The **READY-MIXER**



Virginia Ready-Mixed Concrete Association

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newsletter

June 2005

VRMCA and the NRMCA Affiliate Program

n the spring of 2005, VRMCA decided to participate in the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association's (NRMCA) Affiliate Program.

The objective of NRMCA's Affiliate Program is to build a closer relationship between the states and national associations.

Founded in 1930, the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association is the leading industry advocate.

Its mission is to represent and serve the entire ready-mixed concrete industry through leadership, promotion, education, and partnering to ensure ready-mixed concrete is the building material of choice.

NRMCA will work in conjunction through a partnership agreement with VRMCA on issues such as promotion and regulatory concerns.

NRMCA strives to provide knowledge and communication regarding the latest information, products, services and programs to help its members expand their markets, improve their operations and be their voice in Washington.

NRMCA has a long history of the development of a number of education programs for the industry as well.

Programs such as the Environmental Course, Safety Course, the Dispatcher Training Program, Plant Manager Education Course, and the Concrete Sales Professional Course are examples of what NRMCA offers to its state affiliates and members.

If you have any questions, please contact the VRMCA headquarters at 434.977.3716.

1990-1991 Past VRMCA President Elizabeth "Boo" Twohy Elected 2nd Vice Chairman to NRMCA

n April of 2005, Boo Twohy, of Capital Concrete, Inc., was elected 2nd Vice Chairman of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA). "We are happy Boo is going to be representing Virginia and the eastern side of the country, as well as some of the smaller companies," states NRMCA President Robert Garbini. "It is important to have a broad perspective from smaller organizations. Boo will ensure a strong relationship between state and national associations." Below is a biographical profile of Twohy and her vision for the ready-mix industry.



Title:

President

Company?

Capital Concrete, Inc., a ready-mix concrete company which services South Hampton Roads the Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Portsmouth and Windsor areas. We maintain four sites and have 45 ready-mix trucks. The company was founded in 1951, by my father, John Twohy, IV. We specialize in quality and customer service. Customers are what makes Capital Concrete, Inc. work.

Where is your place of birth/hometown?

Norfolk, Virginia.

What college or university did you attend?

I attended the University of Virginia and received a B.S. degree in Commerce, in 1974. I concentrated in management.

How many years have you been in the industry?

I started in the industry in September of 1975. I worked as a driver, mechanic, batcher, dispatcher, in sales and in service. My father taught me that nothing was too small to learn and that anything I wanted to do that could help the growth of the company and its employees was worthwhile.

What is role and involvement with NRMCA?

I have just been elected to the position of 2nd vice chairman for the association. My hope is to further solidify the relationship between state and national associations. I want the state associations to realize the good in supporting the national ones and vice versa. I believe that the NRMCA needs to be a strong voice for the entire ready-mix industry. In Washington D.C., the industry needs to speak as one voice, in order to advance its legislative and regulatory priorities. It is important for the industry to be heard in Washington. Our industry is in fact grass roots—one made up of small, medium and large concerns. Our numbers are such that if united, we can make a difference in how legislators react to our needs. I am also a strong supporter of education and would like to see the industry continue to reach out to colleges and universities across the nation. Students need to understand that ours is a dynamic industry. Our industry was founded on the background of what made America great—true leaders—and hard work.

What are the accomplishments you are most proud of?

Of course, I am proud of my family—my husband, daughters, sister, etc. As far as business is concerned, I am proud of the fact that I had the opportunity to work with my father, John, and my mother, Peggy, to grow the business. I learned from a leader and a doer—someone not afraid to take a chance, to stick to his word and to make things happen. My dad gave me the courage to go forward, to never give up and to take every opportunity. Presently, my sister, Helen, and I are the only two in our family now active in the business. We are both so proud of the people with whom we work. We have created a team that hits the ground running and keeps its eye on the goal—customer satisfaction. I am also very proud of the industry and how it has grown through the years. We have become an industry of responsible leaders. We are an industry which has chosen to promote safety, environmental responsibility and operational excellence.

The best part of the job?

The people—the people with whom I work and the customers we service.

Mentor?

My father John Twohy-the best leader and listener.

Blue Ridge and Southwest Councils Attend AIA Functions

by Bob Nablo Director of Industry Services, Western Region

ontinuing the statewide efforts to develop stronger relationships with regional AIA chapters, both the Blue Ridge and Southwest Virginia Councils attended recent AIA functions. The Central Virginia AIA Chapter sponsored a presentation by William Hamilton, Director of Economic Development for the City of Staunton, on the plans to use public-private funding in the redevelopment of the former Western State Hospital campus.

The current plan is to turn this public facility and adjoining property into a vibrant village of residential, commercial and recreational use. Hamilton discussed issues related to historic districts, special legislation, community involvement, state easements and architectural design.

Bob Nablo attended the presentation and the following business meeting on behalf of the Blue Ridge Council and was asked by Chapter President Jim Boyd, to speak briefly on the upcoming NAHB ICF Builder Course sponsored by VRMCA. Several architects indicated interest in attending the course.

Southwest Virginia Council Chairman George Kuhn and Vice Chairman Andy Faulconer attended the Blue Ridge AIA Chapter Design Awards meeting in Roanoke.

The dinner was preceded by a meet-and-greet reception and later attendees watched a slide presentation of the 20 projects nominated for awards. Four Design Awards were presented. The Southwest Virginia Council representatives reported that the meeting was well attended and that they met with many local architects, including the Dean and the Associate Dean of the Virginia Tech School of Architecture.

Both Councils anticipate continued attendance at these events, and feel that this type of support of regional AIA chapters will benefit us in the future.

VRMCA STAFF PROFILE: CHRISTINA SANDRIDGE, MEMBER SERVICES

Name: Christina Sandridge Title: Member Services Coordinator. Birthplace: I was born in Waynesboro, Virginia.

How long have you been with the company? Two years.

What are your job responsibilities? I work closely with members and assist them with their administrative needs, coordinate mailings, and perform database management. I also work closely with the Executive Director and schedule conferences and meetings.

What brought you to Charlottesville? Well, I actually live in Afton, which is about

26 miles from Charlottesville. That is where my family has always lived.

Family? My husband James, my little boy Tyler, who is three, and my baby, Nickolas, who is five months. My mother, father, and

two sisters live close by, as well as my in-laws.

The best thing about living here? I enjoy having all of my family nearby and being so close to the country. I love the country.

The best part of the job? There is a wide variety of projects to work on—there is never a dull moment.

What did you do before this job? I started working in hotel management at the Boar's Head Inn right out of high school.

Hobbies? My number one hobby now is motherhood there is not much

time for anything else! But I do enjoy scrapbooking and photography. **UVa or Tech?** UVa!

The perfect day off? Taking a trip to the park with my husband and boys on a beautiful sunny day.

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Special Note

VRMCA Technical Bulletins Available

The VRMCA Technical Committee is developing a series of Technical Bulletins, in order to address various issues of interest to the ready mixed concrete industry. The first two bulletins are now available and can be downloaded directly from the VRMCA website at: www.vrmca.com. You may also contact the Association Headquarters at 434.977.3716 for printed copies.

Please make every effort to distribute these to contractors, engineers, and testing labs in your area.

Community-Based Job Training Grants Available

by Bob Nablo Director of Industry Services, Western Region

Bob Nablo recently attended an initial planning meeting at Blue Ridge Community College and learned that substantial funds will soon become available from the United States Department of Labor/Employment & Training Administration.

These grants will be awarded to community and technical colleges that grant associate degrees, and will total \$125 million. US DOL/ETA expects that approximately 75 colleges will be awarded grants and that the individual amounts will range between \$500,000 and \$2 million.

Colleges are currently in the grant writing phase and the closing date for applications is July 6, 2005. The anticipated award date will be from October to December 2005, with training expected to begin next year.

The purpose of the grants is to build the capacity of community colleges through training activities targeted at high growth industries in the local economies, and preference will be given to schools that can show strategic partnerships with local industry, the leveraging of regional resources, the ability to replicate these training courses on a national level and sustainability of training through successful job placement.

High growth industries that can add jobs to the local economy are being most strongly considered, and Blue Ridge Community College is requesting grants in the healthcare, manufacturing, construction and transportation sectors.

It is imperative that the proposed training include significant partner contributions in terms of volunteers, support services, mentoring and tutoring.

