

Inside this issue:

BY LAW CHANGE AND NEW BOARD

New Board and By-Law Change 1

2006 Committee Assignments 2

Website has Local Specifications Info 3

Dues /PAC Invoices & 2006 Calendar in the Mail 4

2006-2007 Directory In the Works 4

Management Conference April 9-12 4

2006 General Assembly Issues 5 & 6

Installation of Officers' Banquet Feb. 11th 7

Safety Seminar Scheduled 7

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At the November Annual Business Meeting of the association, a number of important changes were approved by the general membership of RAMCA. First, the association's By Laws were amended to increase the size of the Board of Directors by adding two At-Large Directors, and an additional Contractor member. Expanding the size of the RAMCA Board will allow more members the opportunity to serve on the Board, and create a greater diversity of ideas. The membership also elected a new Executive Committee and Director members to the Board. The members of the 2006 RAMCA Board of Directors are listed below.

Executive Committee

President -Dave Cosby (Sovereign Paving)

Vice President - James H. Martin (J.H. Martin & Sons Contractors)

Secretary/Treasurer - J. Michael Todd (Keiter Stevens, et al.)

Immediate Past President – Jim Patterson (F.G. Pruitt)

Contractor Directors

Johnnie Barr – Ward & Stancil

Steve Rhyne – Rhyne Contractors

Chris Shelton – Shelton Corporation

Richard Smith – RJ Smith Construction

Associate Directors

Ben Steele – Martin Marietta

Brad Duty – Luck Stone

At-Large Directors

Lee White – Draper Aden Assoc.

Wilson Whitehurst – Whitehurst Paving

Congratulations to the new RAMCA Board of Directors, and thank you for your willingness to serve RAMCA in these leadership positions.

PRESIDENT COSBY APPOINTS COMMITTEES

One of the first actions taken by a new RAMCA President is to appoint the committees that will serve during his term of office. Every incoming President is keenly aware that it is at the committee level that most of the work of the association takes place. Given that fact, careful consideration is given to these selections. President Cosby has made the following 2006-07 committee appointments.

Long Range Planning

Jim Patterson (F.G. Pruitt) - Chairman
Dave Cosby (Sovereign Paving)
Mike Todd (Keiter, Stevens et al.)
Jimmy Martin (J.H. Martin & Sons Contractors)
Monty Gatewood (Shoosmith Bros.)

Finance

Mike Todd (Keiter, Stevens et al) - Chairman
David Ward (Ward & Stancil)

Memorial Golf Outings

Kenny Tyree (Sovereign Paving) – Chairman

Management Conference

Steve Burnley (Central Contracting) – Chairman

Legislative/PAC

Wilson Whitehurst (Whitehurst Paving)– Chairman
Phil Tarsovich (Slurry Pavers)

Membership

Lee White (Draper Aden Assoc.) – Chairman
David Armstrong (Talley & Armstrong)

Program

Rodger Hargis (James River Equipment) – Chairman

Scholarship

Chris Shelton (Shelton Corp.) - Chairman

Mike Harcum (Carter Machinery)

Ken Creasy (Superior Excavating & Construction)

Safety

Jamie Accashian (Safety Consultants of VA) - Chairman

Joint Cooperative (Specifications)

Monty Gatewood (Shoosmith Bros.) – Chairman

J. Alvin Collins, Jr. (McLane Construction)

Jim Patterson (F.G. Pruitt)

Bill Howard (G.L. Howard)

Johnnie Barr (Ward & Stancil)

Steve Wright (Interstate Construction)

Bill Johns (AES Consulting Engineers)

Underground Damage Prevention

David Ward (Ward & Stancil) – Chairman

Buddy Hummel (Henkels & McCoy)

Johnnie Barr (Ward & Stancil)

USE RAMCA WEB SITE FOR LOCAL SPECIFICATIONS INFO

RAMCA members are reminded and encouraged to visit the RAMCA web site frequently to obtain timely and important industry information, including the recent change adopted by Chesterfield County at the insistence of RAMCA board member Steve Rhyne (Rhyne Contractors) regarding approval of the Field Lok 350 pipe gasket. Go to www.ramca.info, then hit the *Industry Links* button and then click on *Local Public Utility and Public Works Specifications* for information on this and other local specification requirements. Special thanks to Steve for diligently working on, and obtaining approval of, this specification change.

