

MARCA Roof Topics

The newsletter for the Mid Atlantic Roofing Contractors Association • Spring 2009



MARCA President Howard Willis
of Krupnik Brothers Inc.

From the President

Spring is upon us, and most construction companies are ready for the increase in building projects that typically accompanies this time of year. We hope and are optimistic that the present financial, political and economic climate will not have more negative effects on the roofing industry.

Bryan White, NRCA's manager of affiliate partnerships, sent an e-mail to all MARCA members concerning regulations that will take effect shortly and significantly affect the local roofing industry. These regulations limit the amount of

volatile organic compounds allowed in adhesives, sealants and primers used during the summer, which means many manufacturers and distributors will not be able to make and sell certain products. Please check with your roofing materials providers for updates.

On March 28, about 160 people attended MARCA's Annual Bull and Oyster Roast, which is one of MARCA's primary scholarship fundraisers. The food, drinks, networking and raffles were enjoyed by all. Scholarships and employee recognition awards will be presented at the Annual Employee Recognition and Scholarship Awards Dinner May 28.

MARCA also held a joint educational seminar with RCI May 14 in Laurel, Md. Harry Dietz, NRCA's director of risk management, and Mark Graham, NRCA's associate executive director of technical services, taught the class along with RCI's Michael Zunk and Spencer Tate.

MARCA's Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for June 29 at the Crofton Country Club. Information about this event and MARCA's Fall Lecture will be sent shortly. Please visit MARCA's Web site, www.marcaroof.com, for details about upcoming events.

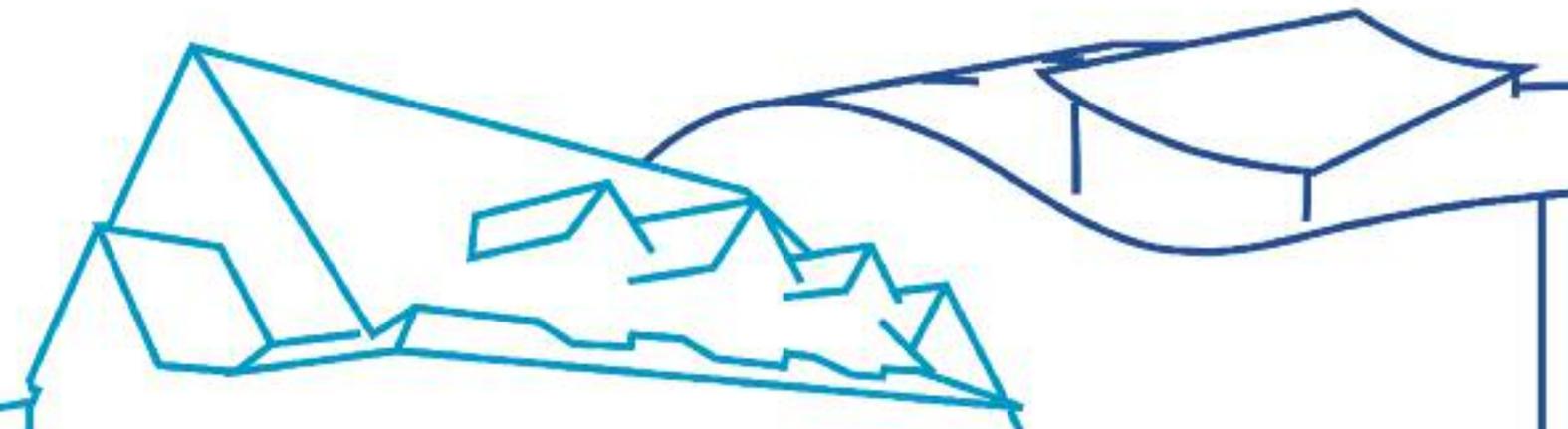
Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard Willis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Howard Willis
MARCA President

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MARCA Notes

❑ New members

MARCA welcomes its newest members:

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Get Wired!

