

# RAMCA NEWSLETTER

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**Richmond Area  
Municipal Contractors  
Association**  
1108 E Main Street  
Suite 1200  
Richmond, Virginia  
23219  
804-346-0522  
804-346-8287 (FAX)  
www.ramca.info

## VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOCUSED ON BUDGET, NOT ROADS

The 2010 session of the Virginia General Assembly completed its 60 day "long" session last month doing what many other states and most businesses have been doing for months, tightening the belt on the state's spending plan. During long sessions, which occur every other year, legislators are charged with adopting a two-year state budget and this year the \$80 billion spending plan was facing a \$4 billion shortfall. That's a lot of money to shave and legislators wrestled with that issue for most of the session. In the end, they mostly cut state services and pension contributions in order to achieve a balanced budget as required by the Virginia Constitution.

Of course crafting a budget has never stopped legislators from introducing lots of bills and resolutions, and this year was no exception. Over 2000 pieces of legislation were introduced and about 800 made it successfully through the process. But none of those 800 really made a dent in the state's rapidly deteriorating transportation infrastructure.

RAMCA's lobbying team was active every single day of the session, and testified on numerous legislative proposals. Some would have greatly helped our industry and others would have substantially hurt our membership. Each and every one of these actions, weekly summaries of our efforts during the entire session, and a final summary of actions taken at the Assembly can be found at the *Legislative News* section of the RAMCA website (password is - politics)

Any real relief regarding transportation funding will need to be addressed in future sessions of the legislature. The Governor is contemplating calling a Special Session this year to address the needs, but only if the House and Senate can assure him that there is agreement on a solution. The House and Senate are saying they will need to see a plan from the Governor in order to determine if they can support a solution. The cat appears to be chasing its tail but RAMCA will continue to press for new and adequate funding to address this problem. In the

meantime the roads are literally coming apart! On the upside RAMCA can report that working with a coalition of construction-related groups coordinated by the Homebuilders Association, tougher rules to prevent pollution from entering the Chesapeake Bay will be put on hold thanks to legislation passed at the session. The new law mandates that the proposed stormwater regulations being pushed by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCR) would no longer go into effect this summer as DCR had intended. Instead, their start date would be pushed back until either 280 days after the Environmental Protection Agency comes out with new figures on proper nutrient levels in the Bay, or December 2011, whichever comes first. This is a big win.

"The cat appears to be chasing its tail"

.....Mark Singer

## ANNUAL RECEPTION HONORS COLLINS, HUMMEL AND MARTIN

On February 20<sup>th</sup> over 100 RAMCA members attended RAMCA's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Installation of Officers Reception. Aside from providing a wonderful opportunity for members to catch up in the midst of a very dreary winter, a number of individuals were recognized and honored.

J. Alvin Collins, Jr., whose firm – McLane Construction – is a charter member of RAMCA and who has served as RAMCA President four times received RAMCA's highest accolade, *The RAMCA Lifetime Achievement Award*, for his career commitment to the ideals of RAMCA and his many contributions to the utility and heavy construction industry. Those contributions include being appointed by two Governors to state regulatory boards, serving on the Board of the Virginia Utility Protection Services (Miss Utility), serving on the Damage Prevention Advisory Board of the State Corporation Commission, and the list goes on and on. Alvin joins a very select few of previous recipients of this coveted award including Gilly Howard, Jack Glazebrook, Fred Barnes, Starnie Lyttle, and David Ward. All of the members of RAMCA and the RAMCA staff want to

again congratulate Alvin on this much-deserved award recognition.

William C. (Buddy) Hummel was selected as the 2009 RAMCA Contractor of the Year for his 14 month role in helping to craft legislation that passed the 2010 session of the Virginia General Assembly resolving the issue of who is responsible for marking certain sewer laterals on private property. This was a long and tedious process that involved more than 30 stakeholders representing utilities and local governments. Buddy was the only contractor at the table and as such had the burden of representing all contractors as he successfully negotiated a fair and reasonable resolution which will shortly become law. In addition, Buddy currently serves on the Advisory Board of the State Corporation Commission and on the RAMCA Board of Directors. Congrats to Buddy. His countless hours of work on behalf of our industry have benefitted all members.

Last, but certainly not least, RAMCA honored outgoing president James H. Martin, Jr. who has led the organization over the last two years. In addition to the outgoing president's plaque, Jimmy received a gift certificate to a local boating store and the gratitude of the membership for his leadership during his term as President.