Cost sharing is not required, but certification from professional standards and exams and occupational licensure is expected. Eligible participants are: new workforce entrants, incumbent workers, dislocated workers, untapped labor pools and individuals with disabilities.

Letters of Commitment by supporting organizations are required, and the grant announcement states that "Employers should be actively engaged and participate fully in every aspect of grant activities including: defining the program strategy and goals, identifying needed skills and competencies, designing training approaches and curricula, implementing the program, contributing financial support, and where appropriate, hiring qualified trained graduates."

VRMCA will draft a Letter of Commitment in support of this program.

Hampton Roads Advisory Council Presents Scholarship for Class of 2005 Awards Night

by J. Keith Beazley Director of Industry Services, Central Virginia and Hampton Roads

he Hampton Roads Advisory Council was a participant in The Class of 2005 Awards and Scholarship Night at Frank W. Cox High School in Virginia Beach, on June 9th for the second year.

The Council sponsors a scholarship each year for a graduating senior from Cox High School, who has been accepted at an accredited Virginia college or university majoring in engineering or architecture.

The scholarship is named the Lane Malbon Memorial Scholarship and is funded from the proceeds of the annual golf tournament held in the spring of the year.

Lane Malbon was a Cox High School Alumni. The scholarship stipulates that the student receiving the award must be majoring in architecture or engineering, attend a Virginia college or university, have active school and community involvement, hold an honor graduate status, and have a financial need for the scholarship.

This year's scholarship was presented by Charles Malbon, father of Lane Malbon, to Christopher Bragg who will be graduating this June as an honor graduate, with an advanced studies diploma. He has been accepted at Old Dominion University's engineering program and his long-term goal is to major in naval architecture. Upon graduation, he will have completed five advanced placement courses, including calculus and physics.

Bragg has held a part-time job throughout his high school career, in effort to save for his college career and help pay for expenses.

He has been involved in numerous community projects and has earned the honor of Eagle Scout this year. At Cox High School, Bragg is an integral part of the crew program and has held the office of President.

Bragg's parents and grandparents attended a luncheon meeting of the Council and the presentation at this very special event for the students and the school.

The scholarship award, based on the profit from the golf tournament, was in the amount of \$1500.00 for this year's award.

The Advisory Council is being recognized by the Virginia Beach School System for this very important scholarship and the benefit to one of the system's students. The awarding of a local scholarship will one day come back as a direct benefit to the Council, as hopefully one of the students will graduate and will serve in the Hampton Roads workplace as an engineer or architect.



Charles Malbon presents Christopher Bragg his scholarship.

NVCAC Promotes Tilt-Up Construction

by Roy Eller, of Newington Concrete and NVCAC Commercial Committee Chairman

n Wednesday, June 1, 2005, the Northern Virginia Concrete Advisory Council held a very successful tilt-up concrete demonstration in Gainesville, Virginia. With 26 individuals in attendance, Hartridge Construction graciously allowed us access to their site during operations and tilting of several panels.

The ease and quick erection fascinated those who had never observed this type of construction before, providing for much conversation and many questions.

Those familiar with tilt-up commented that seeing it in person was much more meaningful than hearing about it at a seminar or reading about it in the journals.

Of the 26 in attendance, 19 represented either architectural, engineering or construction firms. The remaining attendees were representatives of NVCAC.

This demonstration enabled the architectural and engineering professionals in attendance to accumulate two CEU's.



The positive response to this demonstration has prompted us to revise our goals for 2005 to include at least one more similar outing before the end of the year.

(See pictures for representations of the various phases of tiltup construction.)





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UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

2005 Fall Convention September 11-13 Wintergreen Resort

2006 Fall Convention September 10-12 Wintergreen Resort

2006 Spring Convention May 21-23 The Homestead



The NAHB University of Housing Presents "Building with Insulating Concrete Forms" Course in Richmond

by J. Keith Beazley Director of Industry Services, Central Virginia and Hampton Roads

his May, the University of Housing with the National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB) taught the newly established course "Building With Insulating Concrete Forms" in Richmond.

The course was developed by the Concrete Building Council of the NAHB and the course in Richmond was the first presentation in the United States.

The session was sponsored in Virginia by the Virginia Concrete Advisory Council and the Home Building Association of Richmond.

The Portland Cement Association was a major contributor in creating and developing the materials relating to the development of this new course and Jim Niehoff of PCA was the instructor for this first session.

