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# FLEET STREET NEWS



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Greetings Fellow SGFMA Members,

Spring has sprung, so hopefully we all can put away the winter weather preparedness plans, equipment, and supplies. Most of us were lucky enough to not see any snow or ice this past season which helps on budget and equipment. But as you all know, we will need those extra funds in our government budgets because one thing that's going higher than the temperature, is fuel cost.

Being in the fleet profession, we all have to continually look at what we can do to help with the higher life cycle and

choosing to be a member of this great organization not only allows us an opportunity

to gain education and knowledge to help with this, but also allows us to share our knowledge with others, which helps all grow in what we do.

Please continue to register and attend the training classes that the Professional Development Committee members along with exhibitors have worked hard on providing to us.

Also, do not forget to register on line at [www.sgfma.org](http://www.sgfma.org) or by mail for our 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Annual Meeting at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center September 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>. Details for both the Annual Meeting and Training Classes are on the SGFMA web-

site.

You will see further in this newsletter some articles from your Board Committee Chairpersons. Please join me in thanking them for their hard work; please share with them and volunteer where needed if you can.

Also; please join me in welcoming our newest members and exhibitors and thank them for joining. And, as always, Thanks to all SGFMA members, true fleet professionals, for your membership and involvement in helping us continue to grow to be the best we can be. Please contact me or any board member with ideas, needs, or with whatever we can help with.

Thanks & Take Care,

*Rick Smith*  
rsmith1@cmpd.org

## 2012 Annual Meeting & Equipment Show Register Now Online @ [www.sgfma.org](http://www.sgfma.org)

The 20<sup>th</sup> SGFMA Annual Meeting and Equipment will be held at the Myrtle Beach Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center from Sunday, September 23 through Wednesday, September 26, 2012. Once again, we will be partnering with the Carolina's Chapter of NAFA. Both organizations have been working together to deliver a well-rounded annual meeting. Our theme for this year is "Fueling Around, What Alternative Fuel Works For You and Is Funding Available". Our Program Committee, led by Doug Ingle, has some exciting workshops and training sessions planned that will benefit you and your organization.

We will kick off the annual meeting on Sunday with a golf tournament and a vehicle manufacture presentation by Freightliner and Dodge. Sunday night will be our Vendor Reception and Anniversary Party that you will not want to miss. On Monday, our keynote speaker will be Jim Frank, CEO and President of Wheels, Inc. Workshops will be held on Monday morning and the Exhibit Hall will open from 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm. The vendors will display equipment, products and literature for viewing and discussion by conference attendees. Monday night is an optional night out at Pirate Voyage Theater. On Tuesday, we kick off the day with a motivational speaker followed by Ford and GM vehicle manufacturer presentations, along with other workshops. You can view the tentative schedule at [www.sgfma.org](http://www.sgfma.org).

Come join us as we celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!



**Happy 20th Anniversary**  
**SGFMA**





## ....Three Main Causes of Accidents

In serving as a member of the Accident Review Board for Clemson University, I am constantly reminded of the need for each of us to do our part as fleet professionals to advance fleet safety. Most accident reviews we conduct contain causative elements, which were preventable if proactive safety steps had been taken by the drivers involved. The good news for us as maintenance managers is that very few, if any, of the accidents show causes related to unsafe, improperly maintained or mechanical failure of vehicles. Most recently, we have seen causes of most accidents or reviewable incidents concentrated into three major areas:

- Distracted driving from the use of handheld personal electronic devices
- Improper backing
- Failure to yield right-of-way

I am sure that most all of us are by the nature of our business and personal lives basically forced into the use of some type of handheld personal electronic device. Be it a basic cellular phone or the most advanced “smartphone”, these units give us the freedom of instant mobile communication through voice, text and internet applications at most any location on the globe. Unfortunately, one of the most dangerous places to utilize these technological marvels is a place that most all of us spend many hours; in the driver’s seat of a vehicle. It is almost a necessity at times for us to communicate with such a device while driving. In doing so, please remember and employ the following safety procedures to avoid becoming a distracted driver:

- Use “Sync”, “Bluetooth” or similar hands-free technology
- Pull over in a safe location for in-depth or extended conversations
- Do not text or use any other hand-eye requiring applications

One of the most dangerous maneuvers we ever make in a vehicle is backing up. The front of the vehicle is pointed in the opposite direction from travel, causing various opportunities for the driver to have limited visual distance. To avoid accidents when backing a vehicle, consider the following:

- Select a parking location that you can exit without backing
- Make sure to be fully aware of your vehicle’s dimensions and its potential blind spots
- Remove or relocate any non-permanent items in or on your vehicle that might obstruct your vision while backing, such as tools, supplies or equipment

Each one of us that drive a government vehicle passed a driver’s test at some point, which proves that we were taught the “rules of the road” when a vehicle has the right-of-way. Still this continues to be a “top-three” area of cause for accidents. When merging, yielding, turning or negotiating a multi-way stop, please remember the following points:

- Be courteous to other drivers, but do not use being friendly to modify the “rules of the road” involving right-of-way
- Make smooth turns with appropriate signaling at a speed consistent with traffic flow, so that other drivers are clearly aware of your intentions
- Stay alert and drive defensively

In conclusion, if we as fleet professionals can help our vehicle operators to be reminded to safely use handheld personal electronic devices and be at their most alert when backing and in right-of-way situations, we can help reduce the major causes of accidents.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Nominating Committee

SGFMA Nominating Committee Chairperson, Judy Lucas, is currently seeking to form the 2012 SGFMA Nominating Committee. Such committee shall be comprised of a minimum of three (3) Association members, including the Chairperson.

The Nominating Committee is tasked to propose nominees for all of the offices, which will be vacated at the annual meeting. Please refer to the SGFMA Constitution for the full description of committee responsibilities. The Constitution can be found at [www.sgfma.org](http://www.sgfma.org)

It is my goal to seek committee members who represent the make up of our Association. Thus far, I have members from SC and NC who have agreed to serve. If you are from another state and are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Judy Lucas @ [jlucas@forestry.state.sc.us](mailto:jlucas@forestry.state.sc.us) or (803) 896-8851. In addition, committee meetings will be conducted electronically, if feasible.

Those currently serving:

Judy Lucas – SGFMA Nominating Committee Chairperson

Rufus Roberts – SC Forestry Commission – Walterboro, SC

Juan Vega – Town of Cary – Cary, NC

### Get The Recognition Your Fleet Department Deserves



The best way to help raise the level of our profession is by sharing our success stories. Tell us about a new improvement or innovative practice that your fleet is using. I encourage you to nominate your organization for an award to be presented at the *South East Governmental Fleet Managers Conference*. Available awards are the Jan Smoak Memorial Award for Quality Fleet Management and the Presidents Award for Individual Innovative Practices in Fleet Repair and/or Maintenance. Both award applications may be downloaded online at [www.sgfma.org](http://www.sgfma.org). (The deadline for submission is August 15, 2012.)

### A New Generation of Fleet Managers



The best way to perpetuate our profession is to develop leadership for tomorrow. SGFMA proudly embraces this belief by actively supporting a scholarship program directed towards graduating High School Seniors and current College/University Students. The Darrell E. Floyd scholarship awards are funded by the association each year to assist those are pursuing higher education in a certified degree program in an accredited institution. An application for the scholarship award may be downloaded online at [www.sgfma.org](http://www.sgfma.org). (The deadline for submission is August 15, 2012.)

## Southeast Governmental Fleet Managers Association 2012 Officers

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
President	Rick Smith	Charlotte Police Dept., NC	704.336.5691	<a href="mailto:rsmith1@cmpd.org">rsmith1@cmpd.org</a>
Vice President	Doug Ingle	City of Hickory, NC	828.323.7575	<a href="mailto:dingle@ci.hickory.nc.us">dingle@ci.hickory.nc.us</a>
Secretary	Judy Lucas	SC Forestry Commission, SC	803.896.8851	<a href="mailto:jlucas@forestry.state.sc.us">jlucas@forestry.state.sc.us</a>
Treasurer	Karen Hyatt	Sumter County, SC	803.436.2241	<a href="mailto:khyatt@sumtercountysc.org">khyatt@sumtercountysc.org</a>

### REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region 1	Jeff McCormack	State Fleet Management, SC	803.737.1502	<a href="mailto:JMcCormack@gs.sc.gov">JMcCormack@gs.sc.gov</a>
Region 2	Jerry Glass	City of N. Charleston, SC	843.740.5898	<a href="mailto:jglass@northcharleston.org">jglass@northcharleston.org</a>
Region 3	Shelia James	SC Dept. of Transportation, SC	843.740.1667	<a href="mailto:jamessd@dot.state.sc.us">jamessd@dot.state.sc.us</a>
Region 4	Charles Garren	City of West Columbia, SC	803.739.4322	<a href="mailto:cgarren@westcolumbiasc.gov">cgarren@westcolumbiasc.gov</a>
Region 5	Trixie Harrington	Coastal Carolina, SC	843.349.2172	<a href="mailto:pharring@coastal.edu">pharring@coastal.edu</a> <a href="mailto:Ron.Nickles@thomson-mcduffie.net">Ron.Nickles@thomson-mcduffie.net</a>
Region 6	Ron Nickles	City of Thomson, GA	706.595.3751	<a href="mailto:Ron.Nickles@thomson-mcduffie.net">Ron.Nickles@thomson-mcduffie.net</a>
Region 7	Juan Vega	Town of Cary, NC	919.469.4098	<a href="mailto:juan.vega@townofcary.org">juan.vega@townofcary.org</a>

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Don Foote	Horry County, SC	843.915.5200	<a href="mailto:footed@horrycounty.org">footed@horrycounty.org</a>
Garland Veasey	Clemson University, SC	864.656.3477	<a href="mailto:gveasey@clemson.edu">gveasey@clemson.edu</a>
Jimmy Brown	Greenwood County, SC	864.942.8598	<a href="mailto:jimmyb@co.greenwood.sc.us">jimmyb@co.greenwood.sc.us</a>
Johnny Reed	SC DHEC, SC	803.898.3495	<a href="mailto:reedjm@dhec.sc.gov">reedjm@dhec.sc.gov</a>
Ray Walden	SC DHEC-EQC, SC	803.896.8963	<a href="mailto:waldenrw@dhec.sc.gov">waldenrw@dhec.sc.gov</a>

### REGIONS INCLUDE:

**Region 1:** Calhoun, Clarendon, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Lexington, Newberry, Richland, Sumter

**Region 2:** Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, Orangeburg

**Region 3:** Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda

**Region 4:** Anderson, Cherokee, Chester, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union, York

**Region 5:** Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro, Williamsburg

**Region 6:** All counties in the states of Georgia and Florida

**Region 7:** All counties in the states of North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee

**Southeast Governmental Fleet  
Managers Association  
P.O. Box 7824  
Columbia, SC 29202**



**We are on the Web!**  
**www.sgfma.org**

**Contributors for this newsletter:**

Rick Smith  
Garland Veasey  
Jeff McCormack  
Judy Lucas  
Karen Hyatt

## 2012 Committee Chairs

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>CHAIR</u>	
Executive Committee:	Rick Smith	<a href="mailto:rsmith1@cmpd.org">rsmith1@cmpd.org</a>
Program Committee:	Doug Ingle	<a href="mailto:dingle@ci.hickory.nc.us">dingle@ci.hickory.nc.us</a>
Membership Committee:	Sheila James	<a href="mailto:jamesd@dot.state.sc.us">jamesd@dot.state.sc.us</a>
Professional Development Committee:	Jimmy Brown	<a href="mailto:jimmyb@co.greenwood.sc.us">jimmyb@co.greenwood.sc.us</a>
Information & Publicity Committee:	Garland Veasey	<a href="mailto:gveasey@clemsion.edu">gveasey@clemsion.edu</a>
Awards Committee:	Jeff McCormack	<a href="mailto:JMcCormack@gs.sc.gov">JMcCormack@gs.sc.gov</a>
Vendors Relation Committee:	Marty Burr	<a href="mailto:mburr@cityofrockhill.com">mburr@cityofrockhill.com</a>
Nominating Committee:	Judy Lucas	<a href="mailto:jlucas@forestry.state.sc.us">jlucas@forestry.state.sc.us</a>
Annual Conference Committee:	Karen Hyatt	<a href="mailto:khstatt@sumtercountysc.org">khstatt@sumtercountysc.org</a>
Audit Committee:	Jerry Glass	<a href="mailto:jglass@northcharleston.org">jglass@northcharleston.org</a>

A Committee Chair may be calling you to serve...please say "YES." If you are interested in serving on a particular committee, please contact the appropriate Committee Chair.

## Welcome New Members

City of Sanford, NC

Randy Paschal

City of Newton, NC

Jeffrey Biggs



Morris-Berg Architects, Inc.

G. Keith Morris  
Todd C. Berg

Wake Forest University

Jim Montgomery

## SCFMA GOALS:

- To foster and promote the advancement of the fleet profession through membership, association, and assistance to fellow fleet managers.
- To provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas, experience, and information related to the fleet management profession.
- To develop and promote improved standards and methods for the good management of fleet operations and assets.
- To seek the improvement of laws and regulations pertaining to fleet administration.
- Provide the exchange of information on procurement, maintenance, operation, and disposition of fleet equipment.
- Promote the professional, social, and personal interaction between members of the fleet management profession.
- To promote improved intergovernmental profession.