A list of the newly elected RAMCA Board of Directors is attached with this newsletter. RAMCA welcomes returning Board member Monty Gatewood (Lee Hy Paving), and new Board member Dave Moore (Slurry Pavers), and is looking forward to working with the organization's new President, Steve Rhyne ((Rhyne Contractors). Please feel free to contact the President or any Board member should you desire to discuss any issue that could impact your firm or the membership of RAMCA.

Next year's event is scheduled for February 12 at the new Hilton Short Pump. Mark your calendars now!!



"Governor" J. Alvin Collins, Jr.



James A (Jimmy) Martin



William C. (Buddy) Hummel

## AUTOMATED ROUTING SOLUTION IS UP AND RUNNING

On March 31<sup>st</sup> the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) implemented an Automated Routing Solution (ARS) to more quickly and efficiently approve hauling permits for oversized and overweight vehicles traveling throughout the Commonwealth. This comes after nearly four years of work initiated by RAMCA and our VUHCC counterparts in northern Virginia and Tidewater in an effort to improve the archaic, slow, and costly procedure members were having to utilize in order to obtain their blanket or specific routing permits for overweight or oversized trucks. In recent years the situation has been exacerbated by the downgrading of weight limits on numerous bridges that are falling into disrepair.

This is a major accomplishment for RAMCA and the VUHCC. For members the results of our long and persistent efforts with DMV and VDOT mean:

DMV will automate the current process for issuing hauling permits and

reduce the permit issuance turnaround time from 10 working days to three working days for most permits;

You will also have the ability to submit hauling permit applications electronically, self issue certain types of hauling permits, and receive a majority of hauling permits in one day or less without DMV assistance;

The new system will also improve the accuracy of routes and provide more consistent permit language;

The ARS route analysis process will check the continuity of your route, all horizontal and vertical clearances along the route, and all temporary restrictions (construction or otherwise) in effect during the extent of the permit;

For overweight vehicles, the ARS will perform an actual live load analysis of every structure your permit vehicle will cross over.

RAMCA is in the process of arranging for a representative from DMV to address our membership on the new system. Members can also visit the RAMCA website and review the new regulations by clicking on the *New Regulations* button and then on *Automated Overweight/Oversized Hauling Permits Info*. Should you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Wayne Davis at DMV at [wayne.davis@dmv.virginia.gov](mailto:wayne.davis@dmv.virginia.gov) or call 804.497.7121.

## DAMAGE PREVENTION CONFERENCE ALMOST HERE

The Virginia State Corporation Commission's annual Underground Damage Prevention Conference will be held on April 20-22nd at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel. RAMCA members have previously been mailed the conference program and registration information and are again reminded that if you excavate, this conference will provide invaluable information. For last minute registration contact Rene at the Commission ([renee.salmon@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:renee.salmon@scc.virginia.gov)).



## STATE TO ISSUE MORE BONDS, NO NEW PROJECTS

VDOT's analysis of the state's long term revenue outlook has concluded that the Commonwealth now has sufficient debt capacity to issue up to \$500 million in transportation bonds. VDOT hopes to sell a bond package totaling \$493 million this May and is optimistic about being able to issue a second \$300 million package in May 2011.

The funding sources needed to pay down this new debt will be a combination of state insurance premium tax revenues and interest earned on the Transportation Trust Fund and Highway Maintenance and Operating Fund dollars.

In 2007, the General Assembly passed House Bill 3202 which authorized the issuance of \$3 billion in bonds in \$300 million increments over a ten-year period. However, the obligation to pay off Federal Highway Reimbursement Anticipation Notes (FRANS) issued in the Gilmore administration, combined with declining transportation revenues, have prevented the sale of these bonds until now. (FRAN notes will not be totally retired until FY 2013). But no new projects are being funded by the issuance of these bonds. The proceeds of the bonds will only pay for projects in the current Six-Year Plan, and must be distributed as follows: 20% for pub-

lic transit; 4.3% for the Rail Enhancement Fund; and the balance for federal matching funds, revenue sharing and individual projects.

However, the severe shortage of state transportation construction dollars means that proceeds from this initial sale will be limited to transit, rail and federal match, plus a one-time \$15 million infusion to complete revenue sharing project commitments.

