

RAMCA NEWSLETTER

Richmond Area Municipal Contractors Association

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MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE RATED BEST EVER

The recently concluded 2005 RAMCA Management Conference earned the best ratings of any management conference RAMCA has held to date! Maybe it was the incredibly unique and entirely first-class Royal Palm Resort in Phoenix that made the meeting so special. (During our visit a member of the British Royal Family checked in, as did Virginia native and nationally recognized entertainer Bruce Hornsby.) Or maybe it was the quality of our speakers, who all rated a near perfect score for their presentations. Maybe it was the perfect weather, the outstanding golf, or just good RAMCA friends getting together away from the hustle of their work environments. Whatever it was, it was one heck of a trip!

Attorney Chuck Keller's OSHA presentation featured a wallet-sized handout of the trenching Ten Commandments that can be distributed to your workers. For those who were unable to attend, a sample is attached. Chuck will be happy to provide you with enough cards for your workers. You can contact Chuck per the information on the card. The cards are provided at no charge.

Your RAMCA Board of Directors has instructed the RAMCA staff to begin a search for the site of the 2006 conference. The direction was to keep the meeting in the west. A number of west coast locations are currently being considered and RAMCA will advise you as soon as the location and dates have been finalized.

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TRANSPORTATION ISSUE STILL LACKS TRACTION

Despite the best efforts of RAMCA and a large number of other industry and business groups in Virginia, there is still not nearly enough discussion among decision makers and elected officials about how to address the state's transportation funding crisis.

RAMCA has financially supported, and continues to work closely with, Virginians for Better Transportation (VBT), which is coordinating a statewide effort designed to inform and activate citizens and elected officials to adequately address this problem.

But thus far both candidates for Governor have not taken the bold stand necessary to address the needs, and hope is beginning to fade that they will. Republican candidate Kilgore just released his transportation plan and it contains many innovative ideas. If adopted they should make a positive difference. But there is not a hint of the serious new money needed to really address the problem, and that is very troubling. A copy of Kilgore's transportation plan is attached.

Democrat candidate Tim Kaine has not as yet released his White Paper on transportation. A few weeks ago he indicated that he would convene a panel of experts, and seek to implement their recommendations if elected. Since he spoke those words, however, they have not been repeated and there is no mention of the formation of such a panel on this web site.

VBT is arranging for newspaper and TV stations around the state to run stories on this issue of transportation funding. –The most recent one ran on Richmond's Channel 12 last week, and key business leaders from around the state are telling their stories and urging action. The VBT website (www.itstimevirginia.org) is averaging about 3,500 hits a month!

Enclosed with this newsletter is a news story that ran in the Augusta, Virginia daily paper. It was written by the co-chairs of VBT and is representative of the ongoing statewide effort that will be necessary to convince citizens and ultimately state legislators to adequately address the problem. RAMCA will continue to work with, and support, VBT in these efforts.

If you, or your firm, is not yet a member of VBT please visit their web site and join up. The weekly emails are extremely informative, and we need your support if we are going to achieve the desired result – long term, sustainable and adequate funding sufficient to meet the present and future needs of Virginia's transportation system.

And if you could get the price of gas to drop about 75 cents a gallon, that would be very helpful as well!

RAMCA AWARDS 05/06 SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Committee Chairman Chris Shelton (Shelton Corp.) and committee members Mike Harcum (Carter Machinery) and Ken Creasy (Superior Excavating & Construction) reviewed nearly a dozen RAMCA scholarship applications last month before recommending four applicants to the RAMCA Board of Directors for approval. The Committee utilized a “blind selection” process whereby all applications are reviewed and determined without any information as to the name of the applicant or the sponsoring company. This year’s George Bickerstaff Memorial Scholarship recipients are:

S. Curtis Smith – sponsored by Lewis Smith Construction Co, Inc. and attending Hampden Sydney College;

Wadsworth Bugg, IV – sponsored by Shoosmith Bros., Inc. and attending Virginia Military Institute;

Amanda Marie Cline – sponsored by F. G. Pruitt Inc. and attending Old Dominion University;

Kristal Marie Bennett– sponsored by William T. Cantrell, Inc. and attending Richmond School of Health and Technology.

