President's Note:

Fresh mountain air, great food, good friends, top notch educational sessions, informative vendor displays, networking opportunities, and lots of fun. If you attended this year’s annual meeting I feel pretty confident that you got all of those things and probably more. If you didn’t attend the meeting then you missed it all. We kicked things off on Tuesday with a great Golf tournament on the Devil’s Knob mountain top course at Wintergreen. I think a lot people found out why it’s called Devils Knob, it appears that the golf “devil” steals your golf balls and chases the golf gods away, but still think everyone had a great time. The meeting started off on Wednesday with a keynote address by Chris Nowak from the AAMI TMC and Crest Services. Chris gave us a great lesson on customer support and getting that “Stinkin’ Thinkin’” out of our heads. After the keynote we visited with our vendor friends then headed off to the class sessions, lunch, and then more classes. Late afternoon and into early evening we had a very nice Happy Hour Reception time with the vendors followed by a great cookout on the Skyline Terrace overlooking the mountains. We capped off the day with two hours at the Dome for Mountain Top Madness; a truly “mad”

Plan now to attend The VBA’s WINTER Meeting

February 4, 2011 at The Wintergreen Resort in Wintergreen, VA.

Details inside

(Continued on page 12)
David Queen came to work for Shenandoah Shared Hospital Services at Augusta Health in October of 2006. He had an honorable discharge from the marines and had most recently completed his Associate in Applied Science degree at Blue Ridge Community College.

He took an accelerated pathway of medical instrumentation education completing 14 weeks technical courses. These include a Medical Instrumentation Course at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, the complete Ditec Radiology package, GE/OEC 9800 & 9900, and the Elekta Linear Accelerator program.

The certifications David has obtained include the Ditec Certified Diagnostic Radiology Systems Specialist, Certified Biomedical Equipment Technician, and Certified Radiology Equipment Specialist.

Along with David’s professional growth he has gained much respect in the medical equipment service community. He sets the standard for Integrity, Quality, and Collaboration for his peers.

David was nominated by Shenandoah Shared Services Clinical Engineering Director, Jeff Long. In addition to a plaque David received a cash award of $500.00. Congratulations David Queen!!
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Attention all 2010 Vendors – THANK YOU!!!

The Virginia Biomedical Association would to thank you all for making its 17th Annual Meeting a resounding success. This would not have been possible without the help of all the vendors who participated by providing support for this event. This year we had many returning vendors from previous years and a bunch of new vendors participate for the first time at the annual meeting. We had 26 Platinum Level and 27 Gold Level sponsors. On top of that we had support from many vendors who provided courses for all of our attendees. Meal & Break, and Golf sponsorships were provided by Ditec, IV Technologies, GE Healthcare, Belimed, Troff Medical, Rauland/CSI/Systems Electronics, ATS Laboratories, General Anesthetic Services. On Wednesday evening we all had a great time during Mountaintop Madness. This location was made possible due to a donation by Philips Medical and the libations were kindly sponsored by Strickler Medical. Plans are already underway for the VBA’s 18th Annual Meeting next September. We will be having our meeting at the Wintergreen Resort in Wintergreen, VA. Please start to make plans to attend next year and many thanks from all the members of the VBA. This event is not possible without your continued support and contributions. Special thanks goes out to Pat Lynch of GMI who proudly sponsored $100 to the VBA in order to get me on the mechanical bull during the Mountain Top Madness (apparently there are pictures circulating somewhere). Again, thanks to all the vendors for your continued support of the VBA. See you next year.

Aldo Nichini
Vendor Coordinator
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Virginia Biomedical Association
Annual Golf Tournament

Once again a very successful Golf Tournament was held at the Annual VBA Meeting. This year's event was played on the Devils Knob Course on top of the Mountain at Wintergreen resort. The event started out with a box lunch followed by a shotgun start. There were a total of ten teams in this year's Tournament. I would like to thank all the sponsors and organizations’ that had teams. Thank you to Ambassador Enterprises, Amico Accessories, Aramark Healthcare, Axess Ultrasound, Belimed, Centra Health, Erbe, GMI, HC Baker Sales, Horizon CSA, IMS, MESVA, Philips Dunlee, Tenacore, Troff Medical, Unison Medical, US Medical Systems and WR systems. Everyone had a good time and the scores well they were the scores. Two teams managed to come in under par, one way under. The team of Al Strickler Sr, Al Strickler, Bob Barkley Sr, and Bob Barkley came in first with a score of 65. The second place team with a score of 69 included John Taylor, Ashley Bemet, Bill Vajda and James Hardy. The other eight teams had just as much fun but scored slightly higher ranging from 73 to 77. There were three prizes given on the course, two Closet to The Pin and one Long Drive. Longest drive was won by Al Strickler (Jr that is) and the Closet to pin winners were Mark Seago on hole 8 and Tricia Bryant on hole 17. In fact Tricia was the only golfer out of 40 to hit that green. I would like to thank all the golfers and invite more to play next year, where we will again be on Devils Knob at Wintergreen Resort.

