As the summer rolls on and paving continues, so does planning for the Annual Fall Asphalt Conference. The dates for the conference are October 5th and 6th. This year’s conference will contain many of the usual topics—specification changes for 2016, on-going research, and announcement of paving award winners. However, this year presenters will cover the potential changes to the materials certification schools (MCS) related to asphalt materials. Along with the MCS changes, announcements regarding work force development and training programs will be outlined.

The 2015 Fall Conference will be the last meeting held at the historic Jefferson Hotel. All 28 previous conferences have been held in the grand ballroom and rotunda. But with the growth in the conference over the years and to meet the request by companies to exhibit their services and products, the Fall Conference in 2016 will move to the Marriott—Downtown Richmond. This new location will accommodate the larger attendance and will provide space for over 60 exhibitors.

For the 2015 conference, the first day will start at 12:00 pm with registration and opening comments by the 2015 VAA President Dennis O’Connor of Virginia Paving Company. Followed by Secretary Aubrey L. Layne, Jr. who will discuss Virginia’s new Transportation legislation. The remainder of the day will be comprised of talks on the state of the VDOT transportation program, impacts of the proposed federal highway funding bill, and recognition of the statewide VDOT paving awards. The last session will feature the District Engineers panel discussion. The DE’s will outline the proposed contract funding for 2016, what went well in 2015 and what needs to be addressed in 2016. Finally, Chief Engineer Garrett Moore will lead an open dialogue with the DE’s and conference attendees. The day will close with a reception in the hotel’s rotunda.

Day 2 will start with registration at 8:00 am. At 9:00 am, Chief Engineer Garrett Moore will kick off the technical session with a discussion of quality initiatives. The remainder of the day will be spent covering asphalt and pavement related research projects, placement of the Hi-Polymer asphalt mixes on I-95, the results of the SUPERPAVE mix evaluation trial sections, and specification changes. The Virginia’s Best Paving awards will also be awarded on Day 2. The final comments for the day will be made by the State Materials Engineer Andy Babish. The final conference agenda will be available in September, so check the VAA Website for updates.
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VAA Asphalt Classic to be Held at The Club at Viniterra

What better way to spend a day in October then on the golf course. This year the VAA Asphalt Classic will return to The Club at Viniterra located in New Kent County near Exit 213 off I-64. Put your team together or let the VAA staff arrange your foursome. The Classic is limited to 32 teams, so reserve your space by visiting the VAA website or contacting the office.

In addition to golfing opportunities, companies will have the ability to sponsor tee boxes, greens, beverage carts, and the boxed lunch/barbeque dinner. These opportunities are available to VAA members along with non-producer non-members. Contact the VAA office for details and rates.

Amended AST Regulations

The Governor’s office has finally approved the DEQ amendments to the Above Ground Storage Tank (AST) regulations (9 VAC 25-91) that were finalized over a year ago. The changes will become effective on November 1, 2015 after a final public comment forum. The most significant changes to the AST regulation applies to facilities in Fairfax, Va. that store over one million gallons of oil. There are no asphalt plants in Virginia that these changes would apply to. Clarification is being provided on the exemptions for liquid asphalt in determining whether Oil Discharge Contingency Plans (ODCP) or Pollution Prevention Plans are required for facilities storing less than 25,000 gallons. Liquid asphalt tank volumes can be subtracted from aggregate total oil storage calculations in determining if pollution prevention requirements must be met, but must be included when determining whether an ODCP is required.

Other changes include exemptions from inventory control for double wall tanks and pipes as well as tanks (including associated piping) that are completely off the ground. Relaxed daily and weekly inspections are provided when facilities are shut down for maintenance or weather conditions.

Ozone Data

Ozone monitoring data, for the summer of 2015 thus far, has been excellent with no standard violations at any of the monitoring sites including Northern Virginia. This puts Virginia in good shape for ozone standard attainment with three consecutive years with good numbers. This may change however, as EPA is planning to lower the ozone standard by the end of this year.
“New Opportunities” at Fall Asphalt Conf.

Has your company ever wanted to meet more people at the VAA Fall Asphalt Conference? Changes are being made for 2015 and 2016 that will allow companies to gain more exposure.

In 2015, the VAA will provide the opportunity for companies to sponsor one of the three main fellowship times—Monday evening reception, Tuesday evening reception and the Tuesday lunch. Each opportunity will only be open to one company. The company sponsoring the event will be recognized during the conference, in the conference materials, and with a Thank-You sign. Along with these events, a company will be able to sponsor the conference lanyards showing their company names on them. These sponsorships are open to VAA members and non-producer non-members. Contact the VAA office for costs and more details.

The 2016 Fall Conference will include an exhibit hall along with other event sponsorship opportunities beyond those outlined for 2015. Exhibitors will be given multiple chances to interact with attendees including an evening reception, lunches and breaks. Make sure you reserve your space in the exhibit hall early. Details and pricing will be distributed in the fall.