Congratulations to these outstanding young Virginians. The RAMCA scholarship program is another solid benefit of RAMCA membership, allowing member firms to recognize deserving students whose families are part of the RAMCA family. Watch for next year’s scholarship applications, which will be sent to all members in January of next year.

BANQUET DATE CHANGED

The date of the 2006 RAMCA Installation of Officers Banquet has been moved from January 14th to February 11th. Your Board of Directors felt that having the event so close to the holidays was not going to be nearly as much fun as making the banquet both an installation of officer’s affair as well as a great way for couples to celebrate Valentines Day! The location is the Sheraton South Hotel on Midlothian Turnpike.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – YOU WON’T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!



RAMCA/CHESTERFIELD COUNTY PROPOSAL ADOPTED

Earlier last summer RAMCA requested a meeting with Chesterfield County to discuss problems associated with the County's subdivision ordinance requiring that subdivision streets be paved and accepted by VDOT before many of the building permits for that subdivision can be approved. RAMCA maintained that requiring subdivision roads to be paved only to then have a large volume of construction vehicles ride on that newly paved road in order to build-out the subdivision is self-defeating and a "catch 22" for the contracting community, the County, and VDOT.

As a result of our request, the County invited senior VDOT representatives from the Chesterfield Residency along with numerous representatives of the homebuilding and development community to attend the meeting as well. RAMCA requested that the County adopt a "split pavement" approach to their subdivision roads. Instead of laying two inches of asphalt early in the development of homes in the subdivision and then watching as numerous heavy construction vehicles involved with building-out the remaining lots rolled through and damaged the road, the RAMCA approach calls for an initial two inches of asphalt about midway through the project and another inch and a half when the subdivision is nearly built out. RAMCA believes this approach will yield a better final product, with minimal additional cost, and will provide tangible benefits for builders/developers, the County, VDOT and RAMCA members.

Earlier this year the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors formally adopted the RAMCA proposal. RAMCA members should have already received detailed information from the County on these changes, which became effective immediately. Should you have any questions, contact the RAMCA office.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

RAMCA is proud to welcome the following new members into the organization:

623 Landfill – Mark Bingham, RAMCA representative

Lyttle Utilities Inc. – Coleman Lyttle, RAMCA representative

RAMCA Officers

President
Jim Patterson
F.G. Pruitt, Inc.

Vice President
Bill Howard
G. L. Howard, Inc.

Secretary/Treasurer
J. Michael Todd
Keiter, Stephens, Hurst, Gary
& Shreaves

Immediate Past President
Monty Gatewood
Shoosmith Bros., Inc.

RAMCA Directors**Contractors**

David Cosby
Sovereign Paving, Inc.

James H. Martin, Jr.
J.H. Martin & Sons Contrac-
tors, Inc.

Johnnie Barr
Ward & Stancil, Inc.

Associates

Ben Steele
Martin Marietta Aggregates

Keith Frazier
ACF Environment

Staff

Executive Director
Mark I. Singer

Office Manager
Judy Frederick

UPCOMING GOLF EVENTS

As this edition of the RAMCA Newsletter goes to press, the annual George Bickerstaff Memorial Golf Event is being held at the challenging Royal New Kent Golf Club. This spring event is always a sell-out, and very competitive. RAMCA thanks all of our sponsors and donors, who each year help insure the success of this event (see attachment).

Our sister organization, the HCCA in northern Virginia, is launching the first of what is hoped many statewide golf outings. The "Contractors Cup" will be held at Augustine Golf Club in Fredericksburg on July 25th with all proceeds going to the political action committees of the associations to which the players are affiliated with. Information on this event is enclosed, and RAMCA members are encouraged to attend. If you plan on participating be sure and contact the RAMCA office to coordinate transportation.

Finally, RAMCA members always look forward to our fall golf event, the Jack Bargamin Memorial Golf Outing. This year's event has moved to Hunting Hawk Golf Course and is scheduled for September 15th.