

# The Maintenance Manager

A quarterly newsletter of the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Maintenance Volume 3, No. 1

## **Message from the Vice Chair:**

Hopefully, everyone is well and ready for warmer weather. It certainly has been one of those strange winters for us here on the east coast. Though mountain snow packs are at record levels in the Midwest this winter, in contrast the mid-Atlantic has seen slightly lower than average precipitation with just above normal temperatures. As this may seem to be a mild winter to many of us in the east, it brings with it those unpredictable ice events where forecasts and best made plans don't always see eye to eye.

Although some of the rains expected this time of year in the southeast has improved drought conditions, it will take several very wet weather systems to erase the 20+ inch deficits that have accumulated over the last 12 months. In any event, maintenance folks still remain vigilant regardless of what the weather may have in store. Maintaining and preserving our roadways and infrastructure is always a challenge especially when dealing with Mother Nature.

Certainly, SCoM has been in the forefront when it comes to challenging these uncertainties by providing the "best of the best", in the way of technology and management practices and presenting them to our maintenance folks. With safety and mobility as the cornerstones in providing services to the traveling public, we are challenged to preserve and maintain the infrastructure while being cognitive of the fact how those services may have a profound effect on the environment. We will be laying the groundwork in this regard come July, as the Subcommittees on Maintenance and Asset Management, along with the Standing Committee on Environment come together to address these challenges.

As a reminder, registration for the annual summer meeting is available at; <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/AASHTO/index.htm>. Considering this is a joint committee meeting, you should sign up early. As the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study

Commission continue to be debated, the tri-committee meeting in Monterey will be extremely important. The leaderships of all three committees are putting final touches on the agenda.

In closing, please check out the SCoM AASHTO website for additional information. If you have not done yet, please take a look at the link to the survey from the Management Systems Focus Group Chaired by Lacy Love - [THE USE OF HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN STATE HIGHWAY AGENCIES](#). Thanks Lacy, great job!

Well that's it for now; hope to see you all at the conference.

- Russell

(Russell Yurek, MD SHA Director of Maintenance, is the current Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on Maintenance)

## **Subcommittee Activities**

### **TN DOT Will Host the Southeastern Regional Equipment Operators Rodeo in 2008**

The Tennessee Department of Transportation is hosting the Southeastern (SE) Regional Equipment Operators Rodeo on September 30 - through October 2, 2008, in Pigeon Forge, TN. SE Regional Rodeo events test the skills and promote the safety of their crews as they maintain the highway systems throughout the SE states. The best of the best from Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia DOTs will compete in six different events. These events include Single Axle Dump Truck, Tandem Axle Dump Truck, Backhoe, Tractor w/Mower, Tractor Truck w/Lowboy, and Motor Grader maneuvering competitions. Participants from TN will be the winners and runner ups from the state competition that will be held in May 2008.

Any questions regarding logistics or rules for the 2008 Roadeo may be directed to Estel Hagewood of the TN DOT Maintenance Division at 615-741-2027.

### VDOT Employee garnered AEMP Technician of the Year

The Association of Equipment Management Professionals (AEMP) has selected Craig Donor, an Equipment Technician for the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Saluda Shop in its Fredericksburg District, as the AEMP Public Sector Technician of the Year.

The Technician of the Year award is sponsored annually by the AEMP to spotlight the increasingly complex skill sets required of today's professional technician, and to raise awareness of the critical shortage of technicians that now exists.

Craig's extensive knowledge of diagnostic equipment makes him a very valuable resource for not only to his assigned shop, but also to other nine (9) repair facilities in the District. His knowledge and skills in diagnosing and repairing equipment is excellent and during his employment with VDOT has not had a single re-work caused by poor workmanship.

### TRB call for Abstracts

The call for abstracts for papers and presentations for the 12<sup>th</sup> AASHTO/TRB Maintenance Management Conference in 2009 was sent out recently. Areas of interest correspond to the AASHTO Task Force and Focus Group areas of bridges, contract maintenance, equipment, management systems, pavements, performance measures, research, roadside & environment, snow & ice, traffic services & safety, and workforce development. The 2009 Conference is being hosted by the Maryland Department of Transportation and co-sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration.

Interested practitioners, administrators and researchers should submit (a) an abstract of not more than 500 words and (b) a 100-word biographical sketch with contact information for each author to the TRB at [MMC@nas.edu](mailto:MMC@nas.edu) by **June 1, 2008**. Each submittal must indicate if the abstract is for (a) presentation & publication -

prepare a paper for presentation at the Conference and publication in the Conference Proceedings, or (b) presentation only -make a presentation at the Conference on the abstract topic without preparing a paper. Authors of accepted abstracts will be advised in early **August 2008** and invited to prepare a paper and/or make a presentation at the conference. Full manuscripts of papers will be required by **December 1, 2008** to accommodate distribution of the published proceedings at the conference.

### Moving On

- o **Frank Richards**, former Chair of the Performance Measures Focus Group, was recently promoted to Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska DOT&PF. **Mike Coffey** from the state's Northern Region will take over as the State Maintenance and Operations Engineer. Congratulations to both and welcome to Mike Coffey.

### Calendar of Events

- o **Joint Subcommittees on Maintenance, Asset Management and Standing Committee on Environment Meeting** – July 13-17, 2008, Monterey, CA. Contact Laura Lynch-Rafferty, ph. (916) 653-2044, e-mail [laura\\_lynch-rafferty@dot.ca.gov](mailto:laura_lynch-rafferty@dot.ca.gov), website <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/AASHTO/index.htm>
- o **2<sup>nd</sup> National MQA Peer Exchange** – September 23-24, 2008, Raleigh, NC. Contact Jennifer Brandenburg, NC (919) 733-3725, <http://www.mrutc.org/outreach/mqa/Flyer.pdf>
- o **National Workshop on Highway Asset Inventory & Data Collection Expo** – September 24-26, 2008, Raleigh, NC. Contact Terry Canales, NC (919)-733-2210, website <http://www.itre.ncsu.edu/NCassetMgmtConf/location.html>

*Please e-mail any news articles/events that you want to share with the Subcommittee to Celso Gatchalian: [celso.gatchalian@dot.gov](mailto:celso.gatchalian@dot.gov)*

*Also make sure to visit our Subcommittee website: <http://maintenance.transportation.org/?siteid=76>*