



ACEA Today

Official quarterly newsletter of the Association of County Engineers of Alabama
Fourth Quarter 2009 and Legislative Conference Issue

Let's Get FIRED UP!

It's that time of year when most everyone is thinking about the holidays.

Thanksgiving is just a few weeks away, so families will soon be gathering together for big get-togethers and will eat way too much turkey and pumpkin pie. Christmas is right around the corner, and shoppers will be out in full force – hopefully jamming malls and stores and purchasing tons of presents for friends and family members.

Of course, as engineers we can't forget that this is also hunting season, so many of us will find time to squeeze in more than a few cold, early mornings in search of the perfect target...

But, this is also the perfect time for us to set our sights on a target of a different type – one in Montgomery. This target doesn't have antlers or



Tim Graves
ACEA President
Etowah County Engineer

hooves. It doesn't move quietly or with much stealth or grace.

No, this target is the **Regular Session** of the **Alabama Legislature**. And, if it's not already on your radar, then you're behind the curve.

The ACCA staff held several district meetings in October to begin firing up the general membership for the legislative session that begins on **Tuesday, Jan. 12**.

There's a lot of work to be done between now and January, and if you haven't already registered for the **ACCA Legislative Conference** in December, take a few minutes to log on to www.acca-online.org and go to **Conferences and Events**. It won't take long to register, and you WILL reap the benefits of attending this conference.

We engineers have a breakout session during the Legislative Conference, and if you're curious about the topics, check out the agenda on page 4. I'm sure you'll find something interesting.

As for what's to come during the legislative session...well, we already know part of the story.

Funding for county roads is scarce. We are looking at difficult months ahead with proration in schools, other state programs facing serious budget shortfalls, but we cannot back down on this issue when lives are at stake. *We have to find a way to be heard in the halls of the Alabama State House.* And, the best way to do that is to continue what we've been doing for the last several years. *Communicating.*

Talk to your legislators. Pick up the phone and call your senators and representatives. Send them e-mails. Let them know that you need them, and they need you, as well.

Expect the Association to blast e-mail communications asking for us to make phone calls and send e-mails...anything we can do to get in touch with our legislators once the legislative session begins. Don't wait. Open those doors NOW!

SAVE THIS DATE...

COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA RELATIONS (Dec. 8-9 in conjunction with ACCA's Legislative Conference in Montgomery) Participants learn effective communication in the workplace, the factors that foster poor communication, and the elements needed to make a good communicator. Understanding how to communicate with different personality types, constructive criticism, effective listening skills, and verbal and nonverbal communication are topics in this course. Participants also learn how to more effectively deal with the media, and when and what type of response is needed for specific situations.

Call 800-634-7199 to register. Registration fee is \$155.



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ACEA Past President running for national office.

Elmore County Engineer and ACEA Past President **Richie Beyer, CEA**, is running for National Association of County Engineers' secretary/treasurer. Beyer currently serves as the organization's Alabama director.



Richie Beyer

“The continued support of my colleagues in ACEA and the Elmore County Commission has truly been a blessing to me,” Beyer said. “Without their support, I wouldn’t have been able to accept a leadership position in our state organization, much less our national organization. Having a voice at the national level is incredibly important now more than ever before when funding is so tight.”

Beyer has been a member of ACEA’s Board of Directors for many years, serving not only as president, vice president and secretary/treasurer, but also on several special committees, such as Joint Bid and Technology, which was the committee responsible for the ACEA Web site, www.acea-online.org. He also continues to serve on several ACCA special committees throughout the year.

Joint Bid Program gearing up for another year.

We are nearing another round of bidding for the ACCA Joint Bid Program. This program has been successful thanks to the efforts of Alabama’s county engineers. It has saved counties a great deal of time and money over the years. Please continue to provide input so that we may make additional improvements to the program.



Despite the significant funding problems facing county government, there have been several items sold from the 2009 bid list. Some of the items purchased include: seven backhoes, almost 40 dump chassis, 11 motorgraders and almost 20 tractors. There were other items purchased, but these were the more popular items in 2009. There were also several street signs and herbicides purchased from the bid list.

