



# ACEA Today

Official quarterly newsletter of the Association of County Engineers of Alabama  
First Quarter 2010

## The Session's Not Over...Yet.

We are just past the halfway mark for the Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature, and if things feel like they are stuck in the muck, you aren't far from the truth. But, it's certainly not for the diligent efforts of



Tim Graves  
ACEA President  
Etowah County Engineer

ACCA staff: **Executive Director Sonny Brasfield, Association Counsel Mary Pons and Governmental Relations Specialist Bryant Raby.**

Before and during the Regular Session, Sonny, Mary and Bryant spend countless hours reading and debating legislation, making contacts with OUR legislators on OUR behalf to make sure the bills that are up for a vote are good bills and in no way harm Alabama's counties.

They make sure that we stay informed of all the legislation that is either being presented during a committee meeting or public hearing or will be on the agenda for the House of Representatives or Senate. They give us the information, the tools, the knowledge, the people to contact about legislation important to the daily passage of our jobs.

We must take that information and use it to promote our county situations. Then, it is up to us to take over at the local level. Call our legislators and send e-mails explaining why the passage of a particular bill would be either good or bad for county roads in Alabama. We

*We need everyone to call your legislators; send e-mails explaining why the passage of a particular bill would be either good or bad for county roads in Alabama; and travel to Montgomery on committee days to take a stand and speak out when the call comes.*

should travel to Montgomery on committee days, take a stand, and speak out when we can.

If you read the **Weekly Legislative Report** for the week ending **Feb. 19**, you may be shocked to know that many engineers were not making calls; weren't sending e-mails; hadn't traveled to Montgomery.

Log on to [www.acca-online.org](http://www.acca-online.org), and click on the **Legislative News** link at the top. Next, click on the **Weekly Reports** link for **Week Ending Feb. 19**. These reports are e-mailed to all members and then faxed to all county offices every Friday.

If you look at what happened in the House Committee on County and Municipal Government last week concerning the PayGo bill, only four of the 13 committee members voted for the bill. The remaining members voted to carry over the bill. Many commented that they had not been contacted by their constituency. In other words, **WE NEED TO DO MORE!**

With so many pieces of legislation being discussed in the House and the Senate, a legislators' best source of

information is people like us. It costs us nothing but a few moments of time each day to pick up the phone and contact our Representative or Senator and ask, "Hey, have you heard about the PayGo bill? Here's some information you may not know."

In order for the legislative process to work, particularly in favor of Alabama's counties when money is scarce and everyone is scrambling to find their little bit of it, we have to work **TOGETHER.**

There are 67 counties in Alabama and 67 county engineers. All 67 county engineers should band together in a show of force for the PayGo bill. It's not dead...yet. There's still time for us to make a stand and be heard. But, it's going to take **ALL OF US.**

Don't think that if you don't come to Montgomery, you won't be missed. You will be. County Day at the Legislature is coming up, and there's still time for you to make your reservations to attend. If you've never met your legislators, this is the perfect time to meet, break bread and discuss how things are for you back home....and how they could be better. *What are you waiting for?*

**ACEA 2009-10  
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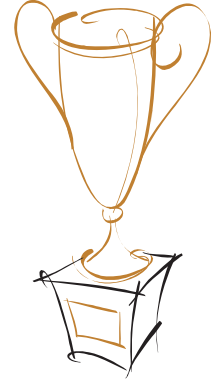
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**Do you know someone who has gone above-and-beyond the call of duty? Then, nominate them!**

The Association of County Engineers of Alabama is currently accepting applications for the **John F. Courson Excellence in County Engineering Award**.



ACEA would like to recognize projects, programs, and/or departments that have excelled in the field of county engineering. The John F. Courson Excellence in County Engineering Award will be awarded during the ACEA Annual Conference April 6 - 7, 2010, and will recognize unique, innovative, or superb accomplishments in county engineering in Alabama.

Individuals who wish to nominate a project, program, and/or department should fill out the nomination form included in the registration packet that can be found either on the ACCA Web site at [www.acca-online.org](http://www.acca-online.org) or on the ACEA Web site at [www.acea-online.org](http://www.acea-online.org) and return to the ACCA office along with a supporting letter.

**ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 3, 2010.** The nomination form and letter may be accompanied by supporting documentation, such as photos, charts, tables, etc.

