Welcome to the first VBA Newsletter for 2012. I am Greg Mika and I am back once again as your president. The VBA BoD is already working feverishly on the 2012 Annual Meeting that will take place September 19th, 20th and 21st (back to a Wednesday-Thursday-Friday format) at the Wintergreen Resort. There will be a BoD meeting Thursday February 2, 2012, the day before the Winter Meeting, to plan many of the details for 2012. The plans include discounts for vendor attendance at the annual meeting in exchange for educational sessions, among others. We would like to provide the best educational opportunities that we can, which will take much support from all of our members.

I want to take a moment to thank the outgoing BoD members and welcome the new members. Thank you to Al Strickler, Ashley Kindig, Mark Skelton, Sonny White, and Frank Hannibal, all of you have contributed enormously to the success of the VBA in the past years, hopefully we will get some of you back on the board in the future. I would like to welcome Evan Bowling and Matt VanDonsel, both from Centra in Lynchburg, to the board for the first time and welcome former president Jerry Burks back to the board again. I look forward to working with all of you.

The VBA Board of Directors is striving to keep the organization headed in the right direction and trying to provide you, the members, with the support that you want and need, so if you have any ideas, opinions, suggestions, want to volunteer to help, or anything else please drop us a note at staff@vabiomed.org.

Be safe and have a happy 2012,

Greg Mika
President.
I’d like to thank everyone who attended the 2012 VBA Annual Meeting at Wintergreen Resort. Our records show that we had 195 attendees including 46 vendor booths. We hope you were able to benefit from one or more of the educational sessions that might have interested you and also found time to visit the vendors. The VBA BoD understands that the quality and content of the educational sessions that we offer are key to attracting Managers and Technicians. The feedback that you provide helps us in approaching manufacturers and vendors and requesting more in-depth technical classes that may also include equipment repair certifications.

Our primary focus this year for the 2012 meeting is to do just that, offer better technical classes. We asked that the Vendor Sales Force approach their Service Partners and ask what they can do for us…. We’re hoping they step up. If you have ideas please let us know, we exist to serve you as professionals in the Medical Equipment and Technology Support Field.

Hope you joined us last year and had such a good time that you’ll tell all your Biomed friends and make plans to come to Wintergreen again this year. 2012 will be the last year for Wintergreen for a while, we’re investigating locations further East down the 64 corridor.

Mark Seago
Operations Manager
Clinical Engineering Services
University of Virginia Health System
Vice President - VBA

Platinum Level Vendors

A Special Thanks to our 2011 Annual Meeting
Platinum Level Sponsors
## Gold Level Vendors

Thank You for Your Support!

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At Dunlee, our focus revolves around you.

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At A+ Medical Company, Inc. we specialize in the sale and purchase of new, used and refurbished imaging replacement parts and equipment.

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Implementing new procedures to better serve our clients

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Striving to keep company goals while still focusing on Client Service and top quality imaging parts

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A+ Medical Company, Inc. 800-583-8587 ~ www.aplusmedical.biz ~ jaybotko@applusmedical.biz
Waiting in line to register
Early birds getting breakfast before all the fun begins

Kathy Barker and her Mom

<< VBA President Greg Mika kicks it off and introduces the 2011 Keynote Speaker—Pat Lynch who has a little technical difficulty at the gate.

Do More With Less ... And Look Like A Rock Star!

Life Systems, Inc. specializes in dramatically reducing the repair costs associated with endoscopy equipment:
- Flexible endoscopes - including ureteroscopes
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Life Systems can help you reduce the number of repairs, overall cost, and downtime.

Repair quality you can trust, Service you can depend on.
From the original nomination

Biomed of the Year Nomination Nominee: Aleatha J. Colter 
Job Title: Biomed Tech III

Employer: Masterplan/Aramark 
Work Location: Sentara Leigh Hospital

Aleatha exhibits the kind of work ethic and professionalism that one wishes were characteristic of all employees.

I have known her since she started working at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital 6 years ago as a Biomed Tech. She quickly became our go to expert in all matters dealing with Respiratory, Cath Lab, Lab, Women’s Health, and Trauma Readiness departments.