Kevin M Breen
Annual Golf Tournament Director
2011 Winter Meeting at the Wintergreen Resort

**The Joint Commission**

*2011 Joint Commission Standards, EOC Surveys, & Compliance*

**Politics 2011**

*How to survive in the the dog-eat-dog world of hospital politics.*

*This session will be educational for both Managers and Technicians*

(course description can be found on the next page)

Join us for our very popular annual Winter (yes we are back to Winter) Meeting on Friday, February 4, 2011. This year we will have two parallel sessions from 9am to 4pm with a Joint Commission surveyor and look at Hospital Politics by Pat Lynch. The registration fee includes lunch. Hotel rooms are available at a discounted rate as well as discounted Skiing. Join us in the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains for a fantastic day of learning and stay for a relaxing weekend.

**Target Audience**—Biomedical and Plant Maintenance department managers, Risk Managers, Joint Commission coordinators, Patient Safety Officers, Supervisors, Environment Care Committee Members and others who are interested in increasing their knowledge and effectiveness in dealing with the Joint Commission, the 2011 national patient safety goals, survey processes, and the 2011 JC Standards. Biomedical Technicians interested in basic Nuclear Medicine Engineering.

Due to the popularity of this program we are requesting pre-registration to assure we can accommodate everyone with the proper classroom space and food. Please register by Friday, January 28, 2011.

Walk-ins will accepted the day of the meeting as well.

**To Register:** Go to [www.vabiomed.org](http://www.vabiomed.org) or you can Fax or E-mail to Greg Mika at Fax (434) 654-7096 or gregory.mika@mjh.org

*Contact Greg with questions at 434-654-7758*

Registration Fee is $100.00 for VBA members and $130.00 for non-members, payable by cash, check, or Credit Card on-site or via the website. Lunch and breaks are included.

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Please circle your desired session

- Joint Commission
- Politics
Our speakers include:

**Joseph Flannery, MS, MHA** will be a featured speaker once again. Joe will discuss general findings from JC surveys, performance improvement processes, indicator monitoring, and experiences with the unannounced inspections as well as the 2009 JC Standards. This class is especially relevant to anyone who may experience a Joint Commission inspection in the next 12 months. Joe has years of survey experiences and will enhance his formal presentation with anecdotes from his survey experiences. He will have just completed Annual Surveyor Training at The Joint Commission Headquarters in Chicago before the meeting date.

**Patrick Lynch, CCE, CBET** is an experienced biomedical manager with formal training as a technician, engineer, and in business management (at the graduate level). He has worked exclusively in healthcare since 1975. Patrick has managed clinical engineering and biomedical departments since 1979. Presently, he is with Global Medical Imaging, an ultrasound sales, training, parts, and service company in Charlotte, where his full-time job is to support the development of the biomedical profession throughout the country. Professionally, he was the first president of the North Carolina Biomedical Association in 1980/81 and the Chairman of the Board of Examiners for Biomedical Equipment Technicians for 6 years. Patrick remains active in the profession, as a member of over 35 Biomedical associations in the US, and a Board Member or advisor to many of them (NC, Alabama, Utah, Virginia, and Ohio) Pat is a regular contributor to Tech Nation Magazine, BI&T, TechNation and Biomedtalk listservs.

**Politics 2011**

In this presentation, Pat will discuss his experience and knowledge about the political climate in hospitals today. Specifically, he will discuss the view of the world from the perspective of 5 departments, all of whom outpower the biomedical department. All of these departments will overpower Biomed in a battle of sheer strength and influence. We encourage all Biomeds based in hospitals to get to know the way these departments operate, and develop ways of dealing with them that accomplishes our goals, while not offending these powerful departments. The departments to be covered are Administration, Accounting, Human Resources, IT, and Materials Management.

This presentation is very interactive and loaded with various “Top 10” lists to aid in your accomplishment of daily goals. Bring your own experiences, because user input is desired.

To make it more convenient for those driving to Wintergreen on Friday morning, we will begin registrations at 8:30 AM. The sessions will begin at 9:00 AM and conclude at approx. 4:00 PM

**Wintergreen Resort** Information / Reservations @ 800-611-6888 or email reservations@wintergreenresort.com. Mention the Virginia Biomedical Association when making reservations to get the discount pricing. Discount rates are valid until January 3, 2011. After that rooms are subject to availability.

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2-3 or 5 Bedroom Condos are available.

Internet is free for the VBA

Room Cancellations within 14 days are subject to a fee of one night’s lodging.