The course is designed to help the homebuilder understand insulating concrete forms, judge whether ICF construction makes sense for the builder's own operation and learn how to make the transition to ICF's if it does make sense.

The curriculum for the eight hour course is divided into five sections.

 Advantages of ICF Construction

• Parts, Materials, and Equipment

• Design, Planning, and Preparation

Construction

• Running the ICF Business

The homebuilders completing the course are now able to: decide whether building with concrete forms make sense for their business, explain the benefits and costs of ICF homes, prepare their own construction operation and secure subcontractors to build efficiently with ICF's and organize their business effectively.

Attendance for the session totaled to fiftyseven students and was a combination of architects, homebuilders and general contractors, ICF form distributors, ready mixed concrete producers and consultants. The course was very well received by the attendees.

The course had very good interaction with

the instructor and the participants and good questions and answers on different types of building situations ensued.

ICF distributors also displayed different types of forms for examples of forms available in Virginia.

Interest in the curriculum was at a very high level and everyone that started the course in the morning completed the entire eight-hour course, as well as the examination at the conclusion of the day.

The evaluation of the course was excellent, as was conveyed in the forms returned to Dawn Faull, of National Association of Homebuilders. Contractors have expressed interest in commercial building projects with ICF forms in Richmond and Hampton Roads, as a result of the recent information and comfort level from the course.

The partnership with the Homebuilders Associations throughout Virginia will be a great benefit to our industry and the Builder University has other courses in concrete construction that may be offered in future events.

The NAHB and PCA are very pleased and complimentary on the success of this first session. VRMCA set a high mark and standard for others to follow for the course.



Dawn Faull of National Association of Home Builders.



Jim Niehoff of PCA teaches

ICF course.

Arlington County Color Concrete Sidewalk Story

by Hessam Nabavi, R.A. Director of Industry Services, Northern Virginia

or more than a year, we have been working to educate the Arlington County Urban Design Department about the benefits

and beauty of architectural concrete with colors and patterns.

In an attempt to change its decades long standard sidewalk specification for commercial areas from pre-cast unit pavers to architectural color concrete, last year we conducted a very detailed seminar for engineers, planners and urban designers from Arlington County.

After the seminar, a field demonstration was scheduled to show the process by pouring four color sample slabs with various patterns and colors.

Each slab was 6'x10' in size and the borders were trowelled to a smooth finish.

David Goodman of Arlington County, the leader of the task, and a group of engineers and designers from Arlington County and the City of Alexandria were present.

This process allowed the planners and engi-

Safety Corner



uled to show the process by Arlington County courthouse sidewalk bepouring four color sample fore the design project.



The construction phase of the project.

neers to experience different techniques which gave them a better understanding of the entire process.

As a result of this experiment, Goodman and his team decided to test this method in an actual site.

This final phase will assist them in rewriting the specification for the standard sidewalk.

This past May, Arlington County's new standard sidewalk was poured on Courthouse Road North, between 14th and 15th streets. The site is immediately adjacent to the large surface parking lot at Courthouse Plaza.

This project design was substantially similar to those at the demonstration last year. Unfortunately, the design somehow was simplified and they did not use integral color or surface applied tint.

Instead they decided to use some dark gray tint in the release agent to help enhance the slate texture without affecting its surface.

The project is now finished, and it is being reviewed by the Arlington County Urban Design Department.

We are excited for the new concrete sidewalk, but a touch of color would definitely have made this more pleasant.

We are also certain that there will be more projects in Arlington County and this was only a stepping stone.



Arlington County courthouse sidewalk after the design project .

Gary Woolard Elected Chairman of Safety Committee

The members of the Safety Committee would like to welcome the committee's new Chairman, Gary Woolard, of Titan America. The Committee voted unanimously to elect Woolard at the last meeting held May 24, 2005.

The Safety Committee would also like to encourage participation by all members in the committee's activities.

There are no requisite credentials to participate—only a commitment to the safety of all industry employees. Additionally, the association staff is collecting donated safety materials from all companies who wish to assist in the creation of a VRMCA Safety Library. The materials in this library will be available to all members as a benefit of membership.