2006 DUES AND PAC INVOICES, AND 06 SCHEDULE MAILED

2006 RAMCA dues and PAC invoices were mailed to all members in early December. RAMCA greatly values your membership and support of the association's many activities. So please take a moment now and renew your commitment to central Virginia's only regional utility, road and heavy construction association. Special discounts apply if payment is received before January 31st. Should you have any questions, please contact the RAMCA office, and thank you for your support.

SPECIAL NOTE – IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO PLEASE BE SURE YOU HAVE NOTED THE CHANGE TO THE SUITE NUMBER FOR THE RAMCA OFFICE. THE SUITE NUMBER IS NOW 1200. IT WAS 904. FAILURE TO NOTE THIS CHANGE MAY RESULT IN YOUR PAYMENT TO RAMCA BEING RETURNED OR LOST.

DIRECTORY REQUIRES ACTION

Every two years RAMCA prints and distributes a directory featuring information on the association, its members, and the services they provide. Copies are distributed to members, representatives of local and state government, elected officials, design professionals, owners, developers and a host of other important business contacts. Requests for directory updates have been sent to each RAMCA member. Your prompt response to this request for updated directory information is greatly appreciated. Once the deadline for responses has passed, your firm may not be included in the directory so please give this matter your attention. Receipt of 2006 dues is required for inclusion in the 2006-07 RAMCA Directory & Buyers' Guide.

2006 RAMCA MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE



Members will shortly be receiving information and registration forms for RAMCA's 18th Annual Management Conference, to be held April 9th – 12th, 2006 at The Lodge at Rancho Mirage, in sunny southern California. Speakers include the Mayor and the Director of Public Works of the city of Rancho Mirage, and programs include an open board meeting and an update on the 2006 session of the Virginia General Assembly. Of course, there will be plenty of opportunity to network with fellow RAMCA attendees, and more to do in the surrounding desert cities of Palm Springs, Indio, and Palm Desert than time will permit. One thing is for sure, early registration is a must so watch your mail, quickly review the registration packet, and register early! A sell-out crowd is anticipated.

2006 VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES

Virginia lawmakers are coming back to town on January 11th for a 60-day “long session” that looks like it will be dominated by legislative proposals dealing with transportation funding. Sure there will be other issues considered at the session, including adoption of a two-year state budget in the \$70 billion dollar range, but the real battle will be fought over how best to address the state’s pressing transportation-funding crisis.

As every RAMCA member knows, dedicated, long-term and sustainable transportation funding is an essential ingredient for successful construction development in any sector of our economy. The jobs, business growth and quality of life of all RAMCA members and their employees are affected by transportation funding issues. For that reason RAMCA has, and continues to provide, strong legislative advocacy in support of solving this problem.

Outgoing Governor Mark Warner has already proposed \$625 million in one-time transportation funding investments in his proposed 06-07 state budget. While hardly any of this amount is earmarked specifically for central Virginia, it does represent a move in the right direction.

But the solution that RAMCA is seeking must involve long-term funding solutions, not one-time project specific allocations. Fortunately, incoming Governor Tim Kaine acknowledges the crisis, and has already hosted a number of regional forums to hear citizens’ concerns in the area of transportation. A number of RAMCA members, along with RAMCA staff, attended the Richmond forum, which was well attended and generated many useful comments.

The real debate will occur in the halls of the General Assembly as the Senate and House seek the high ground in this highly visible policy issue that will inevitably include taxation discussions. Recent legislative sessions have produced a stalemate as these two bodies deadlocked on the size and scope of a transportation solution. But three things are different this year. First, the financial situation regarding funding needs continues to worsen each year a long-term solution is not achieved. Second, this year the weight of a newly-elected Governor is strongly and publicly behind resolving this core budget issue. And third, Governor Kaine has indicated that if the legislators leave Richmond on their scheduled adjournment date of March 11th without adequately addressing this issue, he will call them back into Special Session to specifically do so. (That is what Governor Baliles had to do in 1986 – the last time transportation funding was sufficiently increased in Virginia.)

