

BLUE TOP



THE VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION CONSTRUCTION ALLIANCE

December 2015

Harness The Power Of Networking At The VTCA Winter Meeting

Disney's Yacht Club Resort in Florida - February 4 - 7, 2016

When you make an investment to attend any meeting, you should ask three questions: What did I learn? Who did I meet? How did it benefit my company? The VTCA Winter Meeting is widely regarded as one of the best opportunities for executives in our industry.

- ★ Harness the Power of Networking – The Harvard Business Review reports that 95% of their subscribers say face-to-face meetings are key to successful long-term relationships; 85% say that face-to-face interaction is essential for “sealing the deal.” People you need to spend time with will be at the VTCA Winter Meeting.
- ★ Get the Leading Edge – The Winter Meeting is not just another conference – we will deliver a program that prepares you to look ahead and position your company for what the future holds. Key speakers include:
 - VDOT Chief Engineer Garrett Moore, PE
 - Political Commentator Dr. Bob Holsworth
 - ARTBA Chief Economist Dr. Alison Black
 - Vice President of Safety and Risk Management, Vecellio Group, Mark Ligon
- ★ Enjoy Disney World and the Yacht Club Resort – Not only will you enjoy a discounted VTCA group rate for your accommodations at this four-star resort, we are having a private dinner party in the American Adventure Rotunda, followed by a private dessert party and fireworks viewing at Italy Isola! Rooms are only \$209 per night double occupancy and this rate is available three days prior to and three days after our meeting, subject to availability. This rate includes complimentary transportation to and from the Orlando Airport on Disney's Magical Express luxury coach service.



All the details are online at: <http://bit.ly/wintermeeting16>. The VTCA Winter Meeting is family friendly – we hope to see you and your family in Florida! Questions? Call Stephanie, Jan or Lisha at VTCA, 804-330-3312.

VTCA Is Committed To Your Success

Please Renew Your Membership

You made a substantial investment in VTCA when you joined. In return, VTCA made a commitment that your investment would be worth it. Recently we wrote and asked you to renew your membership. The letter included a summary of our accomplishments. We think it's remarkable. You can read it here: www.vtca.org/images/uploads/2015_Accomplishments_Summary.pdf.

Also enclosed was your confidential Member Volume Report. We ask that you return it by December 11. When we receive your report we will invoice you for your 2016 membership investment. Invoices are issued quarterly in advance. Should you have any questions while completing your report, any VTCA staff member will be happy to help you.

We are deeply grateful for your support.

Dedicated to Advancing the Interests of the Transportation Construction Industries



Lisha Reynolds

Announcing VTCA's Inaugural Webinars

In response to your needs, VTCA has created a new emphasis on Professional Development Programs, and I am pleased to serve as your Professional Development Manager. I look forward to working with you, learning about your organization and creating training and professional development programs to meet your needs and those of your employees.

I am delighted to announce that we will inaugurate our new educational webinar series with "Claims: Getting What You Are Due," which will be presented by Pat Genzler, Esq. and Gretchen Ostroff, Esq. from Vandeventer Black LLP's Construction and Government Contracts Group. These webinars are available exclusively to VTCA members.

1. "Overview of Claims for the Project Manager and Superintendent – What You Need to Know"

Date: December 16

Broadcast time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

This webinar will focus on grounds for claim entitlement, notice and procedural requirements under the new VDOT 2016 Road and Bridge Specifications, and recent case law affecting claims procedures. This webinar is designed to help project management staff recognize when a changed condition may give rise to a claim and how to protect the contractor's right to pursue that claim should it decide to do so. While the topics are generally applicable to private and local government contracts, special emphasis will be placed on claims under the Virginia Public Procurement Act and VDOT Road and Bridge Specifications.

The cost is \$70. Online registration is now available at http://bit.ly/claims_webinar15.

2. "Claims Pricing and Recent Case Updates"

Date and Time in January – to be announced soon.

