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RAMCA's 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Installation of Officers' Banquet was held last month at Hermitage Country Club. Aside from the great food, exciting entertainment, and camaraderie that can only be found at a RAMCA event, a number of special presentations were made. Outgoing Associate Director Brad Duty (Luck Stone) received a plaque for his service, as did Dave Cosby (Sovereign Paving) who is leaving his post as President to become the Immediate Past President. Dave also received a special gift certificate for the Tide's Inn in appreciation of his leadership during his term as RAMCA President for the last two years.

RAMCA's most prestigious award, the RAMCA Lifetime Achievement Award, was presented to Mr. David A. Ward (Ward & Stancil) for his more than 40 years of service to the industry. Dave's firm was a charter member of RAMCA, and he has served in almost every leadership position in the organization, including two terms as President. He also has represented excavators for over fifteen years as a member of the Underground Damage Prevention Advisory Board of the Virginia State Corporation Commission and presently serves as Chairman of the Board of Virginia Utility Protection Services (VUPS) - the "Miss Utility" call center - which has benefited greatly from David's leadership and business acumen during the start-up and growth of the center. Presenters included RAMCA members, and senior staff from both the Commission and VUPS.

Congrats to all who received special recognition at the banquet. And thanks to the many sponsors who so graciously provided financial support for this event (see attached list). And a special thanks to Sandee Cosby, the much better half of Dave Cosby, who served as Official RAMCA Photographer for the night. Sandee took some great shots at the banquet and they can be viewed by visiting the RAMCA website and clicking on the 2008 Banquet button on the home page. Thanks Sandee, for making us all look so good!

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNS, TRANSPORTATION PLAN IN TATTERS**

After a brief extension to allow the House and Senate to work out differences in their respective versions of the state's next two-year budget, the 2008 session of the Virginia General Assembly adjourned on March 13<sup>th</sup>. RAMCA, through its membership in the Virginia Utility and Heavy Contractors Council (VUHCC), was represented each and every day of the session and actively lobbied a number of important bills impacting members. A lot got done, but transportation funding didn't! In fact, the resolution of that issue left the session in a lot worse shape than when the session began. A complete RAMCA Legislative Report is enclosed.

### **RAMCA ASKS FOR, AND RECEIVES, MORE TIME TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED SAFETY REGS AFFECTING TRUCKS**

As reported in the last issue of the RAMCA Newsletter, RAMCA recently learned that Virginia OSHA was proposing to exceed federal OSHA requirements by requiring both a back-up alarm and an "observer" when trucks, and a host of other potential vehicles with somewhat obstructed rear views, operate in reverse. Current state and federal safety requirements only require one or the other of these two options.

RAMCA had formally expressed our concern regarding this proposed change in writing to the Virginia Health and Safety Board. Last month RAMCA's Executive Director appeared before the Board to further express our opposition, and to ask for additional time to comment before the state considers final adoption of these regulations.

The Board has now approved our request, and will arrange for a meeting of interested parties in April before reconsidering and voting on final adoption of the proposal. RAMCA staff will be at this meeting and any RAMCA member who would like to participate is urged to contact the RAMCA office. (The RAMCA position is that Virginia does not need to adopt this regulation.) RAMCA will, of course, keep members informed of final action taken on this matter.

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

RAMCA is pleased to welcome the following new members to the RAMCA family:

PAPCO (Associate Member)

Designated Representatives:

Mr. David Mullins & Mr. Ben McClenahan

UTILIQUEST (Associate Member)

Designated Representatives

Mr. Terry Fordham & Mr. Kevin Hisman

Please take a moment to introduce yourself to our newest members and do try and support our RAMCA community as you plan your future business needs.

## **SCC DAMAGE PREVENTION CONFERENCE**

The 2008 Virginia Damage Prevention Conference is scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, in Virginia Beach. This annual conference provides excavators with up to the minute information, along with the latest technology on all matters associated with underground excavation. A trade show demonstrating the latest high tech "gadgets" will also be held in conjunction with the three-day meeting. If you excavate in Virginia, someone on your staff should attend this valuable meeting. Enclosed with this newsletter is the Preliminary Agenda and Registration form for the conference.

## **LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TO ADDRESS RAMCA**

RAMCA is proud to announce that the Commonwealth's second highest statewide office holder, the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, will address the membership at the association's second annual Legislator's Night event to be held on May 30<sup>th</sup> at the Jefferson Hotel.

Lt. Governor Bill Bolling will join members, wives, and guests for a reception and dinner at the beautiful Jefferson Hotel. After dinner, the Lt. Governor will provide an update of actions taken at the recently concluded session of the General Assembly, what we can expect at the upcoming Special Legislative Session dealing with transportation, and his ongoing statewide initiative to tour the state and receive input on what Virginians expect from their state government.

This event is intended to be of interest to spouses and significant others, all of whom are strongly encouraged to attend. Watch you mail for special invitations to this event and make every effort to attend and meet a state leader who may be the next Governor of Virginia.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sporting Clay Pigeon Shoot – 4/18, Charity Hill Preserve  
George Bickerstaff Memorial Golf Outing – 5/22, Royal New Kent Golf Course  
Legislator's Night – 5/30, The Jefferson Hotel, Guest Speaker Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling

**RAMCA Officers**

**President**

James H. Martin, Jr.  
J.H. Martin & Sons Contractors

**Vice President**

Steve Rhyne  
Rhyne Contractors, Inc

**Secretary/Treasurer**

J. Michael Todd  
Keiter, Stephens, Hurst, Gary & Shreaves

**Immediate Past President**

Dave Cosby  
Sovereign Paving, Inc.

**RAMCA Directors**

**Contractors**

J. Alvin Collins, Jr.  
McLane Construction Company

Johnny Glazebrook  
Branscome Richmond.

Buddy Hummel  
Henkels & McCoy

Richard E. Smith  
RJ Smith Construction

**Associates**

Ken Powell  
James River Equipment VA, LLC

Hardy Josephson  
Luck Stone Corporation

**At Large Directors**

Lee White  
Draper Aden Associates

Wilson Whitehurst  
Whitehurst Paving

**Staff**

Executive Director  
Mark I. Singer

Office Manager  
Judy Frederick

**RAMCA AWARDS 2008-09 SCHOLARSHIPS**

Each year RAMCA provides member firms with an opportunity to reward students of employees with a RAMCA scholarship. Scholarship requests were mailed to all member firms in January and the RAMCA Scholarship Committee, consisting of Ken Creasy (Superior Excavating) and Mike Harcum (Carter Machinery), met earlier in the month to review fifteen applications. The committee's recommendations for RAMCA's 2008-09 scholarship awards were presented to the board at their March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. After discussion and by motion duly made, seconded, and carried the Board approved the following awards:

Jacob Powell - sponsored by James River Equipment

Attending Virginia Tech

Studying Architecture or Mechanical Engineering

Award Amount - \$1500

Ms. Coco McBride – sponsored by Draper Aden Associates

Attending Virginia Tech

Studying Civil Engineering

Award Amount - \$750

Ms. Leslie Southers – sponsored by Souther's Concrete Inc.

Attending VCU

Studying Accounting

Award Amount - \$750

Ms. Diane Hase

Attending Virginia Tech

Studying Architecture

Award Amount - \$500

Congrats to these latest scholarship recipients!