To find such knowledge and constant striving to improve in everything she does is truly admirable. I believe the time has arrived to formally and materially acknowledge Aleatha’s significant contributions to the Biomed Field. I have been very impressed by Aleatha’s work in the Biomed Department.

As the go-to-tech, she worked tirelessly to identify solution to our many problems within the hospital relating to medical equipment. I work at multiple hospitals throughout Sentara in the Respiratory Department and noticed that when major issues occur the onsite biomed contacts Aleatha for assistance, they address her as the expert. She spent hours giving department training on how to use equipment and how to prevent operator errors. She has made our respiratory team better and I’m sure she has done the same for the biomed department.

She participated in many fund-raising events along with volunteering at the Hampton VA Medical Center with more than 150 hours. She was always very enthusiastic about her work and always followed through to make sure the job is finished and everyone is satisfied.

The best reflection of Aleatha’s skills lies in her customer satisfaction. This is why I nominate her as the 2011 Biomed of the Year.

CONGRATULATIONS ALEATHA!!!
Virgil Smoot

46 Years of Having a Ball!

Born in the same house he was raised in, Virgil Smoot loved to tinker with wire from firing caps that was found in the coal piles around his home in the mineral rich land of Man, WV. Hoping to avoid a career in the coal mines like his father, he followed his passion of working with his hands and escaped his humble beginnings to begin his path in healthcare that would span 46 years.

Spurning college, so as not to be a burden to his father, Virgil moved to Newport News, to live with one of his sisters where he earned $1.50/hr laying brick. The prospect of being drafted for Vietnam, provided Virgil with the incentive to join the Air Force. You see, he was a lover and not a fighter. Virgil scored high in electronics upon entry, but when no openings were available, he chose healthcare and spent time in Alabama learning basic electronics /Medical Repair and the rest of his time in North Carolina learning biomedical repair skills.

After Virgil’s discharge in 1970, he moved to Tidewater and held a number of positions with biomedical repair companies and eventually managed Merco for three years. During this time, hospitals were setting up their own in house biomedical programs which is what Virgil did for Maryview Medical Center in Portsmouth, VA.

After a takeover of Engineering and Biomed by Service Master, Virgil moved to Children’s Hospital of the Kings Daughters in 1980 to establish their first in house biomedical service program, while working with the well known Matt Baretich. But, Virgil wanted management opportunities and moved to New Bern and Pine Hurst, NC in search of greater positions of responsibility within hospital biomedical departments.

As technology evolved in the mid 1980’s, Virgil realized the real money was in X-ray. He joined Picker X-Ray and moved to Richmond, VA where he could be closer to his family, especially with his father, who was dying from prostate cancer. Two years with Picker provided Virgil with the knowledge base to transition to Mobile MRI with Fonar Corp. where he maintained four local Fonar units. Hospitals soon began buying fixed systems instead of renting and after three years, Virgil moved back to Tidewater and CHKD to be manager of their in house program, upon the departure of ServiceMaster, where he has managed the seven person department for the past 21.5 years.

Reflecting on his career, one of Virgil’s highlights was spending 10 days in Moscow, Russia in 1993, where he assisted in establishing a six bed Neonatal ICU in Hospital #1. The finished NICU was the most technologically advanced clinical area for pediatrics in the country. It was on the streets of Moscow, where Virgil bought the now infamous “Hat” which appeared at the very first Virginia Biomedical Association ski trip in 1996 to keep his head and ears warm. Many industry icons whom have appeared in this publication have donned the hat.
Another highlight of Virgil’s career was his early participation in the VBA and serving as Vice President for two years. He feels good about the time and effort put into his industry associations and hopes that others will get involved. The VBA can be an instrumental vehicle to bolster the biomedical field during the current industry shift from stand alone departments to ones being absorbed by IT. Virgil realizes the importance of IT in the clinical setting, and the need to work closely with IT especially in regard to electronic interfaces with PACS, EMR, etc., but believes clinical engineering should remain separate.

When queried about one thing that no one might know about Virgil, he replies, “I am actually quite bashful, but cover it well. I do not like big crowds and prefer to work on my own.” Surprise, surprise!

