



# TMTA NEWS

September 2006

## Presidents Message by Ken Knull

Hi All!

Our TMTA season is sure starting out with a lot of hot air and high water thanks to Ernesto! I know that a few of you have a lot to deal with at this time and want to say that this is the time when we can all help each other. If you have a need of either skilled or unskilled assistance, please contact one of the board members and we will get the word out to see if anyone within our organization is in a position to help. We need to stick together through the tough times because we know there is enough work to go around for everyone!

I am looking forward to another productive year in the Association. This year I would like to focus on Marketing of both our organization and our area so that we can get the word out about the beautiful part of the world that we are fortunate enough to live in.

See you on the 20<sup>th</sup>!

Ken Knull

### **Next Meeting: September 20, 2006 at 6:30 PM**

- Pilot House Restaurant, Topping, VA. Call (804) 462-7018 to make your reservation. If there is no answer, please leave a message!
- The menu will be: Tossed Salad, Fried Chicken, Crab Cakes, two vegetables, rolls and a dessert
- Guest Meal Fee: \$15.00

**PLEASE BE SURE TO CALL FOR RESERVATIONS AT LEAST BY THE MONDAY BEFORE THE MEETING SO THAT THE PILOT HOUSE CAN BE READY FOR US!**

**Editor's Note:** Since Don McCann, our website editor is in the boat surveying business and the recent storm has increased his workload of late, I (Ken) have agreed to put out this newsletter this month. I am not as skilled as Don so it is back to word format as opposed to Don's fancy newsletter style. Look for the fancy style next month!

### **Officers and Directors for 2005/06:**

#### **Officers:**

President– Ken Knull                      Vice President– Ed Davis  
Secretary– Onna Grimm                Treasurer– Martha Heric

#### **Directors:**

Eleanor Cash, Membership      Karen Knull, Marketing  
Ron Hall, Website                      Don McCann, Newsletter

Keith Jones, Librarian

Mark Drexler

**Note:** The October meeting will have a speaker. At this date it is not firm however it will either be Tom Murray on public water access or Bob Walker on collecting overdue debts. We can discuss which you would like to hear first at the meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

A few of the highlights from the Treasurer are as follows:

- For June 1, 2005 until March 31, 2006, income was up by a combined total of \$1,079 and expenses were down by a combined total of \$1,350. Consequently, we ended up \$1,418 in the black instead of \$1,011 in the red, or a net income of \$2,429 more than we had anticipated. Consequently, we did not cash any CD's last year.
- We still have over \$20,000 in CD's and now have \$7,342 in the checking account.
- At the next meeting we'll hand out a complete breakdown of last year's budget and actuals, along with this year's budget.
- To date we have 42 paid members for the 2006 – 2007 year.
- We were reminded of the fact that the by-laws state that anyone joining after January 1st of any year only pay half of the year's dues. We have a few new members who have overpaid. We'll be sending out credits and/or checks to those by Friday.

### **Strategic Planning:**

The strategic planning committee met over the summer and put together a list of potential agenda items for this year. Martha sent out an email requesting your input but only received a limited response. Therefore, we are going to discuss these items in our meeting on the 20th and seek your inputs on what we should work on as an organization this year. We would like to form committees to address each topic chosen so if you have an interest please throw your name into the ring to participate on a committee.

### **Web Site:**

Not a lot has happened lately on the website front. The board however did agree that we should add a counter so we can see the number of hits the site is getting and to pursue the "education page" which would be a listing of all courses available on marine related topics for the foreseeable future. There was some discussion of the "employment page" but no one seems to have a clear view of what we want and how it would be managed as of yet. Any suggestions are welcome.

### **Water Cops:**

Beware! The Virginia Department of Health, Water Quality Division is actively checking on water supplies from wells that lost power during Ernesto. The big question seems to be "Did you lose water pressure". An answer in the affirmative will require water quality testing.

## **Marine Pump-out Systems Exempt from Virginia Sales & Use Taxes:**

Under Virginia statute “state certified pollution control equipment” is exempt from sales and use taxes. The agency that can certify the equipment is the State Water Control Board, but this is actually done by the Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Of course marina pump-out systems are under the auspices of the unrelated Virginia Dept. of Health (VDH) so some inter-agency navigation is required.

After conversations with the taxing authorities, I learned that DEQ approval was required for the exemption. After a few emails to DEQ officials I found on their website, I was put in touch with Mr. James Bell. Mr. Bell handles such requests for the Piedmont Region and was extremely helpful. After submitting a description of the project, the timetable, and the project approval letter from Robert Clark at VDH, Mr. Bell sent a request to Sheila Wallace at the Department of Taxation. This request also included a 1996 DEQ letter where DEQ acknowledged that marine pump-out systems were pollution control systems and as such would be exempt from sales and use taxes.

About a month after the process started, I received my exemption (Form ST-11A) from the Department of Taxation. As the purchase of the pump was from an out of state vendor, no sales taxes were collected, and I received the exemption prior to my use tax filing deadline.

Some city and county jurisdictions also exempt pollution control equipment from local property taxes, it may be worth looking into to see if that is the case in your locality.

If you are planning a project and wish to get an exemption, give James Bell a call at 804-527-5025, or email [jrbell@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:jrbell@deq.virginia.gov), I'm sure that he'd be glad to help you.