covid 19 Pandemic appears to be reflected in the buying habits of Minnesota Citizens—specifically vehicle renewals. Most Deputy Registrars are currently experiencing dramatically reduced volumes of basic motor vehicle renewals.

At the Fall 2021 MDRA Conference, Consultant Rick King and his team gave an overview of the Deputy Registrar study he is currently conducting regarding the Minnesota Deputy Registrar system. A draft of the report will be available for review by the Deputy Registrars by December of 2021.

The emerging issue of the rapid decline in vehicle renewals at Deputy Registrars was shared with Rick King in an email October 29, 2021. The following is a portion of the email to Mr. King:

“There is no question that the Minnesota Deputy Registrars would endorse a plan where they would be able to provide internet renewals to the citizens. The existing renewal system was designed by DPS approximately 20 years ago to not allow direct Deputy Registrar involvement—but provided for a Central Office Issuance format.

Representatives of both Associations will be meeting during November to further review this issue and to work on the legislative goals for the forthcoming 2022 Legislative Session.”

At the October 2021 MDRA Board Meeting held in Faribault, we also had an opportunity to have a fundraiser for Senator John Jasinski. Senator Jasinski was the Chief Author of the Senate Fee Increase Bill in 2021. The meeting was well attended and was an opportunity to have candid discussions with Senator Jasinski regarding the operating challenges facing Minnesota Deputy Registrars.

Senator Jasinski and Consultant Rick King both express strong support for strategies to ensure Minnesota Deputy Registrars are financially viable in the long term. The MDRA Board and DRBOA Board and their respective Lobbyists James Hirst and Todd Hill will meet collaboratively to provide direction and assistance to the Minnesota Legislature to have a successful outcome for Minnesota Deputy Registrars this Legislative Session.

Thank you, Minnesota Deputy Registrars, for your participation in the MDRA and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

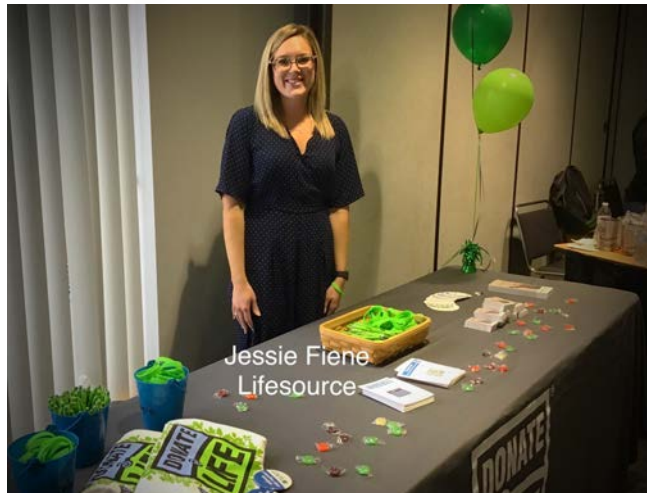
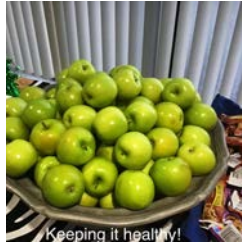
*Jeff Orth*

**MDRA President**



President- Jeff Orth  
jefforth155@aol.com

# Annual Membership Meeting Highlights



# 2021-2022 Committee Chairs

Soon each committee chair or co-chair will be reaching out to the membership recruiting members for their committees. You will find that becoming more involved in the MDRA is not only rewarding but fun. Start with baby steps by joining a committee and see for yourself. Below are the committees and chairs/co-chairs.

## Legislative

**Co-Chairs**  
Mike Hintz  
Nick Heider



## DNR

**Co-Chairs**  
Mike Hintz  
Mona Strolberg



## Governance

**Co-Chairs**  
Ken Mohr  
Jeff Lenarz



## Communications

**Chair**  
Joe Heider

Introducing your new board member



**Nick Heider**  
Wayzata Deputy 126

# MDRA Region Assignments

Region 1	Mary Filzen
Deputy	Location
8	Crookston
11	Fergus Falls
15	Moorhead
30	Thief River Falls
36	Detroit Lakes
39	Alexandria
63	Roseau
66	Red Lake Falls
68	Park Rapids
69	Bagley
71	Ada
73	Breckenridge
78	Hallock
91	Mahnomen
97	Warren
98	Elbow Lake
108	Fosston
130	Perham
137	Hawley
146	East Grand Forks

Region 2	Laura Laudenbach
Deputy	Location
7	Brainerd
13	Little Falls
20	St. Cloud
45	Sauk Centre
67	Mora
79	Long Prairie
82	Crosby
83	Aitkin
90	Cambridge
92	Sandstone
93	Milaca
102	Albany
114	Moose Lake
115	Paynesville
116	Pine City
122	Staples
131	Princeton
136	Onamia
142	Annandale
165	Foley
172	St. Cloud

Region 3	Mike Hintz
Deputy	Location
21	Redwood Falls
23	Willmar
32	Marshall
34	Montevideo
42	Morris
43	Pipestone
57	Benson
61	Wheaton
62	Glenwood
76	Olivia
81	Ortonville
85	Madison
88	Ivanhoe
99	Canby
109	Granite Falls
132	Appleton
141	Edgerton
143	Dawson
148	Tyler

# MDRA Region Assignments

Region 4	Jeff Lenarz
Deputy	Location
35	South St. Paul
65	Stillwater
96	Rosemont
107	Cottage Grove
118	Roseville
127	White Bear Lake
140	St. Paul
149	Maplewood
150	Circle Pines
156	Blaine
157	Apple Valley
161	Inver Grove Heights
162	Eagan
164	Forest Lake
167	Woodbury

Region 5	Joe Heider
Deputy	Location
2	Monticello
16	New Ulm
47	Golden Valley
53	Hutchinson
70	Waconia
72	Elk River
77	Buffalo
84	Glencoe
94	Gaylord
100	Chisago City
106	Cokato
120	Sleepy Eye
129	Fairfax
133	Delano
135	Shakopee
166	Chaska
176	Chanhassen
179	Litchfield

Region 6	Ken Mohr
Deputy	Location
3	Duluth
6	Bemidji
12	Hibbing
22	Virginia
25	International Falls
26	Ely
37	Cloquet
40	Grand Rapids
49	Wadena
64	Pine River
74	Grand Marais
75	Baudette
89	Deer River
105	Cass Lake
117	Remer
119	Silver Bay
125	Walker
139	Floodwood
158	Mizpah
159	Cook
168	Two Harbors
169	Duluth

Region 7	Nick Heider
Deputy	Location
4	Albert Lea
5	Austin
9	Fairmont
10	Faribault
14	Mankato
17	Owatonna
29	St. Peter
33	Worthington
41	Waseca
50	Jackson
51	Luverne
52	Blue Earth
54	Windom
55	St. James
60	Le Center
80	Slayton
103	Wells
121	Springfield
123	Tracy
145	North Mankato

Region 8	Ramona Strolberg
Deputy	Location
18	Red Wing
19	Rochester
24	Winona
27	Hastings
28	Northfield
31	LaCrescent
58	Caledonia
86	Wabasha
87	Preston
95	Kasson
110	Jordan
111	Lakeville
138	Cannon Falls
144	New Prague
147	Pine Island
155	Rochester
160	Prior Lake
173	Grand Meadow
174	Rochester

Region 9	Jeff Orth
Deputy	Location
1	St. Louis Park
38	Ramsey
44	Columbia Heights
46	Robbinsdale
56	Richfield
59	Excelsior
101	Bloomington
104	Brooklyn Park
113	Mpls Govt. Center
124	Mpls Midtown
126	Wayzata
128	Burnsville
151	Brookdale
152	Southdale
153	Ridgedale
154	Ham Lake
163	New Brighton
170	Maple Grove
171	Coon Rapids

# Legislative Update

Jim Hirst - Lobbyist

As we all yearn for a return to some form of normalcy that has upended our lives, it was good to see our fellow deputies in person again at the MDRA annual conference! Thank you, to the over 100 deputies who joined us, along with the DVS contingent and other special guests who came to Saint Cloud. It was especially heartening to reconnect once again with our colleagues in-person and renew those bonds that keep the deputy registrar community strong!

The presentation at the MDRA conference by Mr. Rick King and his staff was particularly timely given their legislative mission to conduct an in-depth independent review of deputy registrar operations, including a recommendation of proper filing fees for our services in advance of next year's legislative session. They will also study whether additional "efficiencies" can be incorporated into MNDRIIVE to offset deputy costs.

Mr. King and his staff have been visiting various offices already regarding their review. Some have been conducted over the phone while others have been with personal office visits. Feedback from the offices who have participated to date have been largely positive overall. We encourage offices to contact Mr. King if they wish to be visited by his team as they compile their report. The report must be submitted to the legislature by late January, so time is of the essence! Email MDRA for Mr. King's contact info at [mndeputyregistars@gmail.com](mailto:mndeputyregistars@gmail.com) should you wish to pursue. Additional background details concerning these visits can be found on the MDRA Facebook page.

This independent study report will be critical for our 2022 legislative agenda pertaining to deputy filing fee rates. Lawmakers last year chose to defer with this approach rather than address raising our filing fees directly, which MDRA had been advocating for. Over this past summer's interim, a number of MDRA allies including MICA (MN Inter-County Assoc), AMC (Assoc of MN Counties), LMC (League of MN Cities), MACO (MN Assoc of County Officers), and others have reiterated their support for our cause and have included deputy registrar compensation as part of their 2022 legislative agenda. Thank you allies!

The MDRA legislative agenda for 2022 will focus primarily on filing fee increases; but we await the King report to best align specific amounts to pursue. Separately, we are also aiming to reform the current law governing the permanent revocation of access for records. The results of our annual MDRA legislative survey have been compiled that reinforces this agenda, and a summary of the survey results are included elsewhere in this edition of Plate Talk.

On October 21, MDRA hosted our annual "Legislator of the Year" event in Faribault which honored Senator John Jasinski (R) in his hometown after our monthly board meeting there. Over 20 deputies participated and were present for an intimate and candid exchange that highlighted our challenges and needs going into the next session. Senator Jasinski is vice chair of the Senate Transportation Committee and has been a strong supporter of deputies over the years. His ongoing advocacy on our behalf is critical as we continue our fight at the legislature next year.



Next year's legislative session will begin on January 31. Recently the House of Representatives announced they plan to continue operating on a remote basis next session with the State Office Building remaining off limits to the general public. There has been nothing comparable forthcoming from the State Senate at this time. Should the House remain in such a format (and hopefully not the Senate as well), it will require all deputies to reinvigorate your communications with your state lawmakers to help underscore the critical importance of our agenda. While your calls and emails have always been an important component of our legislative efforts historically, these communications take on even greater importance for us to achieve success in Saint Paul. If you don't know who your state lawmakers are, visit either [www.house.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us) or [www.senate.mn](http://www.senate.mn) and search the home page for "who represents me?" and enter the necessary data required.

As we approach and enter the 2022 session, please respond when called upon to contact key lawmakers when MDRA issues legislative alerts requesting your participation! Thank you, deputies, for your ongoing and forthcoming involvement with MDRA legislative activities!

# DVS Update

Beckey Mechtel Communication Coordinator



## New Director

Pong Xiong joined the Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services division (DPS-DVS) as director in September. Many deputy registrars had the opportunity to meet Pong at the MDRA annual membership meeting in St. Cloud. He continues the division's commitment to a strong partnership with deputy registrars. Visit the [DPS-DVS website](#) to learn more about Pong.

## Exam Stations Scheduled to Reopen

DPS-DVS is working to reopen 67 exam stations. Reopening is based on a phased approach ensuring leases and staffing are adequate. Forty-three exam stations will be open by the end of the year. The remaining 50 exam stations will be opened by the end of January.

Customers need to schedule an appointment for class D road and knowledge tests and for CDL road tests. Appointments are available about two weeks before the physical location opens. Appointments can be made online at [drive.mn.gov](http://drive.mn.gov).

### November exam station opening:

Gaylord – Open for road tests on Nov. 2 and opening for knowledge tests on Jan. 4.

New Ulm – Open for road tests Nov. 4 and opening for knowledge tests on Jan 6.

St. Peter – Open for road tests Nov. 9 and opening for knowledge tests on Jan. 11.

Thief River Falls – Open for road tests Nov. 15. Knowledge tests are not available at this time.

Glencoe – Opening for road and knowledge tests Nov. 17.

Red Wing – Opening for road and knowledge tests Nov. 17.

Hutchinson – Opening for road and knowledge tests Nov. 18.