Always a tinkerer and car enthusiast, Virgil is working on street rodding a 1936 Plymouth coupe and when that is complete, he will embark on street rodding his original 1936 Chevy truck which he drove at age 18. His brother in law just gave it back to him.

Virgil will officially retire from CHKD March 2nd after a 46-year career in the healthcare field to spend more time traveling with Anne, his wife of 8 years. He will miss his mentors, Dave Harrington, Ode Keil, Pat Lynch, Manny Roman and many others, and the hundreds of friendships he has developed, and the social gatherings, but has no regrets. He looks forward to still having his sanity as he embarks on his next chapter of life. “I have had a ball. It has been a hell of a ride!”

Written by Al Strickler
January 2012
Note- Virgil can be reached at virgilmoot36@yahoo.com
Seeking Nominations for VBA Biomed of the Year 2012!

In order to recognize individuals who have contributed significantly to the field of Biomedical Engineering, the Virginia Biomedical Association's board of directors chooses a "Biomed of the Year" at each annual meeting. This person is chosen from nominees submitted by VBA members. If you know a Biomed who deserves this recognition, please send in your nomination. The 2012 "Biomed of the Year" will be announced at the 2012 annual meeting and will receive a plaque and a check for $500.00, as well as recognition for a job well done.

Rules:
1. Explain in 250 words or less why your nominee should be Biomed of the Year.
2. Please include your nominee's job title, employer and work location.
3. VBA Directors and officers are not eligible for nomination.
4. Nominations must be received at least two weeks before the start of the V.B.A. annual meeting.
5. The winning nominee will be announced at the annual meeting
6. The Biomed of the Year will receive a plaque and $500.00
7. Submit nominations by: September 10, 2012
   Mail: Virginia Biomedical Association, P.O. Box 1958, Yorktown, VA 23692 or
   E-Mail: webmaster@vabiomed.org
   On-Line form: Biomed of the Year Nomination

Please provide the following information about your nominee:

Full Name______________________________________________________________
Position or Title__________________________________________________________
Employer_______________________________________________________________
City and State where employed :______________________Nominated By: ________________________

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Seeking Nominations for VBA Manager of the Year 2012!

In order to recognize Managers who have contributed significantly to the field of Biomedical Engineering, the Virginia Biomedical Association's board of directors chooses a "Manager of the Year" at each annual meeting. This person is chosen from nominees submitted by VBA members. If you know a Biomedical Manager who deserves this recognition, please send in your nomination. The 2012 "Manager of the Year" will be announced at the 2012 annual meeting and will receive a plaque and a check for $500.00, as well as recognition for a job well done.

Rules:
1. Explain in 250 words or less why your nominee should be Manager of the Year.
2. Please include your nominee's job title, employer and work location.
3. VBA Directors and officers are not eligible for nomination.
4. Nominations must be received by the week before the start of the V.B.A. annual meeting.
5. The winning nominee will be announced at the annual meeting
6. The Manager of the Year will receive a plaque and $500.00
7. Submit nominations by: September 10, 2012
   Mail: Virginia Biomedical Association, P.O. Box 1958, Yorktown, VA 23692 or
   E-Mail: webmaster@vabiomed.org
   On-Line form: Biomed of the Year Nomination

Please provide the following information about your nominee:

Full Name______________________________________________________________
Position or Title__________________________________________________________
Employer_______________________________________________________________
City and State where employed :______________________Nominated By: ________________________
<< Foggy mountaintop

John Noblett’s CBET
Review class

>>> Lunch crowd’s
Vendor “after hours” reception in the EXPO Hall

The VBA BoD meets after the Annual meeting for a “Hotwash” review of the Meeting. What worked, what didn’t, lessons learned and planning for the future.

Indoor Cook-out at Pryor’s Porch due to inclement weather
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 Winter Meeting - February 3, 2012—Wintergreen Resort, Wintergreen, VA

VBA Annual Meeting - “2012 - September 19-21, 2012 at the Wintergreen Resort in Wintergreen, VA. Check the VBA Website often for updates and changes.
The VBA Needs You

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.

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

VBA Website
WWW.VABIOMED.ORG