

March 2008

## RVAA News

*RVAA joined representatives from all major industry groups at a strategic analysis discussion on the current state and future of the RV industry. The meeting took place in Charleston, SC, March 16-17, 2008 in conjunction with a meeting of the RVDA (Recreational Vehicle Dealers Association) Board Meeting held at the Charleston Place Hotel.*

*RVAA President Mike McKay and Executive Director Karl Etshied represented the aftermarket for the event which saw all segments of the industry represent their ideas of where the industry is heading. RVAA utilized an analysis developed the week previously by its Board of Directors to provide a well-rounded report on the aftermarket's perspective on the state of the industry.*

*Key Discussion topics included the current economic conditions, gas prices and new standards and threats through government regulation.*

## Coon Discusses Adjusted RV Shipment Forecast

Citing the latest forecast from Dr. Richard Curtin of the University of Michigan Survey Research Center, RVIA President Richard Coon recently said that the industry is now expecting a 13.8 percent drop in wholesale shipments this year to 304,700 units. This is down from the 334,200 unit projection made in November 2007.

"Falling home prices along with diminished household wealth and declining consumer confidence are contributing to the expected decrease," Coon said. "However, our industry is still strong. We're having a tough stretch right now, just as our industry has had before. And, like in other times, the market will recover."

## RVIA Adopts New Formaldehyde Standard

The RVIA Board of Directors unanimously voted the proposed California Air Resources Board (CARB) formaldehyde emission level standards for wood products to become an RVIA membership requirement with an effective date to be determined at the next Board of Directors meeting on June 12 at Committee Week. The CARB standard will replace the HUD standard for formaldehyde emission levels adopted earlier this year as a requirement for association membership.

The CARB regulation establishes a new formaldehyde emission standard in two phases for three composite wood products — hardwood plywood, particleboard, and medium density fiberboard — utilized in finished goods or products including RVs that are offered for sale in California. It is expected that California will issue a final rule authorizing the new regulation this spring.

The first phase of the CARB wood products standard stipulates that veneer core and thin MDF meet an emission level of .08 parts per million by January 1, 2009. Composite core materials must meet the same level by June 1, 2009. Fabricators, which includes RV manufacturers, building products to sell in California, no matter where they are manufactured or assembled, will have until July 1, 2010 to begin using CARB certified wood products.

"We adopted the new CARB wood product emission standard ahead of California's official establishment of the regulation to underscore our commitment to our customers and their ability to use our products with confidence," said RVIA President Richard Coon. "We also wanted to give our members ample time for planning to meet the implementation date."