If you are not currently receiving MARCA event notices and information via e-mail, please provide your e-mail address so we can inform you about MARCA happenings in the future. Send an e-mail to Bryan White at bwhite@nrca.net with your name, company name and the e-mail address you would like on MARCA's communications list.

NRCA members and their staff members are eligible to register on NRCA's Web site to gain exclusive access to the Members Only section and receive NRCA's electronic communications, including NRCA E-News. Members will have access to the latest industry news, extensive technical information, educational programs and more. In addition, members can renew their memberships online, download NRCA's logo and view *Special Reports*. To register, visit www.nrca.net/register.aspx.

Frankly Speaking

A new sheriff in town

by Frank L. Kollman

Hilda Solis, the new U.S. secretary of labor, addressed the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO in March, and it appears her purpose was to prove her big labor credentials. Stating that there was a "new sheriff in town," she promised to stop picking on unions, as her predecessor did (the U.S. Department of Labor [DOL] monitors the financial transactions of labor unions), and start picking on employers who have had it "easy" under the Bush administration.

She also pledged her support for the so-called Employee Free Choice Act, which would make it much easier for labor to unionize companies. Also called the "card check" bill, the Employee Free Choice Act would virtually eliminate secret-ballot elections among employees. Instead of voting in secret, employees would vote for unionization by signing cards in public (such as in union halls or bars) in front of union officials and other pro-union employees.

As I write this article, the Employee Free Choice Act has been introduced in Congress again, and President Obama staunchly supports it. If the bill passes, employers will need to engage in constant employee education about unionization or face being vulnerable to a drunken card-signing party on the road to unionization. Another ugly provision in the law would require employers to submit to binding arbitration if a contract is not reached with the union within 90 days. Imagine being told what you have to pay your employees by an arbitrator whose knowledge of your business is that you do something with roofs.

DOL would not administer the Employee Free Choice Act, so one has to wonder what type of strict enforcement of labor laws the new secretary has in mind. First, because the

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Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is part of the department, I suspect OSHA enforcement will become stricter, leading to more inspections, larger fines and fewer reasonable settlements. Second, DOL is responsible for the wage and hour laws; that means there will be more audits to determine if employers are paying their employees properly.

As I have written in previous columns, employers need to audit their wage and hour practices to ensure compliance with these complicated wage and hour requirements. Are you paying employees for all hours worked? Are you properly docking salaried employees? Are you properly categorizing employees as exempt from overtime? Are your overtime practices appropriate? If there is going to be increased enforcement, you probably should look at your current practices.

We also can expect the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to get more aggressive under the Obama administration. In addition to traditional discrimination laws, there is the Family and Medical Leave Act, which the federal government wants to expand to include more employers (the law currently applies to facilities with 50 or more employees). There also is talk about making the leave paid and expanding some of the law's requirements. This administration appears to favor more time off with pay, which is a rather bizarre economic policy during a recession.

In addition to these changes, we can expect the federal bench to get more liberal during the next four years. There are many vacancies on the federal circuit courts resulting from Democrats blocking Republican appointments during the last years of the Bush presidency. In fact, the 4th Circuit Court, which covers Maryland and Virginia, has so many vacancies that President Obama will reshape that court into one of the most liberal in the U.S. It was one of the most conservative several years ago.

There is a new sheriff in town, and this sheriff does not like businesses. For that reason, employers must redouble their efforts to comply with federal and state laws and avoid the pain of legal fees, lawsuits, and unsympathetic governmental agencies and courts. There is no substitute for preparation.

Industry News

❑ Falls Church project is set to begin

Northgate, a \$51 million mixed-use project planned in Falls Church, Va., is preparing for groundbreaking, according to the *Washington Business Journal*. After getting the property rezoned, Hekemian Co., Hackensack, N.J., won approval for the site in October 2008.

The development will include 95 luxury apartments, 10 rental townhouses, 22,735 square feet of retail space, 14,000 square feet of office space and underground parking with 331 spaces. It will be located less than half a mile from the East Falls Church Metro station.

"It's all the more apparent to us in these difficult economic times that we need a better balance to the tax base, with an increased commercial component," says Rick Goff, Falls Church economic development director.

Because building green is a city requirement, the building will have a vegetative roof system and obtain the lowest level of certification in the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design® Green Building Rating System.™

The project is expected to be completed 20 months after it begins.

❑ Alexandria plans redevelopment of mall, Van Dorn area

Reviving Landmark Mall and its adjoining Van Dorn area is an economic development priority for Alexandria, Va., according to the *Washington Business Journal*. The city council has approved a land use plan that covers the area from the mall to the Van Dorn Metro station.

The assessment for the entire mall property is half what it was 15 years ago, and the sales tax paid to the city for the property fell 22 percent from 2003 to 2007. The 2008 retail slowdown didn't help matters.

General Growth, Chicago, owns the mall but has \$27 billion of debt, and its stock price has declined 98 percent during the past nine months. Alexandria officials recognize



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the company has no capital for redevelopment but hopes a new owner could make improvements if the mall is sold through foreclosure or to avoid bankruptcy.

City planners want to boost density in the area, incorporating office high-rises with ground-level retail. There could be luxury apartments and condominiums at the mall site, but 70 percent of new construction will be offices and retail.

When 25 percent of the 240-acre area has been developed, the city would give \$100 million for dedicated bus lanes or light rail. Two bridges also are planned.

Mike McGuire, managing member of Green City Development, Bethesda, Md., wants to replace a strip mall and warehouses with luxury apartment buildings and retail called Landmark Gateway. The estimated cost for the 435-unit project is \$100 million, and construction on the first two buildings could begin this fall.

City officials hope Landmark Gateway will stimulate more redevelopment.

“Opportunities like this inside the Beltway are rare,” says Karl Moritz, Alexandria’s deputy director for long-range planning.

❑ **Rebuilding Together™ Montgomery County repairs homes**

On National Rebuilding Day April 25, Rebuilding Together Montgomery County and local roofing companies donated their time to help homeowners in need. Rebuilding Together Montgomery County is a volunteer, nonprofit organization that repairs the homes of low-income homeowners—primarily the elderly, disabled, veterans and families with children.

Projects during the weekend of April 25-26 included:

- Repairing a metal roof system for an elderly woman on a fixed income who spent an average \$750 per month on electricity for her 700-square-foot home; repairs were intended to lower her energy costs. The house was built in 1929, and the roof had never been replaced.
- Installing a roof system on the rear addition of a retired roofing professional’s home
- Installing a gable roof system on a family’s 1,300-square-foot home

For more information about volunteering with Rebuilding Together Montgomery County, contact Bill Kauffman, construction coordinator for Rebuilding Together Montgomery County, at (301) 933-2700 or bkauffman@rebuildingtogethermc.org.

❑ **Region’s jobless rate slows**

Washington, D.C.’s unemployment rate fell slightly and unemployment in Maryland and Virginia increased more slowly in March, according to *The Washington Post*.

The unemployment rate in Washington, D.C., dropped to 9.8 percent in March after reaching 9.9 percent in February. The district lost about 700 jobs, including 600 in professional and business services and 100 in federal government. It added 1,100 jobs in sectors such as education and health services, trade utilities, and leisure and hospitality.

Mohammad Iqbal, regional economist for IHS Global Insight, Lexington, Mass., says the March numbers are “an indication that the nosedive we are seeing is being halted now—it’s slowing down. That means the recovery may happen as early as the second half of this year.”

However, although the decrease is encouraging, Washington, D.C.’s unemployment rate is still well above the 8.5 percent national rate in March. In December 2008, Natwar M. Ghandi, the city’s chief financial officer, said the district’s unemployment rate would not reach 9.8 percent until 2010.

Maryland’s unemployment rate rose to 6.9 percent in March compared with 6.7 percent in February, with hundreds of people losing their jobs.

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Virginia's unemployment rate increased to 6.8 percent in March from 6.6 percent in February.

❑ **Virginia House votes against unemployment benefits**

The Virginia House has rejected a measure that would have expanded unemployment benefits, according to the *Richmond Times Dispatch*. As a result, Virginia has forfeited \$125 million in federal stimulus funds.

The measure involved amendments from Gov. Timothy Kaine (D-Va.) that would have made part-time workers eligible for unemployment benefits in Virginia and extended the time period for people to receive benefits when they have lost jobs but are retraining for new jobs. When the stimulus money ran out, employers would have paid about \$4.50 per year per employee in additional unemployment insurance taxes.

The Senate passed the bill April 8, but the Republican-controlled House then defeated the amendments in a 53-46 vote. Republicans objected to giving benefits to part-time workers and said the additional costs for businesses would never be repealed once they were enacted.

Business groups also have fought the amendments, saying they would impose higher taxes on employers after the stimulus money was gone.

❑ **D.C. developers prepare for storm water regulations**

Washington, D.C., is in the final stages of tightening its storm water regulations to require developers to capture rainwater on new and redeveloped properties, according to the *Washington Business Journal*.

The regulations would mandate that developers who build along the Anacostia River, which is one of the most polluted waterways in the U.S., must capture 1 inch of storm water on their sites and 3/4 of an inch elsewhere in the city. Developers would have to use features such as vegetative roof systems, water retention systems and rain barrels to capture storm water and keep waste from being swept into the river.

"This is our best opportunity to do it right the first time," says Nancy Stoner, co-director of the water program for the Natural Resources Defense Council. "It's much more costly to retrofit them."

Although they have yet to see details of the regulations, developers are anxious about how much rainwater they will be required to capture and how difficult it will be to follow the new regulations.

Amy Edwards, a partner at Holland & Knight LLP, Washington, D.C., and chair of the D.C. Building Industry Association's environmental committee, has seen the proposed regulations and expects developers will be discouraged.

"Based upon a quick review, they appear to be pretty onerous," she says.

Edwards says besides the amount of rainfall, developers could be concerned about the regulations' complexity and enforcement fees.

"I think those are the types of issues that could be discussed further," she says.

❑ **Economic stimulus package helps fund DHS headquarters**

The federal economic stimulus package and a new spending bill has secured almost one-third of the money needed to build a new headquarters for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) at the St. Elizabeths Hospital campus in the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington, D.C., according to the *Washington Business Journal*.

Congressional Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) says the \$3.4 billion project will receive \$450 million from the economic stimulus package. The money will go toward the 3.8 million-square-foot DHS complex on St. Elizabeths Hospital's west campus. A spending bill signed by President Barack Obama March 10 allocates \$331 million for the first phase of the project. Norton expects the first building's construction to create 38,000 jobs.

"The DHS money for the first of five DHS buildings comes just in time to help us staunch a rapidly rising unemployment rate in the district with jobs," Norton says.

The economic stimulus portion of the funding comes from \$5.5 billion set aside for the General Services Administration (GSA). Although Norton claims the \$450 million is planned for DHS headquarters, GSA spokesman Michael McGill says GSA does not yet have a breakdown of spending plans and is restricted regarding what it can say.

In previous years, Congress appropriated about \$100 million for the project, including \$24.9 million in 2005 for a new Coast Guard headquarters. The first phases of the project include securing the site, creating construction entrances and demolishing eight buildings. DHS also plans 700,000 square feet of development and parking for the 173-acre east campus.

Raising the Roof!

MARCA member receives 2008 Best of York Award

MARCA member Dataforma Inc., York, Pa., has received the U.S. Local Business Association's (USLBA's) 2008 Best of York Award in the Computer Software category.

The USLBA "Best of Local Business" Award Program recognizes outstanding local businesses in the U.S. that have achieved exceptional marketing success in their communities and business

categories, as well as enhanced the positive image of small businesses through service to their customers and communities.

NRCA University launches vegetative roof system online educational program

NRCA University has launched Photovoltaics and Roofing, an interactive online educational program.

Photovoltaics and Roofing examines photovoltaic (PV) technology for roof systems and focuses on how PV technology works; applicable building codes and industry standards; related design issues; installation recommendations; and maintenance responsibilities, fall-protection requirements and unique safety hazards associated with PV roof systems. The educational program takes about an hour to complete and is broken into lessons for each topic. Quizzes follow each lesson to test participants' knowledge and reinforce information from the lesson. The program will benefit roofing contractors, architects, building owners, manufacturers, roof system designers and other roofing professionals interested in an introduction to PV roof systems.

Photovoltaics and Roofing is one of seven modules in NRCA University's Roofing, Energy and the Environment Series, an online educational series aimed at helping roofing professionals and end users understand how roof systems can contribute to energy conservation and environmental protection. Two other modules, Vegetative Roof Systems and Cool Roofs, already have launched. Additional modules will include Energy Codes and Rating Systems for Roofing, Introduction to Energy-efficient Roof Systems, EnergyWise Tutorial and Case Studies, and the Roofing, Energy and the Environment Series Certificate Examination.

For more information or to register for Photovoltaics and Roofing, visit www.nrca.net/rp/education/nrca/pv.aspx or contact NRCA's Customer Service Department at (866) ASK-NRCA (275-6722).

NRCA partners with BuildSite to offer database

NRCA and BuildSite LLC, Oakland, Calif., have partnered to offer The Roofing Industry Product Center. The Roofing Industry Product Center is part of an NRCA/BuildSite Industry Information Center, which is accessible from www.nrca.net and www.buildsite.com and acts as an integrated single source for product and technical information to support NRCA members' daily activities.

The Roofing Industry Product Center is a BuildSite-powered database containing information about roofing materials manufacturers and their products. The database is searchable by manufacturer, product category or distributor location and provides links to important documents such as product data, material safety data sheets, installation details and International Code Council reports.

BuildSite provides a variety of product and service offerings that allow NRCA members to access manufacturer product data. With "BuildSite Free," users can search and access product and manufacturer information and important documents. Users also can subscribe to BuildSite Software, a "software as a service" offering that allows data to be pulled from the database and easily plugged into day-to-day workflow. In particular, BuildSite Software helps manage time-consuming processes such as architectural submittals.

The Roofing Industry Product Center can be found at www.nrca.net/rp/buildsite. For more information, contact Jeff Jarvis, NRCA's director of advertising, at (800) 323-9545, ext. 7512 or jjarvis@nrca.net, or Doug Steele, BuildSite's director of sales, at (616) 735-0595 or dsteele@buildsite.com.

Energy-efficient roof systems manual is available

NRCA has released *Guidelines for the Design of Energy-efficient Roof Systems*, which is a manual for design professionals who want to specify energy-efficient roof systems, as well as those who need to meet the requirements of the recently updated ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2007, "Energy Efficient Design of New Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential." Updated in 2009, the manual is best used with *The NRCA Roofing Manual: Membrane Roof Systems—2007* and Moisture Control section of *The NRCA Roofing and Waterproofing Manual, Fifth Edition*.

To purchase *Guidelines for the Design of Energy-efficient Roof Systems*, visit www.nrca.net/rp/pubstore/default.aspx or call NRCA's Customer Service Department at (866) ASK-NRCA (275-6722).

NRCA safety manual is available

NRCA has released *The NRCA Safety Manual, Second Edition*, which contains updated and expanded explanations of Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, Environmental Protection Agency regulations and Department of Transportation regulations, as well as industry practices developed to improve worker safety at roofing job sites.

The manual includes topics such as fall protection, asbestos, fire safety, hazardous materials and driver safety supplemented by the most recent federal agency requirements. It also provides updated explanations related to hazardous waste and silica, lead, noise and methylene diphenyl diisocyanate exposures.

To purchase *The NRCA Safety Manual, Second Edition*, visit www.nrca.net/rp/pubstore/default.aspx or call NRCA's Customer Service Department at (866) ASK-NRCA (275-6722).

NRCA roof coatings guide is available

NRCA has released *The NRCA Guide to Roof Coatings, Second Edition*, which discusses application of various types of roof coatings, where they may be used most effectively and

preparations necessary for successful performance. Updated in 2009, the guide also includes generally acceptable guidelines for application of common roof coatings and roof coating systems to various types of roof surfaces.

To purchase *The NRCA Guide to Roof Coatings, Second Edition*, visit www.nrca.net/rp/pubstore/default.aspx or call NRCA's Customer Service Department at (866) ASK-NRCA (275-6722).

Green roof system accreditation exam will launch in June

Green Roofs for Healthy Cities will launch its Green Roof Professional (GRP) accreditation exam June 5 in Atlanta at the 7th Greening Rooftops for Sustainable Communities Conference, Awards and Trade Show June 3-5.

GRP accreditation is meant to raise the level of professional knowledge and allow individuals to distinguish themselves in the marketplace by teaching them about the available options for green roof system design and implementation, as well as helping them understand the major challenges of green roof systems and best practices associated with design and installation. Additionally, individuals with GRP accreditation will be qualified to identify and form project teams; function as team leaders for the green roof system portion of a project; and maximize green roof system benefits during the design process.

The accreditation covers the nonliving elements of a green roof assembly, such as waterproofing, structural engineering and project management, as well as living components such as water management, growing media, plants and maintenance.

Participants can be from a variety of professional backgrounds, including roofing contractors, roof consultants, manufacturers, architects, engineers and landscape designers.

Discussion of GRP accreditation began in 2003 when green roofing industry members expressed a need to develop multi-disciplinary training courses and means to acknowledge design and installation expertise in the marketplace.

GRP accreditation program courses include Green Roof Design 101 Introductory Course; Green Roof Design & Installation 201; Green Roof Waterproofing & Drainage 301; and Green Roof Plants & Growing Media 401. For more information about the courses or to register, visit greenroofs.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=874&Itemid=128.

To register for the inaugural accreditation exam June 5 in Atlanta, visit guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=2f884125-032d-4ca2-8c9c-e560884f8078.

NRCA vegetative roof systems manual is available

NRCA has released *The NRCA Vegetative Roof Systems Manual, Second Edition*, which discusses cutting-edge technologies

available for vegetative roof systems, including waterproofing systems and their associated components such as root barriers, drainage layers and thermal insulation. The manual also includes best practices for designing and installing extensive, semi-extensive and intensive vegetative roof systems.

To purchase *The NRCA Vegetative Roof Systems Manual, Second Edition*, visit www.nrca.net/rp/pubstore/default.aspx or call NRCA's Customer Service Department at (866) ASK-NRCA (275-6722).

Industry Events Calendar

For information about MARCA events, visit www.marcaroof.com or contact Bryan White, NRCA's manager of affiliate partnerships, at (877) 508-ROOF or bwhite@nrca.net.

May

28 Annual Employee Recognition and Scholarship Awards Dinner at Crofton Country Club, 1691 Crofton Parkway, Crofton, Md. The cocktail reception will be at 6 p.m. and the dinner and meeting will be at 7 p.m.

June

29 MARCA Annual Golf Tournament at Crofton Country Club, 1691 Crofton Parkway, Crofton, Md.
Additional details to come

October

17 MARCA Annual Crab Feast at American Legion Post 60, Laurel, Md.
Additional details to come

November

TBA MARCA Annual Lecture
Additional details to come

Roof Topics would like to take this opportunity to **THANK OUR ADVERTISERS**, and we encourage you to do the same by letting them know you saw their advertisements in your association publication.

