



April Newsletter

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

Director's Corner

Transportation Funding - A Modern Day Fairy Tale

Once upon a time, there was this place blessed with good weather and pleasant living conditions. Because of the farsightedness of earlier leaders, it was made easy to access and people happily came and enjoyed the pleasant surroundings. Word spread and more businesses learned of the ideal conditions. They knew they could attract good people who would help their businesses grow even more. This place was easy to get to thanks to the vision of its early leaders. They made it easy to get from one location to another. The state prospered with many companies and people wanting to live in this new and enjoyable place.

But, a new leadership group came into control. This new leadership did not appear to understand how to manage the differences within their own group. Unable to bring differences to a common understanding, no decisions could be made. The conditions in this modern paradise began to deteriorate. The reasons for people to move to this idyllic place were no longer there. Many excuses were made, but no one was willing to make the hard choices needed to keep our wonderful place healthy and vibrant.

I wish that there was a happy ending to this fairy tale but as of now, there is not. Once again, our political leaders have failed to meet the

challenge and provide a mechanism to fund needed transportation systems. The inability to meld the interests of different regions and different political affiliations has left a void in the leadership needed to resolve this issue.

In the just completed legislative session, the legislators made a change in how GDOT will be run but left us short of what is needed most, more money. I compare this to a person who has a heart problem and acne. They decide to see the dermatologist before they consult with the cardiologist.

Subject to the signature of the Governor, a Director of Planning position has been created in GDOT. The individual is appointed by the Governor and approved by the House. The Senate is left out of this process. The Director of Planning is responsible for developing a statewide strategic transportation plan that is subject to the Governor's approval. The GDOT board is given a gratuitous authority to approve the plan that has been approved by the Governor. Annually, the GDOT budget and project list must be approved by the House and Senate. Legislators will also have the authority to select certain projects. This process is expected to provide more accountability. This is part of the fairy tale.

When it came to funding, we again got to the eleventh hour. The Senate, in apparent frustration with moving the process forward, offered last years' legislation that failed by three votes in the 2008 Senate. The House conferees held to their position that they had the best 2009 legislation and were not willing to retract to last years' solution. As the mirage in the desert is only form and no matter, the stated intent of legislators to do something about transportation is mostly political banter with little substance.

This is a political process. The political process is managed by individuals who owe their position to the voting public. They are responsible to the citizens who put them in their elected position and we should hold them accountable for their actions. The GCAA website has a Government Affairs section. In this section, we have a way for you to locate your legislator based on quarry location. We implore you to make contact with them and let them know that you are not satisfied with the outcome of this session as it relates to transportation funding. Let them know that for the continued economic growth of this state, we need to provide the funds to keep Georgia the best place for people to live and work.

*John Cardosa, Jr.
Executive Director*

2009 GCAA Directory Coming Soon

The new GCAA Membership Directory has gone to press. With much uncertainty and volatility in the industry during 2008, we held off on publication of a directory last year. Now that the proverbial dust has settled, it is our intention to make the Membership Directory an annual publication. Our goal is to keep in the hands of our membership the most updated industry information possible. The 2009 directory is scheduled for release on June 1st.

In addition to your directory listing, the same company information provided by GCAA members will be updated on the website as well. Please take a look from time to time and let us know if your company has experienced any changes.

Trucking Seminars Starting Soon

Just as we did last fall, GCAA will continue its educational series for the Trucking Division. We concluded last year with workshops on both DBE programs and commercial compliance. We will continue this summer and fall with seminars focusing on lien laws, new federal regulatory guidelines, long range emission compliance and engine requirements and finally, quarry safety and operations for companies hauling aggregate. The schedule is currently under construction and notice of the events will be mailed out to our Trucking Division upon completion.

Safety Workshop - May 6 & 7, Macon, GA

Each year, the GCAA co-hosts a Safety & Health Workshop with the Georgia Mining Association. The 2009 Workshop will be in Macon, Georgia on May 6th & 7th. It will take place at the Macon, Centreplex.

The theme for the 2009 workshop is "**Zero Starts With One.**" The focus of the event will be on personal accountability and how individual actions can affect the safety of fellow miners. There will be some speakers that bring a humorous flavor but a serious message. There will also be an interactive session in which miners can identify safety hazards for prizes.

We also expect a formidable turnout from MSHA representatives as well. Our GCAA Safety Committee is one of our association's most active committees and they work jointly with GMA's Safety Committee to keep all of our employees safe. Additionally, they strive to maintain a strong working relationship with MSHA. With a large turnout, we can demonstrate to MSHA that our industry indeed takes the safety and health is a very serious business.

Registration information is available on our website in the bottom center under "Upcoming Events." It is a one-day program repeated on Thursday for those who cannot make it on Wednesday. If you have any questions, please contact Jimmy Cotty in the GCAA office. Stay safe!

New GCAA Awards Program

GCAA will be establishing a new awards program that will culminate at the 2010 Management Workshop. This awards program will be reflective of NSSGA's awards program.