This webinar will review new rules regarding pricing of claims in the VDOT 2016 Road and Bridge Specifications, and the case law that has developed on documentation and pricing both direct cost claims and delay claims since the Supreme Court's 2010 decision in Commonwealth v. AMEC Civil, LLC.

The cost will be \$70. The online registration link will be announced with the date and time.

2016 Programs

Please mark your calendar for these events. Keep an eye on the VTCA web site for details and updates.

Spring Transportation Construction Conference & Trade Show

April 6 – 8
Hampton Roads Convention Center & Embassy Suites Hotel

Winter Meeting

February 4 – 7
Disney's Yacht Club Resort, Florida

Smoke Schools

March 18 – Roanoke
March 19 – Abingdon
March 21 – Richmond

Annual Meeting

July 14 – 17
Sheraton Virginia Beach Oceanfront

ESCCC Classes

VTCA anticipates offering seven ESCCC classes in 2016, beginning in March - five in the spring and two in the fall.

We plan to hold these classes in Richmond, Roanoke, Abingdon and Front Royal.

Will You Be A Champion For Our Industry?

If so, set aside just one hour on December 8

Do you care about what people in your community think about your plant? Are you willing to help improve your community's appreciation for what your company contributes to the community? If so, please join us for an important webinar on December 8 - "**Creating Community Champions: A Guide to Aggregate Community Outreach.**"

By educating our constituents and building trust with them, our industry can create a better environment in which to conduct daily operations and succeed in permitting requests, zoning changes and expansions. Stronger community relationships are vital, especially when something difficult or unexpected occurs.

This webinar will focus on the recently published **VTCA Aggregate Producers Communications Toolkit**, produced by the VTCA Aggregate Producers Marketing Committee and VTCA member Albright Group Strategic Communications & Leadership Advisors.

In the webinar, led by Sarah Huddle of Albright, you will learn how to:

- ❖ Establish relationships and educate local government officials, business and community leaders about the important role the industry plays in communities; and
- ❖ How to effectively use the Communications Toolkit to promote a positive image for your company and the aggregate mining industry in Virginia.

This free webinar will be broadcast on Tuesday, December 8 from 10:00 -11:00 a.m. Register online at http://bit.ly/Aggregate_Community_Outreach. **Registration for this event will end at 4:00 p.m. on December 5.**

Please feel free to share this invitation with other members of your team.

Work Progressing On The Utilization Of Manufactured Sand In Concrete Mixes

Following an initial meeting with VDOT and the ready mix concrete industry concerning the opportunities to use manufactured sand in concrete mixes, the VTCA Aggregate Technical Committee provided a draft specification change to the VDOT Road and Bridge Specifications.

This draft was made available to both VDOT and the ready mix groups for review. In Section 202 the **maximum limits** for the **-200 material** has been **deleted for manufactured sand**. Movement is anticipated on this important change that will provide an additional outlet for the use of fines materials across the state.

VTCA Aggregate Leadership Meets With DMME Director

On November 23 members of the VTCA Aggregate Producer leadership team met with John Warren, newly appointed Director of the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy.

The meeting took place at the DMME office and was attended by Director Warren, Deputy Director Butch Lambert, DMM Director Phil Skorupa, APLC Chairman Bobby Bolling, APLC Vice Chairman Chuck Barger, Aggregate Safety Committee Chairman Troy Austin and VTCA's Sam Hollins.

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce VTCA, and more specifically the Aggregate Producer division, to Director Warren. Discussions focused on the role VTCA plays in the aggregate industry as well as the positive partnership that exists between DMM and VTCA. It was agreed that the two groups need to focus more on how best to utilize those resources that raise public awareness about the industry's contributions to the Commonwealth, and enhance education across the aggregate.

Director Warren stated that one of the chief desires/goals of the DMME is to promote and build the economic development of the aggregates industry in Virginia.

VDOT Updates CEI Salary Caps, Introduces New Policy For Salary Rate Calculations

VDOT has released a memo updating the current maximum allowable salaries for select classifications on CEI contracts. The new rates are applicable to CEI contracts executed after November 2nd.