MARCA's Past Presidents Dinner

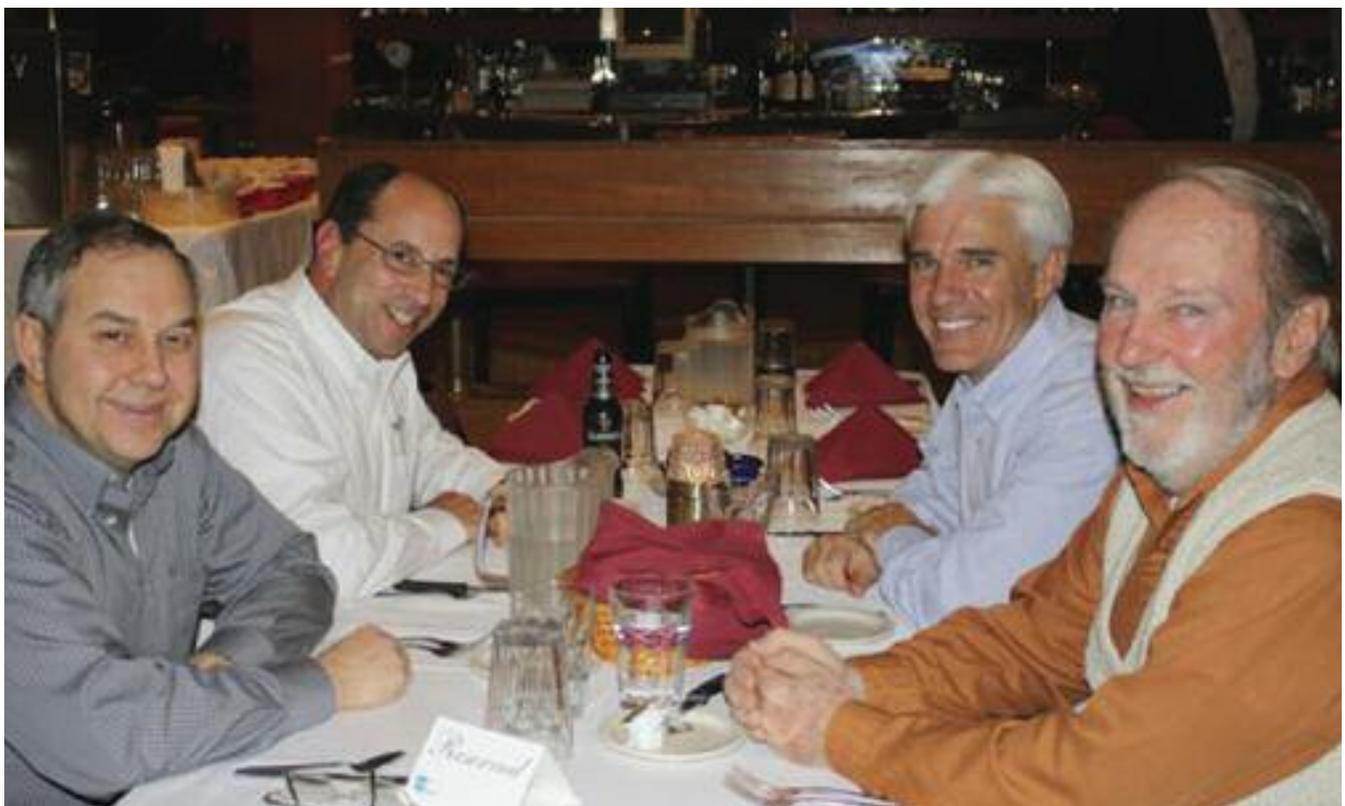
MARCA members gathered for the Past Presidents Dinner at Timbuktu Restaurant, Hanover, Md., Jan. 22.



MARCA's Past Presidents Dinner (continued)



MARCA's Past Presidents Dinner (continued)



MARCA's Bull and Oyster Roast

MARCA members had fun and won prizes at the Annual Bull and Oyster Roast March 28 at The Lodge, Catonsville, Md.



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