If you have questions, please call **Donna Key** at (334) 263-7594.

**County Government Education Institute ready for enrollment!**

ACCA is proud to launch the **County Government Education Institute** to provide redesigned education programs for administrative personnel, engineers, 9-1-1 directors and other commission employees.

There are six CGEI classes planned for 2010, and you should receive a brochure in the mail detailing certificate and certification requirements, as well as registration information.

The most important thing to remember is that **all credits you receive under the prior educational program will be transferred to the new program and no credits will be lost during the switch to the new system.**

More information is online at [www.acca-online.org](http://www.acca-online.org) under the **Education Courses** tab. If you have questions, please contact **Lori Quiller** at [lquiller@acca-online.org](mailto:lquiller@acca-online.org).

**Have you visited ACEA-Online.org lately?**

ACEA's Web site, [www.acea-online.org](http://www.acea-online.org), is a wonderful tool for county engineers, particularly the Resources section, which contains valuable information engineers from across the state have been willing to share with their fellow engineers.

Topics range from Annual Bids and Asphalt Products to Engineers Reference Manual and Flood Zone Ordinances to Job Descriptions, Personnel Policies and Scholarship Information...and much, much more. We encourage you to login to this section of the Web site and take a few minutes to check out what's online.

If you have some information that you would like to contribute, please e-mail it to **Lori Quiller** at [lquiller@acca-online.org](mailto:lquiller@acca-online.org). And, if you've forgotten your username and password, Lori can give you that information as well.

association of county commissions of alabama  
**COUNTYDAY@THE** *Legislature*

March 31-April 1 • Alabama Activity Center | Alabama State House • Montgomery, Ala. • REGISTER TODAY!

**ALL COUNTIES SHOULD BE REPRESENTED!**

The 2010 County Day @ the Legislature will be **Wednesday, March 31**, and **Thursday, April 1**. This two-day event gives county officials an opportunity to show their strength and to spread their county's story to Alabama's lawmakers.

Log on to [www.acca-online.org](http://www.acca-online.org) and click on **Conferences and Events** to register online for County Day @ the Legislature and download an information packet and list of hotels.

Continuing the Wednesday-Thursday schedule this year will mean that fewer organizations will hold events on these days, and ACCA staff believes that it

will increase legislator participation in our breakfast and allow you to have greater access to your legislators for meetings and dinner.

A **Legislative Briefing** will be **Wednesday, March 31**, at the **Alabama Activity Center** in downtown Montgomery. *Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m., and the briefing will begin at 2:30 p.m. It will outline the current status of the ACCA's legislative package and danger bills.*

Dinner on Wednesday evening will be on your own. **We highly encourage you to begin making arrangements now to have dinner with your respective legislators.** This is the perfect opportunity for you to connect with your legislators! Use your time in Montgomery wisely!

Our traditional **Breakfast with Legislators** will be **Thursday, April 1**, in the Ballroom of the **Alabama Activity Center** from **7:45-9 a.m.** Following breakfast, we will go immediately to the Alabama State House and spend the rest of the morning lobbying.

County Day requires an overnight stay, so please plan accordingly.

Registration is **\$25** per person, which includes Breakfast with Legislators on Thursday.

Contact **Donna Key** by e-mail at [dkey@acca-online.org](mailto:dkey@acca-online.org) or at (334) 263-7594 if you have questions concerning County Day @ the Legislature.

**APRIL IS NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH.  
CELEBRATE WHAT YOU DO FOR YOUR RESIDENTS!**

National County Government Week was created 19 years ago to raise public awareness and better understanding about the roles and responsibilities of our nation's counties.

Due to the tremendous success nationally of this one week, the National Association of Counties' expanded the week to a full month to give local governments more time for activities to reach citizens through education and public outreach. Beginning in 2010, the month of **April** will be National County Government Month.

The activities held during April, sponsored by local governments, should be designed to help local citizens understand how their counties and elected officials can respond to their needs. In many ways, this special month is an introduction for county residents to their local government and its services.

By participating in National County Government Month, you and your fellow county leaders will be helping to elevate the public identity of local government in your community.