2006 General Assembly Continued

And there may be secondary VDOT/funding issues considered at the session as well. Legislation to further reduce the size and functionality of VDOT could be considered, perhaps including a personnel cut from the current 9000 to below 5000 employees. Where will a cut that large come from? For starters, there is talk that VDOT should jettison all of its road maintenance functions in favor of the private sector, a position that at first blush RAMCA would support.

RAMCA's financial support of Virginians for Better Transportation (VBT) has also proven to be an effective use of funds. VBT has now run over 3000 radio spots on more than 50 stations statewide, several hundred TV ads on COX Communication stations, and a series of weekly newspaper ads in all the major regional and weekly newspapers in Virginia. As a result of this promotional effort to build grassroots support for adequate transportation funding, the VBT website now has a registered database of 11,500 and the site is averaging 2000 hits each day!

One thing is for sure, transportation funding is going to be the main act at the 2006 session of the Virginia General Assembly. RAMCA, through its financial support of the Virginia Utility and Heavy Contractors Council (VUHCC) which includes our sister associations in northern Virginia and Hampton Roads, will be monitoring the session and lobbying on behalf of our members on a daily basis. Weekly legislative updates can be obtained by going to the *Members Only* section of the RAMCA website. And a final legislative summary of actions taken at the 2006 session will be presented to attendees at the 2006 management conference and to members via this newsletter.

RAMCA Officers

President
David Cosby
Sovereign Paving, Inc.

Vice President
James H. Martin, Jr.
J.H. Martin & Sons Contractors, Inc.

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

Immediate Past President
Jim Patterson
F.G. Pruitt, Inc.

RAMCA Directors**Contractors**

Johnnie Barr
Ward & Stencil, Inc.

Steve Rhyne
Rhyne Contractors, Inc.

Chris Shelton
Shelton Corporation

Richard E. Smith
RJ Smith Construction

Associates

Ben Steele
Martin Marietta Aggregates

Brad Duty
Luck Stone Corporation

At Large Directors

Lee White
Draper Aden Assoc.

Wilson Whitehurst
Whitehurst Paving

Staff

Executive Director
Mark I. Singer

Office Manager
Judy Frederick

SAFETY SEMINAR SCHEDULED

RAMCA's first safety program for 2006 is designed to help you comply with the essential safety requirements applicable to construction sites common to all RAMCA members. This program will provide an overview of federal and state requirements in the following important areas: general site safety, compliance with Miss Utility, Competent Person requirements, equipment safety, fire prevention, and safety considerations associated with grading operations, confined space work areas, trenching, and material handling. In addition, training will be provided regarding how to properly manage an on-site OSHA inspection.

This RAMCA sponsored safety program meets all OSHA and MSHA requirements and will be presented by RAMCA member Jamie Accashian, a nationally certified trainer in these areas. All attendees who successfully complete the program will receive a completion card and other materials.

Attendance is limited and reservations will be allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis. REGISTRATION INFORMATION HAS ALREADY BEEN SENT TO ALL RAMCA MEMBERS. PLEASE RESPOND PROMPTLY TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS' BANQUET TO HONOR PAST LEADERS

This year's Annual Installation of Officers' Banquet is scheduled for February 11th at the Sheraton South Hotel. Aside from the usual great dinner and dance band, and the opportunity to catch up with so many friends in RAMCA, there will be some special presentations made. This year RAMCA created a *Lifetime Achievement Award* and will posthumously honor three past RAMCA leaders whose contributions to the association and the construction industry in central Virginia were exceptional. Family members of Fred Barnes, Stamie Lyttle, and Gilly Howard will all be presented special industry recognition from RAMCA.

Invitations and sponsorship opportunities are on the way for this event, which is the highlight of the RAMCA social calendar. We hope you and members of your firm can attend, and we encourage your sponsorship of this special evening. Watch your mail!