The Memorandum, issued November 2nd, also introduces a new policy for determining the salary caps each year. The calculations are based on the ECI (Employment Cost Index) and will be applied each July.

The Department's memorandum detailing the process is available on VDOT's web site at http://bit.ly/CEI_RateCaps.

VDOT Clarifies Guidance On Use Of Pinned Barriers

VDOT has issued revisions to several documents clarifying the guidance on the use of pinned (bolt-down) traffic barrier service. The Department has issued Memorandum IIM-LD-93.16, revised Appendix A-Appendix I of the Road Design Manual and the Work Area Protection Manual.

VTCA and VDOT identified potential inconsistencies in the guidance language addressing when temporary median barrier service should be pinned. On some projects the expectations and applications of pinned barriers were not clear and subsequently VTCA and the Department worked towards the development of the new language to mitigate unexpected conflicts.

The new language will result in greater consistency of the application of pinned (bolt-down) barriers and will allow the Department and contractors to better anticipate the need on projects. The Department has also issued internal guidance emphasizing that inclusion of specific pay items in contracts where pinned (bolt-down) barrier service will be required.

2015 Virginia DBE Transportation Training Symposium

The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Transportation DBE Advisory Committee are pleased to announce the 2015 Virginia DBE Transportation Training Symposium. The theme for this year is "Partnerships for DBE Growth: Stronger ~ Better ~ Consistent." The speakers, workshop topics, networking reception and matchmaking event are all tools made available to help you create mutually beneficial partnerships for DBE growth.

The Symposium will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Williamsburg December 9 – 10. Registration fees are nominal and you can defray the cost of the registration by becoming a sponsor. You can register for the event at www.cpe.vt.edu/dbe/registration.html and find other important information regarding sponsorship for the Symposium at www.cpe.vt.edu/dbe/sponsors.html.

2016 TCMI – Registration Now Open

VTCA Member Employees Eligible for Scholarship

The Transportation Construction Management Institute at Virginia Tech is designed specifically for transportation construction industry professionals – particularly those who are responsible for project management.

The rigorous and rewarding Institute will improve participants' ability to:

- Administer contracts, make decisions;
- Establish effective teams and maintain strong relationships and high trust levels with and within VDOT and the road building industry;
- Resolve disputes on-site and complete projects in a more cost-effective and competitive manner;
- Apply newly acquired leadership, management and interpersonal skills to areas of increased responsibility and authority.

TCMI will be held February 16-26, 2016 in Blacksburg. TCMI's 30 participants will include 15 VDOT staff members so industry space is limited. The registration deadline is February 10. Register now at www.cpe.vt.edu/tcmi.

VTCA member employees are eligible for a TCMI scholarship! An exclusive benefit of being a member of the largest transportation construction and engineering organization dedicated to the advancement of the industry is a \$500 tuition rebate for attending the 2016 TCMI program. For details please contact VTCA's Tom Witt.

Boxley Hosts VTCA Safety Awards Luncheon

On November 17 an awards ceremony was held at **Boxley's** Blue Ridge Quarry to honor a number of employees who had achieved major milestones of working safely with no lost time accidents.

The Boxley employees recognized for their safety records came from the Blue Ridge Plant, the Corporate Office and the Maintenance Department. VTCA's Sam Hollins was joined by Phil Skorupa of the Division of Mineral Mining in presenting the awards.



L-R: Sam Hollins, Steve Robertson, Daniel Sink, Barry Meador, Elisha Hall, Phil Skorupa, Steve Eakin, George Honeycutt, Wayland Bond

The individuals recognized along with their years of working without a lost time accident are:

Daniel Sink – 15 years
 Steve Robertson – 20 years
 Steve Eakin – 20 years
 Wayland Bond – 25 years
 Barry Meador, 36 years
 George Honeycutt – 39 years
 Elisha Hall – 41 years

We congratulate each of these men and **Boxley** for their dedication to safety.

VTCA Online Buyers' Guide Is Hot!