Please visit the Safety Committee's page on the association's website at http://www.vrmca. com/about/safety.aspx for more information on the committee's activities. If you would like to be added to the distribution list for the Safety Committee, please contact the association staff at (434) 977-3716.

For safety related links, please visit the safety committee section of the VRMCA website: www.vrmca. com/about/safety.aspx

This Article Should be a Wake Up Call . . .

The following article first appeared on the NBI website at www.nbidrivers.com on May 26, 2005.

Survey: pay and quality of life issues contribute to driver shortage

recently released study on the driver shortage not only predicts that in ten years the industry could be 111,000 drivers short, but also that some of the reasons behind the shortage are things truckers have been saying for a long time. Global Insight Inc., the company that did the study, estimated the current driver shortage at 20,000 and forecasted that shortage to grow to 111,000 by 2014.

And that doesn't even take into account the "churning"—or the driver turnover—in the industry.

One "critical element," according to "The U.S. Truck Driver Shortage: Analysis and Forecasts" is that the "competitiveness of wages in the truck transp

The study estimat□

construction earnings in 2001. The wages remained one percent lower in 2004.

In addition to inadequate pay, the study also points to the "non-monetary aspects of the job" as well.

"Although competitive

the primary consideration for worker retention in the industry," the study reported.

While the industry faces the "constant challenge of finding qualified drivers," the study stresses that addressing this problem by lowering hiring standards can create a significant cost in the long run when increased insurance premiums and wrecks are accounted for.

The study gives some \Box

in an effort to address the shortage.

Global Insight called the study "U.S. Truck Driver Shortage: Analysis and Forecasts." It was released May 25 by the American Trucking Association.

City of Richmond Economic Development Manager Presents Plans to Advisory Council

by J. Keith Beazley Director of Industry Services, Central Virginia and Hampton Roads

he City of Richmond is experiencing a new direction and growth of building activity taking place in the downtown area with condos, retail and governmental projects.

Ben Armbruster, project developmental manager for the City of Richmond, was the guest speaker of the Central Virginia Advisory Council in June and presented a comprehensive program on the proposed projects. Richmond has been named the "Number Two City for Economic Development in the South."

Recent and ongoing construction projects in the City of Richmond are valued at three billion dollars. The projects are planned by private corporate investments, state and federal agencies and are situated in the North and South areas of Broad Street, the Capital Square area, the James River area and the south side of the river in Manchester.

The City of Richmond established a source of financing with the Broad Street Community Development Authority and the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$67 million dollars.

The public improvements will consist of two new parking garages with first floor retail, three renovated garages, new streetscaping and improved public utilities.

It will also support the \$30 million renovation of the old Miller and Rhoads department store into a hotel, as well as many private developments directly adjacent to the CDA area.

In the Hospitality area, a planned renovation is planned for the Marriott Hotel, the Hilton Hotel, combined with the new M & R Hotel facilities.

In governmental areas, the state is renovating the Capital, Finance Building, and Washington Building at a cost of \$150 million dollars, and the new \$100 million Federal Courthouse is under construction.

The city is attracting new individuals to condo units on Brown Island, Tobacco Row, Church Hill, Manchester on the south side of the river, and the old John Marshall Hotel.

Development efforts are converting existing warehouse, factories, and office buildings into midrange and luxury apartments. The VCU/MCV expansion is underway with expansion in the academic and medical facilities, Phillip Morris is building a new scientific laboratory for research, and United Network for Organ Sharing is planned in the amount of \$18 million for the national headquarters. Private investors are moving to the Boulevard area with the new Moseley Architects office and the new condos planned for Nabisco Bakery building.

Companies are moving headquarters back to the downtown with Dominion Power building a new headquarters building on the James River down from the new Oregon Hill Townhouses on the river. Property values are increasing as private investors are purchasing in the city.

This new development with private and public monies will provide increased business for our industry and as the city grows, will expand the opportunities for new concrete structures and pavements.

Our increased working relationship with the City of Richmond Economic Development Department will also help keep us informed as the expansion occurs and keep concrete on the minds of city management.

The Advisory Council will also have programs from Chesterfield and Henrico counties on economic development in their areas in future months.



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The Smart Road bridge, at 175 feet tall, is Virginia's tallest bridge. Approximately 9,647 cubic yards of high-strength concrete were used to construct the 2,000-foot long bridge.

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