The Room rates are valid one day before and one day after the event.
We also had our business meeting where we not only cover the necessary reports to the membership but also the announcing of the Board of Directors election results and the Biomed of the year. Our Biomed of the year this year is David Queen from Shenandoah Shared Hospital Services Inc., congratulations David. Elected to the VBA Board of Directors for their first two year term we have Barry Brandon from Halifax Regional Health System and Chris Dolinar from Medical Equipment Services of Virginia, welcome Barry and Chris. Reelected for his second two year term is Mark Seago, congratulations Mark. And lastly we have two people returning to the board after sitting out for a period of time, they are Rick Davis and me, Greg Mika. We also said thank you to four board members who have made great contributions to the VBA but were unable to return to for another term, they are Frank Hannibal, Jeremy Rusher, Al Strickler, and Kevin Breen. At the conclusion of the meeting we went back the afternoon class sessions which ended the meeting for 2010.

A meeting like this cannot be brought together without a lot of effort from a lot of people. I would like to thank the entire VBA BoD for working together to make this year’s meeting a success. Special thanks goes out to Aldo Nichini for coordinating all of the vendors and sponsors, Ashley Kindig for coordinating all of the educational sessions, Kevin Breen for coordinating the Golf Tournament, Jeremy Rusher for keeping the website up to date and for the e-mail blasts, and Lee Gilley for putting together a great program.

We also need to thank all of our vendors for their support by attending the meetings, sponsoring meals and activities, providing educational sessions, and supporting the VBA in many ways but most specifically by participating and being our friends. Please take a moment to go to www.vabiomed.org and check out the list of vendors and then please be sure to thank their representatives the next time they are in your facility. This organization could not exist without support of our vendors.

The one thing that everyone that I talked to at the meeting said to me was, “we are coming back here next year aren’t we?” Everyone seemed to enjoy the atmosphere, food, service, and hospitality provided by the great staff at Wintergreen. That in combination with the class sessions, networking opportunities, visiting with our vendor friends, and some fun, made the meeting a huge success. So the VBA Board of Directors met at the end of the day on Thursday, before heading home and unanimously decided to return to Wintergreen in 2011. I am proud to announce that The 18th VBA Annual Meeting will be September 20th, 21st, and 22nd 2011 at the Wintergreen Resort and we hope to see you all there.

Don’t forget the 2011 Winter Meeting that will take place on February 4, 2011 also at the Wintergreen Resort. Check the VBA website (www.vabiomed.org) for news and updates about the Winter Meeting.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the president of the VBA for the past three years and I look forward to continuing on for a fourth term. I have had the opportunity to work with some great people and for a great organization. Most of my year next year will be occupied with the completion of a new building for Martha Jefferson Hospital and the move into that building but I will still do my best, with much help from the Board of Directors, to steer the VBA in the right direction.

God Bless and take care,

Greg Mika

VBA President
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Busy Vendor Expo - Members had multiple sessions to meet with vendors and see new products

Patrick & Chris lead AAMI Roundtable
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Upcoming Events

VBA Board of Directors - Planning Sessions Teleconferences—dates to be announced. If you are interested in sitting in on these please contact Greg Mika, VBA President for announced dates and times.

VBA Annual Meeting - “2011 - September 20-22, 2011 at the Wintergreen Resort in Wintergreen, VA. Check the VBA Website often for updates and changes.
NOTICE:

All attendees of the VBA 2010 Fall Meeting @ Wintergreen, VA

Due to a software change before the VBA's Annual meeting in Wintergreen this year. The auto receipt generator did not generate receipts for some of our members. If you did not get a receipt in your email for the meeting and need one please email your information to Rick Davis radavisiii@aol.com and I will send you one.

Thank you for your support of your Virginia Biomedical Association.

Rick Davis
VBA Treasurer

We NEED your FEEDBACK -

In keeping with the 2010 VBA theme of "Leading the way into a new decade, full of challenges", Fluke Biomedical provided the following webinar formatted classes-

NIBP QA Testing- Fluke
Human Impedance Variability and Defibrillator Testing- Fluke
ESU QA Testing- Fluke
Infusion Device Testing Methodologies and QA Objectives- Fluke

The classes were broadcast from Everette, Washington by Jerry Zion, Product and Education Manager. Technologically, the classes were well received with a few minor details to be improved upon in the future. This easy and exciting educational format may portend the future for educational speakers and classes.

If this type of class works for you and you would like to see more like them presented at future meeting let someone on the VBA Board of Directors know (contact info is on front page). If you have a specific topic in mind or know a vendor that would like to do a webinar session pass that along as well.

The VBA Needs You

Three members of the Board are rotating off and two are finishing their first term. To Nominate Yourself or Someone you know for the VBA Board of Directors and to vote at the Annual Meeting in September

Send an e-mail to staff@vabiomed.org with nominations and upon approval from the nominee the names will be added to the ballot.
VBA Website
WWW.VABIOMED.ORG

The VBA website is constantly being upgraded and added to. Visit often. Check out all the links. Watch for details. Suggestions should go to:
Mark Freeman - WebMaster
@ webmaster@vabiomed.org