Visit the [DPS-DVS website](#) for a complete list of exam stations and services. Watch the DPS-DVS weekly updates for exam station updates.

## Photo Variance for Homebound

Work on the photo variance for homebound individuals is moving forward. We have completed the new request for variance form and are finalizing the programming and workflow process. Watch for more information and training opportunities in the weeks ahead.

## Homeless Youth Variance

A new Minnesota law taking effect on Jan. 1, allows DPS-DVS to issue a no-fee, non-compliant (not REAL ID) identification card to homeless youth. Many social service organizations and employers require a form of identification. The variance process will remove this barrier to services and employment.

We are working with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to raise awareness of the new law and are in the process of developing the guidelines and training materials for MDH, driver's license agents and deputy registrars. More information about this process will be available in December.

## Data Privacy Update

[Minnesota Statutes, section 168.345, subdivision 1](#), prohibits deputy registrars and driver's license agents from providing public or private vehicle registration information over the phone.

We are updating the DVS data access quick reference guide and will post the new version on Info Hub soon. The Data Practices unit has also developed [frequently asked questions](#) to help you understand your responsibility when accessing DPS-DVS data and records. Both will be available on Info Hub in the near future.

Contact [dvs.datapracticesauditors.dps@state.mn.us](mailto:dvs.datapracticesauditors.dps@state.mn.us) anytime you have questions about access to DPS-DVS data.





# Legislative Survey Summary

## 2022 MDRA Legislative Survey Summary of Responses

The 2022 MDRA Legislative Survey received responses from 98 member offices (65% of eligible offices).

Of all responses, 74% were public offices and 26% were private

Of all responses, 75% were from outside the metro area, 25% were within the metro area

\*\*\*\*\*

91% favor creating a repeal process when DVS access is revoked

61% favor pursuing traditional filing fee increases, while

3% favor pursuing quarterly state rebates instead of filing fee increases

15% favor a hybrid of compensation from both fees and rebates

10% have no preference between filing fee or quarterly rebate approach

10% are unsure

70% favor filing fee increases for both DNR tier I and tier II, while

13% favor it for DNR title/registration only

2% favor it for game and fish only

9% opposed

5% unsure

73% of respondents believe deputy offices should be permitted to do their own direct online services with access to the DVS portal allowed to accomplish this

\*\*\*\*\*

### Other background findings:

47% of respondents are interested in obtaining a kiosk, while

18% are not interested

35% are undecided

92% of respondents want kiosk placement rules to be fair without impacting other offices

71% of respondents believe additional efficiencies within MNDRIVE is possible

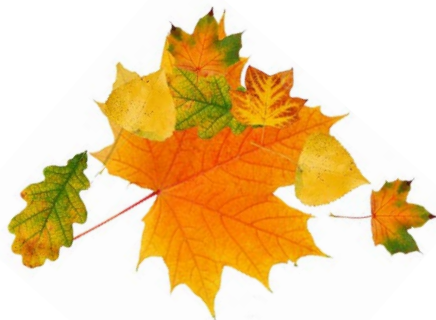
66% of respondents claim increased labor costs over the past year

66% of respondents claim increased office expenses over the past year

55% of respondents are projecting a loss for their current fiscal year

24% are projecting to break even

22% are projecting a profit





# New Law Summary

The following includes both regular and special session new laws enacted with corresponding session chapter number (with article and section number) citations noted. To view actual language, visit [www.house.mn](http://www.house.mn) or [www.senate.mn](http://www.senate.mn) and click link for “Chapters” and then select either 2021 special session or 2021-22 regular session depending on specific references provided below. Select the designated Chapter number and then scroll through the bill language to Article number (if applicable) followed by Section number to review actual text.

