

## Mid-Atlantic Regional Leadership Meeting 2005

Report given on July 21, 2005 by Chris Nettour

This year's Regional Conference was held in Richmond, Virginia during June 9th – 11<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Select. Out of the total of 15 chapters in the region, there was a least one representative from 14 of the chapters. On Thursday evening there was an attendee reception which got things off to a nice start. I saw familiar faces and met new people. There as lots of delicious food and good conversation.

On Friday morning there was the keynote session which featured Jim Rogers of the Department of Medical Assistant Services presenting an overview of Virginia Medicaid and records management applications it is currently using. Following this, Gisele Crawford of ARMA International Board of Directors presented us with ARMA International Strategic Initiatives.

After having lunch at the Court Café, Tom Tokarz, Esq. of Henrico County Attorney's Office gave a presentation on how to protect yourself on major software projects and avoiding the big pitfalls. Anita Willis, Director of Members Services at ARMA International gave a presentation on running an effective chapter. David Noack of Automation Solutions, Inc. was not able to be at the conference, so Pat Noble who was the manager of the Mid-Atlantic Region gave an update about web site design and operation. Much to my delight, she used our web site as an example of good design. She also gave a speech about the state of the region, addressing the region budget and concerns. Deb Marshall, who is currently involved with the ARMA Educational Foundation, updated us on the Foundation's current projects and highly encouraged our monetary support. Dinner was at the Mystery Dinner Theater which was really unusual. It was really different and we laughed a lot. The mystery story had a Star Trek space theme, the actors were our waiters/waitresses, and the food was very good.

On Saturday morning, we had breakfast at the Court Café. The opening presentation was Pat Noble and Wendy Sapp, who was Region Treasurer, giving region awards. There was an induction of the new officers who will hold their respective offices for the next four years. These are the people who are new officers for the region:

Manager/Coordinator/Central Area is Tammy Wheeler of Raleigh, NC  
Tammy.Wheeler@NCEMCS.com  
(Richmond, Tidewater, Raleigh, Charlotte)

Manager/Coordinator/Capitol Area is Chris Koch of Chesterfield, VA  
Kochc@chesterfield.gov  
(Washington, D.C., Northern VA/Fairfax, Greater Baltimore)

Coordinator/Northern Area is George Darnell, CRM of Manassas, VA  
Darnellgd@comcast.net  
(Gaithersburg, Pittsburg, Liberty Bell, Diamond State)

Coordinator/Southern Area is Patti Beerman of West Columbia, SC  
Pattie.Beerman@ironmountain.com

(Greenville, Charleston, Columbia, Augusta)

Treasurer is Denise Pickett, CRM of Aiken, SC  
Denise.pickett@sr.gov

Anita Willis then gave a presentation about increasing chapter membership and ARMA International Membership Services goals for the coming year. Then each representative took a turn to stand up and give a chapter report. This took more time than expected, and more time will be set aside next year to accommodate this.

After having lunch at the Court Café, we boarded a coach bus to travel to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts which featured five of the rare and very beautiful Faberge eggs. The eggs are made of fine gold and rare gemstones. They were owned by the imperial Romanov family. The Czar, his wife, and five children were brutally shot to death by Russian revolutionaries in 1917. Their story and the history of the eggs are very interesting. We stayed at the museum for 2 ½ hours and saw many wonderful works of art. The bus returned us to the hotel and dinner was then on our own. We said our good byes after dinner and everyone is looking forward to next year's conference. At this point in time, however, it is not known which chapter will be the host. But we do know that the conference in 2007 will be held in Baltimore.

Costs of the trip:

The registration fee of \$100 was paid for by Regional.

\$297.54 – Three nights lodging at the Holiday Inn Select  
14.00 – Turnpike fees  
56.93 – Gasoline  
\$368.47 – Total

I have already been reimbursed by Glenn Vashbinder, ARMA Pittsburgh Chapter  
Treasurer

I want to thank the ARMA Pittsburgh Chapter for supporting me in attending this year's conference. It is important that we have at least one representative attend each year's regional conference. I was there to represent all of our chapter members and gave our report as if all of us were speaking. The regional conference is all about networking with members of other chapters and sharing information about leadership skills, and giving support to struggling chapters which need encouragement and advice. The "Helping Hand" Program isn't just about monetary donations to struggling chapters. It is also about sharing our success stories with others so that they can have success, too.