



ACEA Today

Official quarterly newsletter of the Association of County Engineers of Alabama
Third Quarter 2008

County Engineers Are An Innovative Group

Recently I had the pleasure of speaking to the Alabama Local Government Training Institute in Auburn. Along with our colleague, **Houston County Engineer Mark**



*Richie Beyer, CEA
ACEA President
Elmore County Engineer*

Pool and Crenshaw County Commissioner Ronnie Hudson, we spoke and fielded questions related to rises in energy prices and their impact on county government. As I prepared for the session, one theme resonated with me: County engineers are an innovative group.

We talked collectively about countermeasures you can utilize to try to lower energy costs. What I found interesting was that a large majority of those countermeasures were instituted to save tax dollars prior to the seemingly exponential rise in energy costs. Fuel at the time was a minor component of those savings. Now fuel

costs seem to dictate every decision made.

One example, the four-day work week, has been a staple of life for many Alabama county highway departments for years and even decades. Criticized by some, now this schedule seems to be the trend everyone is implementing to help save on energy costs. County engineers may not have invented this concept, but its institution in Alabama counties was designed to utilize our county's limited resources to the fullest extent well before this time of energy issues.

Our session at the Institute proved to be educational for me as well. With the questions that were asked and comments made, it was very evident the county commissions we work for are keenly aware of many of the challenges we all face and are actively seeking solutions. With these new challenges, I am confident that more innovation will be derived from our counties. As innovations occur I feel

that it is even more paramount we utilize the communication abundant resources we have at our disposal.

Furthering the use of items such as our County Engineer's website and e-mail, along with more involvement in presentations at the division and statewide county engineer meetings, are just a few examples of ways to share our experiences. This sharing of information (failures and successes) can assist each and every one of us in our daily activities with the county and in many cases leads to further innovation.

So, as my term as your president comes to an end in the next month, I urge the membership to get plugged in at the division and state levels with your fellow county engineers. Together, through our combined efforts, we can perform at a higher level and provide the citizens of our counties and the State of Alabama collectively the best roads and bridges within our resources.

SAVE THESE DATES – COUNTY ENGINEERING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (July 9-10) This course details the critical role of the county engineering staff in disaster mitigation, planning and response. It describes the appropriate pre-disaster planning, what is expected during the disaster, and post-disaster follow-up and documentation. Panelists review an actual disaster and discuss the actions taken. \$155 – Call 800-634-7199 to register.

LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS (Oct. 15-16) County engineers work in a political environment dependent upon sound, personal relationships with the people and programs of state and federal governments. This course offers a broad overview of the unique relationship between counties and state governments and its impact on how county government operates. It includes the process for achieving success with local legislation and an introduction to some of the key players in county and state policymaking. \$155 – Call 800-634-7199 to register.

ACEA 2007-08 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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What's so special about ACCA's 80th Annual Convention?

The Association staff has engineered the 80th Annual Convention to make the week-long experience something special for each member.

Not only will there be interesting vendors to captivate and intrigue you on Tuesday, Aug. 19, but there are also plenty of educational sessions to give you exciting ideas to take back to your counties.

The registration desk will be open on Tuesday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. inside the Exhibit Hall. Be sure to pick up your registration packets for last-minute details about the week. There is also an ACEA Board of Directors meeting from 9-10 a.m. and an ACEA membership meeting from 10-11 a.m. **New board members will be elected during the membership meeting at 10 a.m., so please make every effort to attend!**

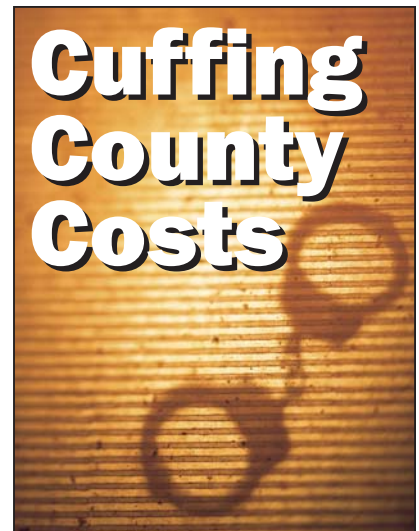
On Wednesday, Aug. 20, you might want to check out the hot topics during the Opening General Session. Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb will be on hand to discuss *Juvenile Justice Reform and Community Corrections*. For a look at a different type of court, join Montgomery County Judge Tracy McCooey for a look at drug court. And, to see what Alabama's District Attorneys are doing to fight the growing meth problem in our state, check out *ZEROMETH*. Following the County Agents Kitchen Lunch, be sure to catch one of the Concurrent Sessions.

- ➔ *Why You Need a Fatality Management Plan* with Cindy Lesinger of the Alabama Department of Public Health;
- ➔ *Houston County's Toll Road* with **Houston County Commission Chairman Mark Culver**;
- ➔ *Statewide Interoperability Program* with Art Faulkner of the Alabama Department of Homeland Security; to name a few.

Thursday, Aug. 21, will begin with the ACEA breakout session from 8:45 a.m.-12 p.m. ACEA President-Elect Wayne Sullivan will preside.

- ➔ County Transportation Bureau Chief Ed Phillips will kick off ACEA's breakout session with the *ALDOT Update*.
- ➔ Is your county considering going green? Then you won't want to miss *Using Cooking Oil for Bio-Diesel Fuel*.
- ➔ Do you know your *Worker's Compensation Losses*? If not, then you'll definitely want to check out this session.
- ➔ Be sure to stick around for an update on new road and bridge funding with **ACCA Assistant Executive Director Sonny Brasfield**.

ACCA's Business Session, following the Affiliate Reports and ACCA Annual Report, will include the reports of the Resolutions and Nominating Committees prior to the district caucuses. And, don't forget the **President's Banquet at 6:30 p.m.** followed by the **Presidential Inaugural Dance** featuring The Sweet Young 'Uns.



80th ANNUAL Convention

Aug. 19 - 21, 2008 • Perdido Beach Resort • Orange Beach, Ala. • TENTATIVE AGENDA

Monday, August 18

12 p.m.

Golf Tournament Lunch

1 p.m.

Golf Tournament Shotgun Start
Soldiers Creek Golf Course in Elberta, Ala.

1 – 7 p.m.

Fishing Expedition
Reel Surprise Charter Docks

Tuesday, August 19

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Affiliate Membership Meetings
ACEA - 10 a.m.; ACAA - 11 a.m.;
AAND - 3 p.m.; AAEM - 4 p.m.

11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Exhibit Showcase

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Registration Desk Open

12 – 1 p.m.

Strolling Lunch in the Exhibit Hall

1 – 5 p.m.

CROAA Educational Session

- Titling of Manufactured Homes, *Mike Gamble, ADOR*
- Preparing for the Next Legislative Session, *Sonny Brasfield, ACCA*
- Revenue and Economic Forecasting, *Kelly Butler, Legislative Fiscal Office*

1 – 2 p.m.

ACCA Board of Directors Meeting

2 – 3 p.m.

ACCA Workers' Compensation and
Liability Insurance Fund Meeting

5 – 6:30 p.m.

Opening Reception in the Exhibit Hall

Wednesday, August 20

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Convention Breakfast
Nominating Committee Meeting
Resolutions Committee Meeting

8 – 11:30 a.m.

Registration Desk Open

8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Opening General Session

- Juvenile Justice Reform and Community Corrections, *Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb*
- Montgomery County Drug Court Program, *Judge Tracy McCooey*
- ZEROMETH Program, *Etowah County District Attorney Jimmie Harp and Greg Davis, President of d groupe*
- NACo Update, *Don Stapley, NACo President-Elect*
- Alabama Department of Finance, *Jim Main, State Finance Director*

12 – 1:15 p.m.

County Agents Kitchen Lunch

1:30 – 4:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

- Saving Money on Juvenile Justice, *Morgan County Judge Shelly Waters, Morgan County Commission Chairman John Glasscock*
- Removing Sales Tax on Food, *Kimble Forrester, Alabama ARISE*
- Why You Need a Fatality Management Plan, *Cindy Lesinger, ADPH*
- Houston County Toll Road, *Houston County Commission Chairman Mark Culver*
- Statewide Interoperability Program, *Art Faulkner, ADHS*
- It's A Thick Book – Constitutional Reform Video

Thursday, August 21

7:45 – 8:45 a.m.

County Agents Kitchen Breakfast

8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

CROAA Educational Session

- Business Session
- Tax Abatements, *Angela Till, ADOR*
- Current Issues Regarding Sales and Use Taxes, *Jeff Patterson, Attorney*

8:45 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Breakout Sessions:

Commissioners

- Wireless Internet for Economic Development, *Danny D'Andre, Alabama Power Company*

- Pros and Cons of Tax Abatements
- National Incident Management System, *Richard Harvey, Fire Chief, City of Springville*
- How U.S. Communities Can Work for Your County, *Mary Pelfrey, Program Coordinator*

ACEA

- ALDOT Update, *Ed Phillips, ALDOT County Transportation Bureau Chief*
- Use of Recycled Cooking Oil for Bio-Diesel Fuel, *Rob McElroy, Daphne Utilities General Manager*
- Workers Compensation Losses, *Jerry Gill and Connie Wilson, Meadowbrook Insurance*
- Concrete Inverts for Metal Pipes, *Chambers County Engineer Henry Hawkins*
- Update on New Road and Bridge Funding, *Sonny Brasfield, ACCA*

ACAA

- Examiners Report, *Mike Scroggins*
- Ins and Outs of Property Insurance, *Cindy Mims, Meadowbrook Insurance*
- Update on Bid Law Changes

AAEM and AAND

- What is Your Persona?, *Buddy Sharpless*
- DHS Update
- Examiners Report, *Mike Scroggins*
- Update on Bid Law Changes

10:45 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Spouse Program – A Day at the SPA

12 – 1:15 p.m.

Convention Luncheon Honoring
2007-2008 President Jerold Dean

1:45 – 4:45 p.m.

Afternoon General Session: Awards
Ceremony, Affiliate Reports, ACCA Annual
Report and Business Session

6:30 p.m.

President's Banquet Honoring 2008-2009
President-Elect Joe Faulk

8 p.m.

President's Inaugural Dance Featuring *The Sweet Young 'Uns*

80th ANNUAL Convention

Aug. 19 - 21, 2008 • Perdido Beach Resort • Orange Beach, Ala. • REGISTRATION

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

County or Company Name: _____

Person Completing Form: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

ACCA member registration is **\$185 per person before July 25.** (\$210 per person after July 25.)

Company registration is **\$265 per person before July 25.** (\$290 per person after July 25)

\$_____ Total amount enclosed. **Please do not ask ACCA to bill you.**

List below those you are registering for the convention. Please indicate if each person is a
(C) Commissioner, (CA) Clerk/Administrator, (CE) County Engineer, (ACE) Assistant County Engineer, (EIT)
Engineer in Training, (AAEM) Emergency Management, (CROAA) County Revenue Officer, (AAND) E-911,
(CR) Company Representative, (G) Guest or (S) Spouse.

Please note that cancellations will not be refunded after Friday, Aug. 8, 2008.

Please return completed form and check payable to ACCA by Friday, July 25, to:

ACCA Annual Convention • 100 N. Jackson Street • Montgomery, Ala. 36104 • Fax (334) 263-7678