Most local residents don't see their government as doing good deeds for its residents. Instead, many residents only see government as the entity that raises taxes, refuses to pave a

road, or imposes regulations on them (such as mandatory trash collection in the county) that they may not immediately understand. For these residents, local government is viewed negatively, but there are many ways for you to turn the tide.



National County Government Month is the perfect opportunity for local officials and county employees to take the time to show our county residents, and local media, the good deeds that local government does every day.

A packet with several easy-to-do ideas to help your county get involved with National County Government Month, along with weekly *Tipster* mini-newsletters, can be found online at [www.acca-online.org](http://www.acca-online.org).

The national theme is "Healthy Counties," and your county commissions may call on you to help plan activities during April. **ACCA has fully endorsed this program for many years and has been pleased with Alabama's performance on the local level with this project.** We hope to continue our tradition again this year.

If you have questions, please contact **Director of Public Relations Lori M. Quiller** at (334) 263-7594 for details.

# ACEA ANNUAL Conference

April 6-7 • Marriott's Grand Hotel • Point Clear, Ala. • Register online at [www.acea-online.org](http://www.acea-online.org)

## TENTATIVE AGENDA

### Tuesday, April 6

- 10 a.m. **Golf Tournament Registration**  
*Timber Creek Golf Club*
- 11 a.m. **Shotgun Start, Golf Tournament**  
*(A boxed lunch will be provided)*
- 3 - 6 p.m. **Conference Registration**
- 6 - 7 p.m. **Opening Reception**  
*(Tournament prizes will be announced at the reception.)*

Dinner on your own.

### Wednesday, April 7

- 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. **Conference Breakfast**
- 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. **Board of Directors Meeting**
- 8 - 10:30 a.m. **Conference Registration**
- 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. **Opening General Session**
- Forecast for Equipment Rotation and Resell  
*Andy Fanter, Economist, InterCast*
  - ADPH Regulations for Flood Zones and Subdivisions  
*Pres Allinder, ADPH*
  - Examiners Report (Right-of-Way)  
*Mike Scroggins, Chief, County Audits*
  - Liability Update  
*Craig Dillard, Webb & Eley, P.C.*

12 - 1 p.m.

1:15 - 5 p.m.

6 - 8 p.m.

### President's Luncheon

*(Awards Ceremony, NACE Update and Business Session)*

### Afternoon General Session

- ALDOT Update  
*Ed Phillips, ALDOT*
  - Update from the Alabama Division of the Federal Highway Administration  
*Mark Bartlett, Division Administrator*
  - Engineers' Roundtable
  - Investigating the Use of Roundabouts  
*Joe Ruffer, Mobile County Engineer*
  - Herbicide in Different Areas of the State  
*Mark Pool, Houston County Engineer*  
*Brian Rosenbalm, Calhoun County Engineer*
  - Accounting for Expenses Software  
*Richie Beyer, Elmore County Engineer*
  - State Construction Stormwater Regulations  
*Chip Crockett, Water Division, ADEM*
  - Being Prepared When FEMA Assistance is Needed  
*Mark Pool, Dennis McCall and Randy Tindell*
  - ACCA Report  
*Sonny Brasfield, ACCA Executive Director*
- Conference Dinner at Wentzell's**  
*Entertainment by Crenshaw County Engineer Benjie Sanders and his band*

## Get to Know...Andy Fanter

### Opening General Session Speaker

Andy Fanter started InterCast in 1994, and still has his original client. The company is a division of Cyclcast, created in 1978 by Dick Fanter.

Andy consults more than 50 construction machinery dealers around the U.S., and in total, the companies consult for more than 100 dealers and manufacturers.

The forecasting model consists of housing, commercial construction, and

highway construction projected into the future. Dealer machine sales, rental, product support, and unit delivery data are trended against the various construction trends.

A forecast for the dealer is then generated in dollars by division, various unit delivery categories, and an overall construction activity outlook.

Currently, InterCast forecasts for more than 50 percent of the Caterpillar and Komatsu dealers in the U.S. In

addition, the company forecasts for 30 percent of the U.S. Case dealers, 20 percent of U.S. Deere industrial dealers, and 10 percent of the U.S. Bobcat and Volvo dealers. The company also provides construction activity forecasts for Europe, Canada and the world.

In his free time, Andy blue marlin fishes and duck hunts all over the world. He is a 1993 graduate of Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas.