

# Engineer's Association

## THOMASTON CHAPTER NEWS

October, 2005

Volume 2

### QUARTERLY MEETING

Please join us for the next quarterly meeting scheduled on **Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>** at the **District Maintenance Shop** during lunch from **12 to 1pm**. BBQ plates will be served at a cost of \$5/person. Be sure to contact Heather Garner at 706-646-6508 if you plan to attend. Please invite anyone who may be interested in what the Association is accomplishing for all employees.

### REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

The GDOTEA 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Representative Assembly Meeting was hosted by District Four at the Valdosta Convention Center on September 21-23, 2005.



Photo: Debra Benton, Director, presents resolutions to the Representative Assembly

The resolutions were voted on as follows: (Amendments and Votes listed in **RED**)

- ✓ Resolution 2005-1 requests the continuing effort of **GDOT Management to work with GDOTEA in asking the Governor and General Assembly to support** legislation which will increase the maximum for the retirement multiplier factor to 2.5% **VOTE: Pass As Amended**
- ✓ Resolution 2005-2 requests that **GDOT Management work with GDOTEA in asking the Governor and General Assembly to support** salary increases for state employees that compensate for increases in health insurance premiums and other inflationary factors. **VOTE: Pass As Amended**
- ✓ Resolution 2005-3 requests that Management make adjustments to all positions when consideration is given to increases to entry level salaries. **VOTE: Problem Sharing (does not require legislative action, goes directly to Commissioner)**
- ✓ Resolution 2005-4 requests that Management pledge their support in lobbying the Governor and General Assembly to fund and introduce a plan that would increase the reimbursement rate for the use of personal vehicles. **VOTE: Tabled/No Further Action. The increase to \$0.485/mile has recently been enacted.**
- ✓ Resolution 2005-5 requests that Management consider developing a flex time policy that encourages employees to pursue additional degrees that are relevant and beneficial to the function of GDOT. **VOTE: DO NOT PASS** as policy is already in place to provide employees flexible hours.
- ✓ Resolution 2005-6 requests that **GDOTEA coordinate with GDOT Management to identify the member of the 2006 General Assembly to introduce** legislation requesting the Department of Community Health seek other avenues of reducing the rising costs of health insurance (other than surcharges) not at state employee's expense. **VOTE: Pass As Amended**
- ✓ Resolution 2005-7 requests that **GDOTEA coordinate with GDOT Management to identify the member of the 2006 General Assembly to introduce** legislation requesting the Department of Community Health re-evaluate the enactment of the tobacco surcharge and provide all employees, at no charge, with a reasonable time frame that would allow them to discontinue the use of tobacco products if they so choose. **VOTE: Pass As Amended**
- ✓ Resolution 2005-8 requests that Management recommend the establishment of an investigative panel to research a managed program that will allow state employees, their dependents and retirees to purchase prescription drugs at a reduced cost of 30% - 50%. This program would help offset the ever rising cost of health care with little or no cost to state government. **VOTE: Problem Sharing (does not require legislative action, goes directly to Commissioner)**
- ✓ Resolution 2005-9 requests that Management revise the Workman's Compensation policy to allow an employee,

who is hurt while on duty, to be eligible to solicit leave donations prior to receiving Workman's Compensation benefits. **VOTE: Problem Sharing (does not require legislative action, goes directly to Commissioner)**

These issues will be addressed with the Commissioner at the next Board of Director's Meeting scheduled in December.



Photo: Lew Walker, Chapter President, accepts Award on behalf of Keith McChargue

The Thomaston Chapter won several awards along with cash prizes during the banquet on Thursday night. We won a total of \$300 for Best Scrapbook and the Membership Award, which was a tie with the Jesup Chapter. Our Chapter's Scholarship Winner, Keith McChargue, was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the State Competition. Congratulations to all!

The 2006 Representative Assembly will be hosted by the Thomaston Chapter on September 13 - 15, 2006 at Callaway Gardens.

## 2005-2006

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The following members are representing the GDOTEA by chairing the committees listed below:

Public Relations: Lea Ward  
Finance: Henry Johnson  
Charitable Cause: Cindy Bennett  
Scholarship: Laurie Bennett  
Nomination/Election: Lynn Adams  
Membership: David Millen  
Resolutions: Todd Repass  
Entertainment: Tim Reeves  
Program: Mark Williams

If you are interested in participating on a committee or have questions/suggestions, please contact a Chairperson today!

### NOPI & NASCAR NEWS

Proceeds from the NOPI car show in September totaled \$1,296.00. The concession booth was great fun! Special thanks to the following volunteers: Debra Benton, Lea Ward, Lewis Walker, Mark Williams, Jill Reule, Lamar Pruitt, Jean Shaw, Mark Philpott, Gerit Howard, Laine Dallas and Laurie Bennett.

Our biggest moneymaker desperately needs your help to operate a concession/souvenir booth at the upcoming Bass Pro Shops/MBNA 500 scheduled for October 29 & 30 at Atlanta Motor Speedway. Call Laine Dallas ASAP in the District Office at 706-646-6542!

### FALL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Annual Fall Golf Tournament hosted by the GDOTEA on October 10<sup>th</sup> at Hickory Ridge in Thomaston was a great success! The winning team of David Millen, Michael Presley, Scott Chafin and Matt Chafin received a cash prize of \$400. The second place team of Jay Strange, Bob O'Rourke, Adam Dykes and Darrin Norris received \$100. Look for details about the Spring Tournament in our next newsletter!



### CHARITABLE CAUSE

The Charitable Cause Committee is gearing up for the Christmas Season! A family in need will once again be sponsored by the District Office. Information regarding the family and any upcoming fundraisers will be announced at a later date. If you would like to lend your support, please contact Cindy Bennett in the District Office at 706-646-6501.

The Area Offices and Special Outfits are also encouraged to donate or perhaps sponsor their own local family in need. Please let Cindy know if your Area plans to participate during the Holidays!



### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Congratulations to Heather Garner, Cherie Spillers, Debra Benton and Laurie Bennett on their participation in the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer 3 Day Walk in Atlanta on Sept 30<sup>th</sup> - October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Through the help of family, friends and co-workers they were able to raise an amazing \$8,400+ for breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment!



Photo: Walking shoes lifted to honor breast cancer survivors during Closing Ceremonies

### UPCOMING EVENTS

The American Heart Association Heart Walk is scheduled for Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> on the Courthouse Square in Thomaston. Team members include: Tammy Barrow (Captain), Sue Anne Decker, Jennifer Campbell, Carol Perry, Kattie Rohling, Lea Ward, Phoebe Pitts, Jim Hoskins and Lynn Adams. A fundraising breakfast on Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, raised \$189 towards their goal of \$1000. So far the team has raised a total of \$800+! If you would like more information on how to become a team member, please call Tammy at 706-646-6599.

Be sure to visit the GDOTEA table and sign up for the prize drawing at Employee Appreciation Day on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Bickley's Lake!