## Pertaining to Driver License/ID cards:

- (Regular session, Chapter 24, sections 1, 2) Recognizes a Department of Corrections or Federal Bureau of Prisons ID card issued (thru DVS) to a prisoner upon their release (with full name, DOB, and picture) as an approved form of secondary documentation when later applying for ID, instruction permit, or DL. Effective September 1, 2021
- (Special session, Chapter 7, Article 3, section 40) Creates a noncompliant ID card for homeless youth at no charge. Requires full name, DOB, physical information, and statement from human services agency, school providing homeless youth services, or school social worker attesting to the individual as a homeless youth residing in MN. Effective January 1, 2022
- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, section 67) Prohibits DPS from suspending DL for failure to appear in court and failure to pay court fines and surcharges with petty misdemeanor offenses or for driving after suspension or revocation in certain cases. Effective January 1, 2022 (Additional conforming language in sections 77-80)
- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, sections 68) Motorcycle endorsement fee increase: Increase of \$8 for an initial application and \$4 for each renewal thereafter with increases dedicated to the motorcycle safety fund. Effective August 1, 2021
- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, section 70) Allows for remote DL or ID application and renewal (including expired) thru DVS website for individuals, their spouses/partners, and dependents under age 26 who reside outside of MN due to military service, foreign service, or Peace Corps. Requires vision test submission from doctor and photo on file or acceptable photo submitted. Effective upon programming changes to DVS website.
- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, section 71) Creates a variance for the photo requirement with a noncompliant ID renewal for those individuals considered “homebound” provided a recent photo is on file or an acceptable updated photo is provided.
- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, section 73) DPS cannot deny DL based on applicant having been diagnosed with diabetes mellitus. Effective July 1, 2021
- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, section 76) Removes family members from being eligible to act as proctors for online DL knowledge testing. Effective August 1, 2021
- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, section 81, 83) Reinstatement fee for suspended DL shall be single \$20 charge regardless of multiple suspensions on file. Reinstatement fee for revoked DL shall be single \$30 charge. Only the \$30 fee shall be assessed for individual with both suspended and revoked DL. Each occurrence of revocation (the \$680 fine including surcharge) remains collectable. Partial payment considerations eligible for all individuals. Effective upon programming changes to DVS website.
- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, section 141) Pilot project for on-site same day issuance of noncompliant DL or ID at Moorhead and Lakeville DL agent offices. Effective October 1, 2022

## Pertaining to License Plates/Permits/Registrations:

- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, section 29) Establishes and allows self-serve kiosks exclusively for deputy registrar customer use with MV registration tabs (including specialty plate contributions) and for ordering replacement plates. Deputy shall retain full filing fee and vendor may assess a separate and additional \$5 convenience fee. Subject to vendor contract selection and the locating of kiosks with State approval. Effective upon contract finalization
- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, section 30) VFW and American Legion specialty plates issued to veterans will become lifetime plates to the vehicle and not subject to the 7-year replacement schedule. Effective July 1, 2021
- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, section 31) MV plate and duplicate tab fee increase: Increases all single plates to \$13.50 and all double plates to \$15.50 (not including emergency vehicle and vertical motorcycle plates which remain unchanged). Duplicate tabs will now be \$1.50. Effective August 1, 2021
- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, sections 32, 33) Creates new specialty plates for the “MN Club 100” with a \$40 annual contribution and for “MN Agriculture” with a \$20 annual contribution. Effective January 1, 2022







# New Law Summary (cont'd)

- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, section 34) Creates new “Honorary Consul” plates for vehicles owned by an honorary consul and operated in the state. Requires a letter from the MN Consular Corps for the applicant. Provides for plate transfers and requires surrender of plates when the vehicle is no longer in use, or the owner is no longer recognized as an official on behalf of the appointing government. Effective January 1, 2022
- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, sections 35, 36) Specific to nonresidents and temporary trip permits, the 120-hour permit shall now be determined as 1/12 of the annual registration tax normally imposed on trucks and trailers. Only one permit per month may be issued. Effective July 1, 2021
- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, section 38) Changes the partial pay due dates for registrations of all trucks, RVs, and trailers when the total annual tax exceeds \$400. Equal installments of 50% will now become due on July 1 and November 1 respectively. Effective July 1, 2021
- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, section 66) Creates a special haul permit for soybean meal on US Highways 2 and 75 only from Crookston to the ND border featuring either two- or three-unit combinations. Effective January 1, 2022