In October VTCA's new Online Buyers' Guide went live. The web-based, searchable Guide is the only interactive industry reference product in Virginia. When looking for suppliers and services, buyers are turning to the official Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance Buyers' Guide. Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the Buyers' Guide allows your customers to find your company quickly and easily.

All VTCA members have been given basic listings at no charge. Through premier listings and display advertising, you can provide links to images, videos and more!

We developed this exciting product in partnership with Naylor Association Solutions, the producer of our printed Directory. To learn more about advertising opportunities, contact Chris Zabel at Naylor, 800-369-6220, extension 3420, czabel@naylor.com.

Daniel Grygo recently joined **Hampton Roads Bonding/MMA (HRB)**. HRB is an agency specializing in construction surety located in Virginia Beach and has been in business for over 25 years. HRB is one of the largest bonding agencies in Virginia and brings a very personalized understanding of the surety business to contractors. Daniel serves on VTCA's Associate Leadership Committee. He was formerly with Travelers Bond in Richmond. Daniel can be reached at 757-422-8047 or at Daniel.Grygo@hrbonding.com

JMT is pleased to announce that Kurt Zebley, PE has joined the Richmond office's Bridge and Structures Department as a Project Manager. Kurt, a graduate of the University of Delaware, brings 16 years of experience in the design of transportation projects throughout the United States. His bridge and retaining wall experience ranges from multi-level interchanges to small stream crossings. With respect to bridge maintenance and repair, he has spoken at multiple functions and published an article on the topic of bridge raising and bridge widening. In addition to his bridge background, Kurt has managed stormwater management, maintenance-of-traffic, and roadway improvement projects. Kurt can be reached at 804-655-4828 or by email at kzebley@jmt.com.

ECS is pleased to announce the acquisition of Ellis & Associates (E&A). E&A specializes in geotechnical engineering, construction materials testing, environmental engineering, construction engineering and inspection (CEI) and special inspection services. The acquisition expands the ability of ECS to serve its clients with specialized engineering services throughout the mid-atlantic and southern states.

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A monthly publication of the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance

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VTCA Office Closed

The VTCA office will be closed December 24-25. We hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday!



Welcome To Our New Members

Gibson-Thomas Engineering is a multi-discipline consulting engineering firm established in 1916. With 140 employees, including engineers, scientists, surveyors, technicians and certified construction inspectors, our firm has a vast history of design experience in the areas of roadway, bridge, water distribution and treatment systems, sewage collection and treatment systems, stormwater management, transportation enhancements, hydrology and hydraulics for bridge structures, environmental studies, survey, right-of-way, drainage, utility identification and relocation, NBIS bridge safety inspection and construction management. Our past experience, key staff and commitment to total client satisfaction are the major factors that our clients consider when contracting with Gibson-Thomas Engineering.

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Vice President: Ed Schmitt

Fielder's Choice Enterprises, Inc. (FCE) is a heavy/highway, excavating and utility construction company established in 1987. It is one of six family-owned companies within the Caton Companies, solely owned by Doug Caton. We are headquartered in Charlottesville, Virginia and employ over 100 people throughout the state. Our resume is diverse. We have completed roadway and bridge projects ranging in value from \$250,000 to \$17,500,000. In addition our portfolio claims the construction of water and sewer treatment plants, along with extensive water, sewer and storm sewer systems. FCE is a player in the local administered projects arena having worked on or completed four LAP projects. Today FCE is a \$20 million construction company, and growing, with a solid expansion plan in place. FCE works under this principle: Quality First, Production Second and SAFETY ALWAYS.

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Health Care Corner

ACA requires most individuals to maintain health insurance coverage, commonly known as "individual shared responsibility", or pay a tax penalty. The 2016 open enrollment for individual health coverage began November 1, 2015 and runs through January 31, 2016. For 2016, the individual shared responsibility tax penalty is 2.5% of household income, above the yearly tax filing thresholds, or \$695.00 per adult, \$347.50 per child under age 18, up to a maximum of \$2,085.



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