Plant Malfunctions

The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that air permits can no longer provide emission violation relief for plants that have equipment problems. Most asphalt plant permits now contain language that allows companies to report malfunctions where emission limits that last over one hour are exceeded. Written notification of the problem to DEQ is required, corrective action must be immediately implemented and DEQ notified when the equipment problem has been rectified. The excess emissions are allowed if all of the permit notification and corrective action requirements are met. DEQ will have to add new language regarding malfunctions for all of the air permits. This will take some time and the current malfunction requirements will still be valid until the permit changes are made.

Storm Water Training

DEQ is now offering Training and Certification courses for the Storm Water Program. Topics include a review of storm water management and erosion control regulations, inspector courses, contractor guidance and other items. A list of the courses can be accessed at www.deq.virginia.gov/ConnectWithDEQ/TrainingCertification.aspx. Some asphalt plant personnel might benefit from these courses.
Pavia System’s App - HeadLight

Reprint from Seattle TechFlash/ Sarah Aitchison, August 4, 2015

Transportation technology company Pavia Systems just raised nearly $3 million. The Seattle startup develops technology that streamlines the entire inspection and maintenance systems for transportation agencies. Last month, the small company announced partnerships with the Washington state Department of Transportation and Perteet Engineers.

The company’s electronic data-gathering system, an app called HeadLight, can save about $15,000 a year per inspector in the field.

WSDOT currently has about 100 inspectors using HeadLight, and the system has been tested on two of the state’s highest profile bridges, State Route 520 and the Alaskan Way Viaduct, since April.

The technology works like this: inspectors out in the field who examine roads, bridges or anything else we travel on, can collect data immediately, format reports automatically and relay information to engineers in real time.

It can save government agencies money and time, and also makes it easier for them to archive and track down data later when they need it.

This funding bump will help expand the company’s marketing efforts and software platform, said co-founder George White.

The company hopes to grow from nine full-time employees to 22 employees.

VAA Scholarship Program

The Virginia Asphalt Association has established a scholarship to assist dependents of VAA member companies in furthering their education beyond high school. This Scholarship Program will be managed under the auspices of the NAPA Research and Education Foundation Scholarship Program, a 501(c) 3 organization. Initiated in 2014, the scholarship will be awarded to at least one student for an amount of $5,000. The award will be presented at the VAA Annual Meeting in the Spring of each year to the winner or winners. The number of scholarships awarded annually will depend on the total contributions made.

VAA Members are encouraged to make donations at the beginning of the calendar year; however, contributions can be made at any time. All contributions are voluntary and may be tax deductible. Donations must be made to the NAPA Research and Education Foundation (NAPAREF) and designated for the VAA Scholarship Fund in order to be tax deductible. Call VAA for more information on this worthy cause.

SAPA Summer Meeting in VA.

They came from across the US—including Hawaii, to attend the State Asphalt Pavement Association’s (SAPA) Summer Meeting held in Williamsburg. They are the executive directors, technical directors and executive vice-presidents from over 30 different asphalt associations. Along with SAPA members, staff from the National Asphalt Pavement Association, Asphalt Pavement Alliance and in-coming president for the Asphalt Institute spent a few beautiful days in Virginia’s Colonial Capital.

The main purposes for these meetings are to discuss technical topics and association management.

SEAUPG Meets in Williamsburg

What is SEAUPG? SEAUPG is the Southeast Asphalt User Producer Group which is made up of DOT’s, asphalt suppliers, contractors and consultants. The group covers the states from Virginia to Oklahoma and those to the south. For the 2015, VDOT’s Assistant State Materials Engineer Rob Crandol is the chair and will be hosting the meeting in Williamsburg. The meeting starts on November 16th and concludes on November 19th. Technical topics range from new binder and mixture testing protocols to case studies. Visit the SEAUPG website at www.seaupg.org to view the agenda and register for the meeting.

Superior Hosts Members of Congress

During July, Superior Paving Corp spent time with Congressman Rob Wittman at their Fredericksburg Plant and Congresswomen Barbara Comstock in Centreville. Discussions centered on Superior Paving’s story and the need for a long term Transportation funding program.

www.vaasphalt.org
In Memorium

Kenneth Shelor Templeton, Sr.,
76, a longtime resident and Lynchburg native, passed away on Thursday, June 11, 2015 with his devoted wife, Dorothy, by his side.

He is survived by his three children and their families, Kenneth S. Templeton, Jr. and his wife, Krista of Amherst County; Stephen B. Templeton and his wife, Christine and their son, Ryan Marsh of Idaho Falls, Idaho; and Susan T. Noon and her husband, John and their daughters, Devon Zimney and Lindsay Stoddard of Idaho Falls, Idaho. There was also a shared love between Ken and his acquired children and grandchildren, Victoria and Patrick McGann and their daughters Bethany and Katie; Sabrina and Aubrey Schmitt; and Bryan Caulder and his son, Liam. In addition, he is survived by his brother, Harold and his wife, Wanda of Lynchburg; and his sister, Marjorie Quigg and her husband, Paul of Luray, Virginia. He also had numerous nephews and nieces who held a special place in his heart.

Kenneth was born on February 15, 1939, in Lynchburg to the late Marvin V. Templeton and the late Fannie Shelor Templeton. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Orion and Frank, an infant brother Randolph, and a sister, Virginia T. White.

Kenneth graduated from E.C. Glass High School in Lynchburg and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Virginia Military Institute in Civil Engineering. After college and service in the U.S. Army, he returned to Lynchburg and joined the family-owned paving business, Marvin V. Templeton and Sons, as Vice President. During his twenty-five year career there, he served on numerous committees and was past president of the Virginia Asphalt Association.

Ken later moved on to start his second career as a paramedic and emergency medicine instructor. He had many students during those years, and his greatest pleasure was seeing them become paramedics, nurses, physician assistants, and leaders in their respective rescue squads.

Ken was a life member of the Campbell County Rescue Squad where he served in many leadership positions.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Campbell County Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 4123, Lynchburg, VA 24502.
Research Underway in Virginia

Summer time is a busy time for paving contractors, but it is also a busy time for researchers at the Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research (VCTIR). For VCTIR researchers and scientists, summer means conducting field visits and collecting plant samples. Many of the samples, collected during the summer, are tested later in the fall and winter at labs in Charlottesville.

During 2015, several large research projects are underway in Virginia. The most visible project to the asphalt industry is the SUPERPAVE Mix Evaluation Study. As part of this project, asphalt producers from around the state redesigned their surface mixes to conform to new requirements and laid them on projects next to their standard mixes. By mid-August, approximately ten sites were paved with the new mixes. The research evaluation is concentrating on the lab performance properties of these mixes as well as the field performance. Preliminary results will be provided at the Fall Conference with a full report expected in 2016.

Dirt is being moved at the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) for a new heavy vehicle simulator (HVS). The HVS is an accelerated pavement testing device used by several DOT’s and countries to assess the performance of materials and pavement structures. Initial testing by the HVS will be focused on reflective cracking mitigation strategies. The test lanes for this study will be installed later in the summer/fall. An overview of the future VDOT HVS program will be made at the Fall Conference.

To learn more about these and other projects, visit the VCTIR website.

New Asphalt Program Manager

Virginia Asphalt Association would like to welcome VDOT’s new Asphalt Program Manager—Sungho Kim, Ph.D., P.E. Sungho is a Licensed Professional Engineer with 10 years of experience working in various capacities with Florida DOT. He earned his BS and MS degrees in Transportation Engineering from Hanyang University in Korea, and later a Ph.D. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Florida.

He served as the lead Bituminous Research Engineer for the state of Florida. His experience includes extensive work with practical, field application of applied research – to include areas that will are currently of high interest here in Virginia: SUPERPAVE design and gradation improvements, best practice(s) for high RAP usage, high polymer binders, and heavy-vehicle simulation for testing of pavements and materials on accelerated pavement testing facilities.

During his post-doctoral research work, Sungho also worked closely on other projects very pertinent to challenges and issues we are currently working on here in Virginia: Hybrid binders – use of rubber, polymers, and other materials in binder(s) for better rut & cracking resistance, Development of reflective cracking mitigation technologies & techniques, best practice(s) for high RAP usage, & high polymer binders.

Most importantly, Sungho comes highly recommended for his ability to understand the field operational needs from both a DOT and contractor perspective, through his demonstrated work at Florida DOT.

Potential Specification Changes for 2016

Every summer the conversation begins—what specification changes will be made for next years’ maintenance paving schedules? This year is no different; changes are not necessarily needed because things are broken, but they can be improved from what we have learned.

Two main areas are addressed by the VDOT-VAA Statewide Asphalt Co-Op—Materials/Placement related specs and Traffic Engineering specs. For the Materials/Placement related specs, two main areas are under consideration. The first area deals with the SUPERPAVE mix design procedure as described in the “Research Underway in VA” article. For 2016, new surface mixes will be designed with tighter aggregate gradation bands, lower design gyrations (50) and higher VMA requirements. For most mixes, this will result in higher AC contents and more durable mixes. The second area focuses on tack coat materials and processes. The primary focus for these changes is to improve bonding between asphalt layers by measuring the tack applied.

Traffic Engineering specifications cover a number of areas. Specific to paving, Section 512 and Section 704 outline Maintaining Traffic, and Pavement Markers and Marking respectively. Changes to 512 include the use of Portable Temporary Rumble Strips and deletion of several sections and sub-sections. Section 704 clarified the use of temporary markings, and provided more flexibility in applying permanent markings on slurry seal, latex emulsions and surface treatments.

Finally, 2016 will see the issuance of a new Road and Bridge Specifications book. This book will reduce many SP’s, but not eliminate all of them.