The awards will be in four general areas: **Community Relations, Environmental Stewardship, Safety & Health** and **Special Recognition**. Winners in each category can consist of an individual, a specific plant location, a group of employees or a specific program implemented.

More information will follow later this year, but we encourage everyone to keep these awards in mind. Many of our member companies have internal awards programs, and they also submit nominations to NSSGA. All of these nominations would be eligible for the GCAA program as well.

Our goal is to properly identify and recognize those companies or individuals who go the extra mile. You are deserving of the recognition and you serve as a model to the rest of your industry. We look forward to honoring you at the 2010 Management Workshop.

Legislative Update

GCAA remained very active throughout the 2009 legislative session. While transportation issues, more specifically funding and governance, were at the top of the list, the GCAA remains vigilant against any potential harmful legislation. The GCAA maintains a tracking sheet of bills on the website under the "**Government Affairs**" tab where members can view legislation that is being tracked.

Since 2009 is the first of a two-year term, all legislation listed remains in play for the 2010 legislative session. Please call us if you have any questions.

While it was extremely disappointing that the funding issue was not addressed, it will remain alive next year. The difficulty is compounded in that 2010 is an election year, but the legislature's inability to act in 2009 will probably make it the single biggest issue for 2010. We will stay engaged on this issue moving forward.



Visit www.gcaa.org

Midyear Meeting - June 25 & 26 Evergreen Conference Center, Stone Mountain, GA

As you are all aware, the 2009 Midyear Meeting has been moved to the Marriott Evergreen Conference Center at Stone Mountain Park. The dates for the event will be **Thursday, June 25th** and **Friday, June 26th**. GCAA is currently accepting registrations.

Despite the change in location, the Midyear Meeting Committee and GCAA staff has been hard at work to offer the membership an informative General Session. At this time, the program has yet to be finalized, but the general layout will be as follows:

Registration will open early in the morning followed by a GCAA Board of Directors meeting. The General Session will begin at 1:00 and will run to 5:00 with several breaks in between.

The program has been condensed to fit into one afternoon. A new twist will be a GCAA committee update. A block of time has been set aside in order for GCAA committee chairmen to provide an update on their committees' various activities from the previous year. The General Session will include an industry overview from Martin Marietta President and COO Ward Nye. We will also be hosting some of our state's political leadership, and we are eager to hear their vision and solutions as Georgia enters year 4 of its transportation funding crisis. Thursday's events will conclude with a reception and dinner at the hotel.

The Midyear Meeting will continue early Friday morning with a golf tournament and awards luncheon ceremony to follow.

The success of previous (and future) Midyear Meetings is largely dependent on our sponsors. This year is not an exception. While we have scaled back event specific sponsorships, we are still accepting open sponsorships at the Platinum (\$1,000), Gold (\$750) and Silver (\$500) level. We are also still collecting door prize money as well. Be assured that your company will receive appropriate recognition throughout the course of the Midyear Meeting for its sponsorship. Contact Linda Moore at 678/473-0012 in the GCAA office with inquiries.

Registration material for the Midyear is available for download on our website, www.gcaa.org. A link to the packet can be found in the bottom center of the home page under "**Upcoming Events**."

Management Workshop Recap

GCAA hosted another successful Management Workshop at the Cobb Galleria on February 17th & 18th. The theme for 2009 was "**Going Green While Saving Green**." Despite the volatile economic conditions, we still had a strong showing of 500 attendees and 77 exhibit booths.

The program featured a fantastic array of speakers highlighted by Dan Harrington with Lehigh Hanson. There have been many requests for copies of the presentations made by Mr. Harrington and our other speakers. GCAA has made almost all the presentations from the workshop available through our website, www.gcaa.org. They are mostly in PowerPoint format and can be found through the "Events" tab at the top of the page.

GCAA continued its tradition of honoring individuals worthy of special recognition. This

year we honored two. During the Tuesday morning Aggregate Quality & Applications program, the GCAA honors a Technician of the Year. Individuals are nominated by GDOT field offices and are selected by GDOT's Office of Materials & Research. This award goes to an individual who is consistently maintaining the highest quality standards. This year's award went to **Clay Cook** with Lafarge Aggregates Friendship Quarry.

The Eagle award was once again given during the General Session on Tuesday afternoon. The Eagle Award goes to an individual who has gone above and beyond for his or her positive contribution to our industry. This year's Eagle Award went to **Mike Dobbs**, Plant Manager of Martin Marietta's Forsyth Quarry. Thanks to Mike's leadership, the Forsyth Quarry has established a now annual event, **Concert in the Quarry**, which combines

community awareness with fundraising for the South Forsyth High School Band. Mike is also active in surrounding neighborhood programs. Congratulations Mike! Information will be made available late in the summer on the 2010 Workshop. We hope to see you there.

Newest GCAA Members

Producer Member
Columbus Quarry

Associate Members

American Solutions for Business
ASC Volvo
Flexco
Integrated Power Services
JBLCo
REICHdrill
Stafford