The new year is bringing exciting opportunities to the Virginia Asphalt Association. During the last half of 2014, the Board of Directors approved several changes to membership and ways to continue the promotion of the asphalt industry in Virginia.

New Associate Member Categories
The first new opportunity for existing VAA members and potential new members is the creation of an associate contractor member category for Full-Depth Reclamation. This category will cover existing producer contractors that will self-perform FDR. In addition, many companies provide the FDR service to producer contractor members. Companies that join this associate contractor category will gain access to VAA resources and will be represented by the VAA in specification and other FDR related discussions with VDOT.

The second new opportunity is similar to the FDR Associate Contractor Category; it is the establishment of the Slurry Seal and Surface Treatment Associate Contractor Categories. Like the FDR category, contractors who join the VAA in this Associate Contractor category will gain the VAA representation for discussions on specifications and use guidelines.

To learn more about these categories or to join the VAA, please visit our website www.vaasphalt.org or contact the VAA office.

VAA Website Advertising
Since the launch of the new VAA website, visitor traffic to the website has continued to increase. These visits by agencies, companies, consultants and the general public provide a great opportunity to increase your companies visibility and profitability. The VAA will be offering ad space on all general public webpages except for the home page. The home page is reserved for those member companies that are platinum sponsors.

Website advertising will be open to VAA member and non-member companies. To learn more about the advertising possibility and costs, contact the VAA office.

2016 Fall Conference and Expo
Since the initial inception of the Fall Asphalt Conference, the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond has been the host. That all changes in 2016 with the Fall Asphalt Conference and Expo. The new Conference and Expo will be held at the Richmond Marriott-Downtown. With the large exhibit halls and conference rooms, the VAA will be able to accommodate over 60 vendors and exhibitors. VAA members and non-members will be able to exhibit to a conference that is pushing 300 attendees from around the Commonwealth and surrounding states. The expanded format should attract more attendees and allow exhibitors to meet new customers. Stay tuned for more information on the 2016 Fall Conference and Expo.

These are just a few of the changes and opportunities being implemented at the VAA. More are coming and will be highlighted in future editions of Asphalt News.
Test Track, QAW and World of Asphalt

Are you looking for something to do? During the months of February and March, three national/regional conferences will be held. The first conference, the Mid-Atlantic Quality Assurance Workshop, will be held in Morgantown, WV from February 10 - 12. This workshop will cover various materials and maintenance related issues. Typically, this workshop is attended by DOT’s in the old FHWA Region 3 as well as consultants and some contractors. The VAA and VDOT will co-present on the tack and bonding efforts in Virginia. VDOT staff will be making presentations on other topics as well outside of asphalt.

The second conference is the NCAT Pavement Test Track Conference. The Test Track Conference will be held March 3 - 5 in Auburn, Alabama. The conference will feature the results of the last test track cycle and will highlight the VDOT structural sections using cold central plant recycled base material and full-depth reclamation. Transportation agency, academia, consultants and industry partners from all over the United States and around the world are expected to attend.

Finally, the World of Asphalt will be in Baltimore, Maryland from March 17- 19. The World of Asphalt draws attendees and exhibitors from across the globe. Take the opportunity while so close to see the latest in equipment and participate in the associated training sessions and conferences. More information can be found at www.worldofasphalt.com.

2015 VAA Annual Meeting at the Homestead

For the 64th year, the VAA will be holding its spring Annual Meeting. This year, the VAA will be visiting the Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, VA. The meeting will begin on Thursday, April 23rd, and conclude at noon on Saturday, April 25th. This will be the first visit by the VAA to the Historic Homestead for an annual meeting.

The Homestead Resort is one of the best four season resorts in Virginia. During the winter, visitors can enjoy skiing. The remainder of the year, guests at the Homestead can enjoy golf on the two golf courses, fly fishing, horseback riding and other outside activities. Take advantage of coming to the meeting early or staying an extra day to enjoy the golf courses or spend time in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains.

The meeting begins with a welcome reception, to be held on Thursday evening. On Friday morning, current VAA President Kevin Jones will welcome the delegates and VDOT guests to the meeting. VDOT Executive Vice President Richard Schreck will review the past year for the VAA as well as future initiatives. The remainder of the morning will be spent discussing various transportation topics with VDOT Senior Management.

On Friday evening, a reception and banquet dinner will be held. We have invited the Secretary of Transportation, Aubrey L. Layne, Jr. and others to join us on Friday morning. They will be discussing the results of the 2015 General Assembly session and the impacts on transportation. Concluding the Saturday morning session will be the VAA Members Only Meeting.

To register for the meeting visit VAA’s website at www.vaasphalt.org or contact Caroline Fahed at cfahed@vaasphalt.com.
2015 VDOT Asphalt Seminars

2015 marks the sixth year VDOT and the VAA will host regional asphalt seminars. These seminars, originally developed to educate district and field personnel on the specifications changes related to the Blue-Print, have grown to encompass more than just specifications. This year’s regional seminars will cover the traditional topics such as specifications, but new for 2015 will be the inclusion of several joint VDOT-VAA presentations. The first joint presentation will focus on the tacking and bonding of asphalt layers. The presentation will be three pronged with Mr. David Shells, NOVA District Materials Engineer, describing the need for bonding; Mr. David Branscome, Jr., Branscome Paving, will outline the challenges with tacking during nighttime and short paving windows; and Mr. Rob Crandel, VDOT Assistant State Materials Engineer, will present the initiative to improve tacking and bonding.

The second presentation will be made by Mr. David Lee, Salem District Materials Engineer, and Mr. Brent Moore, Bransome, Inc. covering the need for a uniform paving platform to enhance pavement quality. They will address the ways to improve the platform such as milling, laying a scratch course on scabbed surfaces, and paving a leveling course on an uneven existing surface.

The seminars will be hosted around Virginia starting in Fredericksburg and concluding in Richmond. Dates, seminar locations and agenda are available at the VAA website www.vaasphalt.org. The registration fee to attend the seminars is $65 which includes lunch and breaks. Four and one-half continuing education credits will be earned for attending the seminar. The VAA will issue the CEC certificates through email upon conclusion of the seminars for those requesting them.

Golf Anyone?

Play Golf where champions’ like Sam Snead have played. On April 24th, this year’s Annual Meeting tournament will be held on the Homestead’s Cascade Course. This is one of the top ranked public courses in Virginia and the US. Each team has the opportunity to select their own players or you can let the VAA staff place you in a foursome. The winning team will be featured in the next VAA Asphalt News.

To join in the fun, sign up through the VAA website: www.vaasphalt.org or by contacting the VAA office. The cost per player is $250.

VAASpecialty Asphalt Mix Design Workshop

In 2014, the VAA sponsored a mix design workshop taught by Dr. Brian Prowell, P.E. of Advanced Material Services in Auburn, AL. During that seminar, Brian covered the basics of mix design, how to adjust mixes during production, proper material and mix quality control as well as other topics. At the end of the workshop, attendees were asked what future seminars were needed. Overwhelmingly the response was advanced mix design to cover Stone Matrix Asphalt (SMA) placed each year in Virginia, it is imperative the designer knows how to combine the different aggregate sizes and RAP to make a well-performing material. The class will cover the proper techniques to blend materials for successful mix production and placement.

Over the last 5 years, VDOT and other agencies have increased the amount of pavement preventive maintenance. For preventive maintenance using asphalt concrete, the SM-4.75 mix was developed. This mix uses smaller aggregates and a higher asphalt content so it can be placed effectively at 1” or less.

Finally, most asphalt mixes incorporate RAP and some use RAS. As the percentage of RAP and/or RAS increases in a mix, it is crucial the correct volumetric and asphalt content calculations are done. Brian will cover how to effectively design a mix that has the correct amount of liquid asphalt.

A summary of this workshop will be provided in the next Asphalt News.
Richard Schreck - SAPA Chair

A new year means a new chairman for the State Asphalt Pavement Associations, otherwise known as SAPA. For 2015, VAA Executive Vice President Richard Schreck will serve as the SAPA Chair. In this role, Richard will be actively involved in various national initiatives. For 2015, he will be actively involved in various efforts including the Pavement Economics Committee, the Go To Market Committee and the Asphalt Pavement Alliance. In addition, he will be speaking at various state asphalt pavement association conferences.

With the honor of being the SAPA chair, Richard and the VAA will be hosting the 2015 SAPA Summer Meeting in Williamsburg. This meeting will bring SAPA members from around the US.

2015 NAPA Annual Meeting

NAPA's 60th Annual Meeting was held January 25 - 28 at the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort, Golf Club and Spa in southwest Florida. The theme for this annual meeting was - "DRIVING PERFORMANCE." The meeting was highlighted by the passing of the gavel from 2014 Chairman Bill Ensor of Maryland Paving to 2015 Chairman Michael Cote of Lane Construction. Lane Construction is the parent company of Virginia Paving.