## Pertaining to Motor Vehicle (and other miscellaneous):

- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, sections 3-5, 28, 47-51) Clarifies by removing any “electric assisted bicycles” from classifications as being considered either “off highway motorcycle”, DNR classified “off road vehicle”, or DVR classified ATV. Specifies it is not to be considered “motor vehicle”.
- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, section 106) Allows electronic odometer reporting for mileage disclosure
- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, section 144) Creates an independent in-depth review of MNDRIIVE (*King Commission*) to study and recommend to the Legislature appropriate filing fee levels for deputy registrars, along with identifying any additional efficiencies that can be programmed within MNDRIIVE. Report due to Legislature by February 1, 2022. Creates separate and similar independent review of state license exam stations with report due by November 1, 2022.
- (Special session, Chapter 5, Article 4, section 147) Creates a legislative task force to study and recommend changes specific to the topic of salvage titles. Report due by January 31, 2022.
- (Special session, Chapter 8, Article 3, sections 1,2,5) Modifies title requirements for certain manufactured homes affixed to real property in some cases.
  - Similar to existing process of affixation
  - Applicable only for mobile homes located in a non-profit or cooperative setting
  - Allows for cancellation of title with new affidavit of affixation
    - Original or duplicate title not required with affidavit
  - Requires all liens and security interests be satisfied prior to request
  - Does not require full payment of property taxes for current year
- (Special session, Chapter 11, Article 3, section 36) Reestablishes the Legislative Commission on Data Practices.
- (Regular session, Chapter 31) Office of MNIT (within the Department of Administration) becomes a full-fledged agency and renamed as the “*Department of Information Technology Services*”.

## Pertaining to DNR:

- (Special session, Chapter 6, Article 2, section 24) Eliminates the requirement that a snowmobile must be registered in order to transport it out of state.
- (Special session, Chapter 6, Article 2, section 38) Provides free state park permits for any eligible Minnesota tribal member with proof upon entry.
- (Special session, Chapter 6, Article 2, section 56) Prohibits issuance of hunting license for 5 years after the person’s conviction for possessing night vision or thermal imaging equipment in violation of hunting.
- (Special session, Chapter 6, Article 2, sections 57-58) Creates new license categories for taking light geese and sandhill cranes. License fees are \$2.50 and \$3.00 respectively regardless of hunter’s residency.
- (Special session, Chapter 6, Article 2, section 63) Establishes a new “apprentice-hunter” validation fee of \$3.50.
- (Special session, Chapter 6, Article 3) Makes conforming changes in statute by extending current MV DWI restrictions for those convicted as applicable to their operation of off-road recreational vehicles and motorboats, unless those are equipped with ignition interlock devices.



# New Law Summary (cont'd)

## Pertaining to Public Safety (DWI):

- (Special session, Chapter 11, Article 2, sections 2-10) Modifies and amends DWI laws including aspects concerning DL and MV plates including:
  - Eliminates the DWI knowledge exam for revoked license holders seeking reinstatement.
  - Requires participation by offender with ignition interlock device (IIDP) program if license is revoked unless the person does not own/lease a vehicle.
    - One year enrollment, or
    - Two years if BAC was twice legal limit
    - Extended periods if individual violates conditions of enrollment
  - Upon request, DVS must issue either new plates to vehicle subject to impoundment or WX plates if individual is enrolled in IIDP and pays \$100 fee
    - Impound order will be issued for new plates if:
      - The individual withdraws from IIDP for more than 30 days
      - Fails to complete IIDP as required
  - Removes consideration for issuance of limited license when
    - Test refusal or failure with 2-4 incidents in 10 years when enrolled in IIDP
    - DL revocation for DWI conviction if enrolled in IIDP
  - Modifies conditions for issuance of restricted license whereby
    - Requirement for the person to complete any recommended treatment or rehab program
    - Extends time of enrollment with IIDP whenever it registers a BAC of .02 or higher

# Halloween Fun



# EXPLORE Minnesota MDRA MISSION STATEMENT

The Minnesota Deputy Registrars Association (MDRA) is a statewide membership organization promoting common interests of deputy registrars in providing professional licensing service to the public and liaison to the state.

NOV

10,000 lakes

21

## Advisory Committee Members

Dave Konshok - Lifetime Honorary Member  
 Bruce Jindra  
 Denise Vogl  
 Suzanne Jensen  
 Meagan Weber  
 John Lenarz  
 Neng Lor  
 Kim Griffith



We're on Facebook



Check us out!

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## Lobbyist

Jim Hirst

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Paula Anderson, Joe Heider

GRATITUDE  
 pilgrims turkey indians  
 autumn Thursday  
 FAMILY HARVEST  
 friends BLESSINGS  
 Give Thanks  
 leaves cornucopia feast  
 HOME  
 bountiful  
 crisp and chilly air  
 pumpkins & gourds