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## RAMCA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

RAMCA scholarship requests were mailed to all member firms in January and Scholarship Committee members (Mike Harcum - Carter Machinery and Taylor Cantrell - William T. Cantrell, Inc.) met in March to review nine applications. The Committee recommended, and the RAMCA Board approved, the following scholarship awards for the academic year 2010-11:

Andrew Ochieng – sponsored by Draper Aden Associates  
Attending VCU  
Award Amount - \$500

Calum Newcomb – sponsored by Draper Aden Associates  
Attending Virginia Tech  
Award Amount - \$500

Keenan Wagner-sponsored by Carter Machinery Corp.  
Attending Southwest Virginia CC  
Award Amount - \$750

RAMCA congratulates this year's scholarship recipients, and urges the membership to take advantage of this membership benefit when the 2011-12 scholarship mailing goes out early in 2011.

## RAMCA HOSTS SAFETY SEMINARS

Employees of RAMCA member firms took advantage of the winter lull in construction activity to participate in two essential safety training sessions offered by RAMCA. In January a Competent Person session was offered and CPR/First Aid was the topic in February. Both sessions were well attended, and highly rated.

RAMCA would like to thank RAMCA member **Jamie Accashian** (Safety Consultants of Virginia, Inc.) and **Hardy Josephson** (Luck Stone) for their support of these two important training seminars for members. Jamie is one of the most qualified construction safety instructors in the state and has, for years, made his services available to RAMCA to present our safety programs. Hardy, recognizing the tough economic times many RAMCA members and the association are facing, offered up the meeting space at Luck's corporate headquarters. Thanks guys – you continue to make RAMCA great!

**RAMCA Officers**

President  
Steve Rhyne  
Rhyne Contractors, Inc

Vice President  
Johnny Glazebrook  
Branscome Richmond

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

Immediate Past President  
James H. Martin, Jr.  
J.H. Martin & Sons Contractors

**RAMCA Directors**

*Contractors*

J. Alvin Collins, Jr.  
McLane Construction Company

Monty Gatewood  
Lee-Hy Paving

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

Dave Moore  
Slurry Pavers, Inc.

**Staff**

Executive Director  
Mark I. Singer  
Office Manager  
Judy Frederick

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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April 13th Pigeon Shoot-Old Forge Sporting Clays,  
Providence Forge

May 4th Legislator’s Night–Lewis Ginter Botanical  
Gardens, Richmond

June 17th Jack Bargamin Memorial Golf Outing  
The Crossings Golf Course

**ATTACHMENTS**

**2010 RAMCA Board of Directors**

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITES AVAILABLE FOR  
LEGISLATORS RECEPTION.**

**CALL JUDY AT 346-0522 TO SIGN UP!**

**RICHMOND AREA MUNICIPAL  
CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION**

**2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE**

	<b><u>OFFICERS</u></b>	<b><u>TERM EXPIRES</u></b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Steve Rhyne</b> Rhyne Contractors, Inc. 2832 Lanier Road Rockville, VA 23146	<b>12/31/11</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Johnny Glazebrook</b> Branscome Richmond 2106 Deepwater Terminal Rd. Richmond, VA 23234	<b>12/31/11</b>
<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	<b>J. Michael Todd</b> Keiter, Stephens P.O. Box 32066 Richmond, VA 23294	<b>12/31/11</b>
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	<b>James H. Martin, Jr.</b> J.H. Martin & Sons Contractors P.O. Box 34745 <b>Richmond, VA 23234</b>	<b>12/31/11</b>
<b>Contractors</b>	<b><u>DIRECTORS</u></b>	
	<b>J. Alvin Collins, Jr.</b> McLane Construction 2036 Botetourt St. Richmond, VA 23220	<b>12/31/12</b>
	<b>Monty Gatewood</b> Lee Hy Paving Corp. P.O. Box 5036 Glen Allen, VA 23058	<b>12/31/12</b>
	<b>Buddy Hummel</b> Henkels & McCoy, Inc. 2300 Anniston Street Richmond, VA 23233	<b>12/31/11</b>
	<b>Richard E. Smith</b> RJ Smith Construction 3700 Stamford Circle Midlothian, VA 23112	<b>12/31/11</b>

**Associates**

**Ken Powell** **12/31/10**  
James River Equipment VA, LLC  
11053 Leadbetter Road  
Ashland, VA 23005

**Hardy Josephson** **12/31/11**  
Luck Stone Corp.  
P.O. Box 29682.  
Richmond, VA 23242

**At- Large Directors**

**Lee White** **12/31/11**  
Draper Aden Assoc.  
8090 Villa Park Dr.  
Richmond, VA 23228

**Dave Moore** **12/31/11**  
Slurry Pavers, Inc.  
1277 Mountain Rd.  
Glen Allen, VA 23060