In addition to the passing of the gavel, the opening keynote speech was given by Major Dan “Noonan” Rooney. Major Rooney is a fighter pilot, professional golfer, and founder of “Folds of Honor” foundation which provides educational scholarships to children and spouses of soldiers killed or severely injured in combat.

Day 2 of the meeting featured a sit down question and answer session with T. Boone Pickens. Mr. Pickens is a multi-billionaire from the energy sector. He answered numerous questions regarding the future of oil and prices.

The 61st Annual Meeting will be held in February 2016 in Palms Springs, California.

Clark Named to NAPA PPTG

In the quest for continued pavement and mixture improvement, the National Asphalt Pavement Association has established the Pavement Performance Task Group under the leadership of Kevin Kelly of Walsh and Kelly in Indiana.

The new task group is chartered with putting forth ideas and research areas that will continue to enhance the performance of asphalt pavements and materials. Trenton Clark, Director of Engineering for the VAA, will be serving on the task group with other individuals from around the country. The first meeting was held in early January to begin developing a “roadmap” for future activities. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March at World of Asphalt in Baltimore.

Member News

Joseph Kasimer is pleased to announce the formation of the law firm of Kasimer Pierce & Schaecher PC effective January 1, 2015. The firm will continue its practice in construction law, VDOT claims and litigation, occupational safety and health, mechanics liens, bond claims, arbitration, mediation, and contract review and negotiation. The new address is Kasimer Pierce & Schaecher PC, Suite 210, 1900 Gallows Rd. Tysons Corner, VA 22182, 703-893-3914

VAA would like to welcome A & A Contractors, our newest Associate contractor in the Milling category.

VAA would like to congratulate Jim and Jill Mitchell of Superior Paving for being named to the NAPA Executive Committee. The Mitchell’s join Ron and Valerie White on the committee.

VAA would like to recognize American Infrastructure for the NAPA Quality in Construction Award for projects under 50,000 tons. AI was recognized for work on I-64, I-295, SR 288 and SR 150. Great job AI.

Several members of the VAA were recognized by NAPA for the Diamond Program at their plants. Companies recognized by NAPA were Sawyer Paving, Branscome Inc., Virginia Paving, Superior Paving, Independence Construction Materials, and Rogers Group. Keep up the good work at your plants and with your operations.

David White of Superior Paving was a featured speaker at the NAPA Annual Meeting. David reviewed the I-66 rehab project completed in 2013.

The VAA is now working on the 2015/2016 Membership Directory. If you have any changes in your company info or would like to place an advertisement for your company in the directory, make sure to contact VAA or complete the forms that will be emailed to all members at the end of January.
Mr. Thomas Samuel Branscome, 45 years old, of Woodbridge, Va., unexpectedly left his life on Wednesday, December 3, 2014.

Brother of David Branscome of Branscome Paving Company, Tommy was born February 14, 1969 in Fredericksburg, Va. He is survived by his parents, Julius and Lila Branscome of Woodbridge, Va., his wife, Chrystal of Woodbridge, VA; Brent Branscome and fiancée Rachel of Bealtonton, VA; Brandi Branscome and fiancée Matt of Fredericksburg, Va; and daughter Emily Clark of Woodbridge, Va., unexpectedly left this life on Wednesday, December 3, 2014.

Beloved son of Peggy Mowbray and Shawn Mooney, Cayman was a 2014 honors graduate of the University of Virginia. He was a talented and creative musician, and a passionate and steadfast champion of those less fortunate, as exemplified through his work with and commitment to the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society and the Restoration of Rights Clinic, in Richmond, serving those who have the least access to legal resources.

Cayman was a 2014 honors graduate of the University of Virginia. He was a distinguished French scholar, earning his degree with highest honors. He was also a bus driver with the University Transit Service.

He leaves behind his parents, Peggy and Shawn, his sister Kelsey, and his niece, India Elizabeth. He also leaves behind his beloved aunts and uncles; Sandra Polakowski and Sue Sherrill, of Charlottesville, Martin and Alice Mooney of Stanardsville, Gayle Pardue of Roanoke, and Jeff Polakowski of Wexford, PA. Additionally, he leaves behind his beloved cousins; Kari Collier, Whitney Polakowski, Jessica Chamblee, Isabelle Pardue, John Martin Mooney, Allison Mooney, and Joshua Rhodes, as well as their families and children. He leaves behind countless friends to treasure his memory. Despite the ephemerality of Cayman’s life, he was always a beacon of comfort and joy to his family and friends. He was a champion for the needy and dispossessed. He will be so missed by all of those who love him.

Victor Parks III, 84, of Petersburg, passed away at home surrounded by family on Wednesday, December 3, 2014. He was preceded in death by his parents, Victor Parks Jr. and Eloise M. Hinton Parks; grandson, Benjamin L. Parks; sisters, Eloise Parks Veal and Marietta Parks Cofer. He was a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and a veteran of the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He retired as the Vice President after serving 47 years with B.P. Short Paving. Victor was a member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and a former member of the Petersburg Kiwanis and Jaycees and served on the Multijurisdictional Grand Jury. He is survived by his wife, Graceyln M. Parks of Petersburg; two sons, Victor Lee Parks of Houston, Texas and Lewis M. Parks of Chesterfield; granddaughter, Allyson C. Parks of Houston, Texas; and one sister, Hilah Lee Terry of Roanoke, Va.
What is MSCR?

VDOT has adopted a new approach to testing and classifying asphalt binders as part of a larger initiative nationally. MSCR or Multi-Stress Creep Recovery, is a test process to quickly and effectively determine the properties of an asphalt binder.

So what does MSCR mean in terms of contracting work - very little. VDOT will still specify the A, D and E binders for use with dense graded asphalt. This will minimize any confusion during the contract execution. However, for the asphalt specifier or supplier, proper attention is needed. A VDOT “A” binder is no longer a PG 64-22, it is now a PG 645-22. The S in the name corresponds to the expected traffic level that will use the road. The VDOT “D” binder will now be a PG 64H-22 and not PG 70-22. The H designates heavier expected traffic than the S designation. Finally, an “E” mix will use PG 64E-22. Like the old E mixes, the new binder will require modification to meet the MSCR test requirements.

To learn more about MSCR, visit the Asphalt Institute website. In the next few weeks, VDOT will issue a Materials Memorandum to further explain the changes and differences.

The advertisement of contracts starting January 1, 2015 will have the new asphalt binder specifications which include the MSCR naming convention to be used.

Pavement Layer Bonding

The bonding of pavement layers in an asphalt and composite pavement are critical to the performance of the structure. Bonding allows loads and stresses to be transferred from the surface to the base and sub-grade layers. With the right materials and thicknesses, these loads and stresses will not result in a pavement failure. However, the lack of bonding will lead to pre-mature failures either near the surface or deep in the structure.

Many of the cracks seen in Virginia’s asphalt surfaces are not a result of the classic bottom-up fatigue failure, but due to top-down or mid-layer cracking due to a lack of bonding.

Therefore, VDOT has begun an initiative with industry to enhance layer bonding. Meetings will be held during 2015 to examine the tacking materials and processes specified and used in Virginia. The eventual outcome may be specification and process changes as well as continued training.

Materials Training in Full Swing

The beginning of each year brings a full round of materials training classes in Virginia. VDOT offers training in the areas of Asphalt Field Placement, Asphalt Plant and Asphalt Mix Design. In addition, VDOT covers the aspects of Surface Treatment and Slurry Seal. Many of the classes offered by VDOT are co-taught by VAA staff and employees of member companies.

Numerous classes are already filled and additional classes are being discussed. To learn more about the classes or register for a class, visit the VDOT website and search for Materials Certification School.

New (and Old) Faces in New Places at VDOT

The last several months have seen several changes in VDOT personnel who have an impact on the asphalt industry.

At the Central Office in Richmond, people are in new positions. First, Rob Crandol has accepted the position as Assistant State Materials Engineer (ASME). Rob assumed the ASME role previously performed by David Kaulfers who oversees the Asphalt and Pavement Sections at Elko. David assumed the ASME responsibilities previously held by Mohamed Elfino who retired in 2014. With Rob’s new position, the Statewide Asphalt Program Manager position is vacant and currently being advertised. In the meantime, Bryan Smith from the Pavement Design Section will be the acting program manager.

Along with the changes at Elko, a new State Maintenance Engineer has been named. Mr. Kevin Gregg returned to VDOT after spending the past 14 years in private consulting as a vice-president and regional manager.

Finally, at the Central Office, Pat O’Leary has been named as the new Assistant State Construction Engineer. Prior to this position, he was the State Specifications Engineer in the Construction Division and the Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General.

Out in the districts, a few new faces are in the Hampton Roads District. Raymond “Carl” Jaszkowski, P.E. has been named District Construction Engineer. Carl is retired Naval Civil Engineer Officer who brings a vast experience to the position. Lastly, Chung Wu has returned to his previous position as Hampton Roads District Materials Engineer.

The VAA would like to congratulate everyone in their new roles.