



**VN Services®**  
A Project Support Company

# Quarterly

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## Articles Of Interest

### “CPM Scheduling can help in resolution of disputes”, Construction Risk Management, 2000

\*The following contains information gathered from the cited article. It has been interpreted and paraphrased for inclusion in this newsletter.

According to the article, the American Arbitration Association indicates that construction claims have increased by 130 percent over the past decade. Although reports and records have always been an essential part of the claims process, an accurately created and updated CPM schedule can provide indisputable information when trying to resolve time-related issues outside of the courtroom. As a result, a conscious effort must be made to use CPM scheduling in order to increase the effectiveness of Alternative Dispute Resolution.

The article suggests instituting the following steps to make the CPM schedule more effective. First, bring the CPM schedule into the project management mainstream. Establish procedures including detailed scheduling specifications, timely approvals or disapprovals, strict reporting

and updating requirements to make the schedule a central component of the construction project. Next, create a shadow schedule to ensure that the owner is fully aware of the dynamics of the project and has an independent check of the respective update reports. The third step is to train and educate project personnel and make them conversant with the process and the basics of CPM scheduling. Fourth, it is important that all scheduling software used on a project is compatible. Finally, time impact analysis developed using CPM techniques can demonstrate the effect of specific delays on the project and play a key role in the ADR process. In short, the article emphasized the fact that although a CPM schedule is invaluable in managing a construction project, its value to resolving time-related claims can not be overstated.

## National School Board Association Conference:

After being submitted by Garfield Heights Superintendent Ron Victor, VN Services' Bob Vail was invited to present at the National School Board Association Conference in Orlando, Florida on March 27th. The subject of the presentation was “Managing Your Construction Project”.

The conference took place March 27-30, 2004

and was attended by school administrators from across the country. The Conference offered more than 200 workshops and sessions, over 300 exhibits on the latest educational products and services, and offered participants the opportunity to meet and share their experiences. VN Services was honored to participate at this event.

## Stay on Schedule, Your Schedule:

Project scheduling is too critical a component to the success of a project to ignore. Whether scheduling is done “in-house” or an outsourced provider is used, the party doing the construction should have participation in the development of the schedule that is used to govern their work. It provides an indication of not only the project's progress, but where and how it is going.

With the availability of scheduling software and its relative ease of use, every construction project should contain some form of a critical path method schedule. It helps maintain project control and allows issues to be addressed before they impact the project. An investment in CPM scheduling will pay dividends both now and long into the future.

## From the President's Desk

As our society becomes more and more litigious, I am asked more frequently how a party can avoid or prepare for a potential claim situation. My answer is invariably to practice good project management techniques.

Construction is the only industry I am aware of that expects changes before the process has been started. In construction, changes are inevitable and time is crucial. Implementing

appropriate documentation and notification procedures will help keep things on track, and insure that if a dispute occurs you will be in a position to demonstrate your case effectively. Good policies and procedures are paramount to a project's success, while providing a record for future review. They help avoid claims and facilitate equitable compensation for changes that occur. — Robert Vail



## Allow Us To Introduce Richard Leach

Richard has been with VN Services for more than seventeen years. As Vice President of our Project Support and Contract Staffing division, Richard is in charge of all services related to the project management side of our business. Along with some hands on work, this includes overseeing all of VN Services' scheduling, contract staffing, project management auditing and partnering activities.

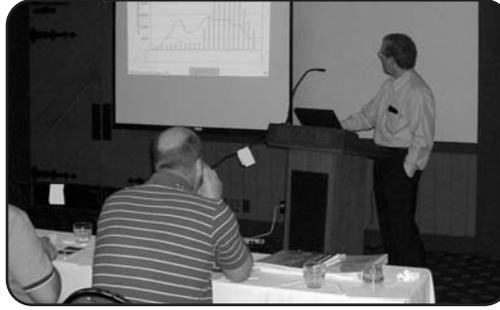
During his 24 year career, Richard has been involved with hundreds of projects ranging in size from fifty thousand to nine hundred million dollars. Richard also regularly performs hands-on scheduling and project management training for many of our clients.



In his spare time, Richard enjoys working on projects around his home and riding his motorcycle whenever possible. A native Clevelander, Richard resides on the southeast side of the city with his wife, Gail. VN Services is grateful to have such a loyal team member for so many years.

## Staying Involved:

VN Services was pleased to participate in the annual conference for the North Central Ohio Chapter of NECA at Salt Fork Resort April 23-25. Bob Vail presented a seminar on "Construction Claims Management" to the members and entertained questions afterward. Tom Shreves and his staff did a superb job in conducting the conference. The entire event was first class, and VN Services appreciated being involved.



## Recent Projects

**Lorman**  
Seminar

**Wade Trim**  
Villas Of Orange

**Roth Bros**  
Ross Correctional Inst.

**Sweney Electric**  
Documentation Training

**Snavely**  
CMHA Carver Park PH2

**NECA**  
Seminar

**Fletcher Clark**  
Anchor Bay High School

**TTE**  
Mehler & Hagestrom

**Roth Bros**  
Anheuser Busch

## "Quote" of Note

*"You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try."*  
— Beverly Sills

VN Services Quarterly is a publication for our employees, clients and friends with a circulation in excess of 2,500.

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