You will notice the current bid specs call for the dump chassis to be delivered by Dec. 31, 2010. The intent of this change is to make it easier to deal with future changes to emissions standards. You will recall that we had to offer another bid for just dump chassis earlier this year due to the new emissions standards that will be implemented for 2010. Hopefully, this change will prevent us from having a second bid offering in the same year in the future.

The items that were bid are available on the ACCA Web site. The items available on the list are very similar to those in years’ past. We understand that budgets are tight this year, but if you do have heavy equipment, street signs, or herbicides in your budget, please consider the ACCA Joint Bid Program. The program will save your county time and money.

*Bryant Raby
ACCA Governmental Relations Specialist*



ENGINEERS FALL MEETING

Nov. 16-17, 2009 • Marriott Legends • Prattville, Ala.

The 2009 Engineers Fall Meeting will be held Nov. 16-17, 2009, at the Marriott Legends in Prattville, Ala. Registration is \$50 per person and cancellations received after Nov. 9 will not be refunded. Below is a tentative schedule. There's still time to register online at www.acca-online.org.

A block of rooms was set up at The Legends. The deadline to reserve a room has passed, but you may call them at (800) 593-6429 and mention the Engineers Fall Meeting or go to www.marriott.com and search for the Marriott Prattville to see if any rooms are available.

PROPOSED AGENDA

MONDAY, NOV. 16

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Registration at the Marriott Legends
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Welcome Ed Phillips
10:45 – 11:15 a.m.	ACCA Update Sonny Brasfield, ACCA Executive Director
11:15 – 11:45 a.m.	ALDOT Update Ed Phillips (Howard Peavey, Cogongrass Eradication ARRA Grant)
11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Lunch On Your Own
1 – 1:15 p.m.	Comments Joe McInnes, Don Vaughn and Don Arkle
1:15 – 1:30 p.m.	FHWA Update Mark Bartlett
2 – 2:30 p.m.	Africanized Honey Bees
2:30 - 5 p.m.	Topics TBA
6 – 7:30 p.m.	Dinner at the Marriott Legends

TUESDAY, NOV. 17

8 – 10 a.m.	County Transportation Bureau Update
8 – 8:30 a.m.	Procedural Guidelines Mack Lovelady
8:30 – 9 a.m.	HRRRP Update Brad Lindsey
9 – 9:30 a.m.	Maintenance Issues Don Harris
9:30 – 10 a.m.	Agreements, Letting and Awards Ed Austin
10 – 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 – 10:45 a.m.	7th Division Update Dee McDaniel
10:45 – 11:15 a.m.	8th Division Update Jody Camp
11:15 – 11:45 a.m.	9th Division Update Chuck Tolbert
11:45 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Questions
12 p.m.	Adjourn



2009 LEGISLATIVE Conference

Dec. 9-10 • Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Conference Center • Montgomery, Ala. • REGISTER TODAY!

OPENING GENERAL SESSION

- **Preview of the 2010 Legislative Session**
Hon. Seth Hammett, Speaker of the House
- **Financial Challenges for the 2010 Session**
Rep. John Knight (D-Montgomery)
- **Projections on the Federal Highway Trust Fund**
Don Vaughn, ALDOT Chief Engineer (invited)
- **A Health Care Reform Update**
Paul Beddoe, NACo Associate Legislative Director
- **An Unemployment Forecast**
Tom Surtees, Director of Alabama Department of Industrial Relations
- **A Forecast for the Coming Election Year and a Focus on Overseas Absentee Voting**
Beth Chapman, Alabama Secretary of State

ACEA BREAKOUT AGENDA

- **Joint Transportation Committee Review**
Sen. Larry Means (D-Cherokee and Etowah Counties)
- **Onsite Wastewater Regulations**
Greg Locklear and Pres Allinder, Alabama Department of Public Health
- **Collection Point for Gas and Motor Fuel Taxes**
Petroleum and Convenience Marketers of Alabama
- **GIS-Based Infrastructure Management**
Wayne Sullivan, Jefferson County Engineer

For more details, log online at www.acca-online.org.

HOW TO REGISTER ONLINE FOR ACCA'S LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

- Registrations will not be accepted via any other method. You **MUST** register through the online system.
- Think about assigning the duty of registering everyone in your office to one staff member. That staff member would be responsible for registering each person for all ACCA events and keeping up with everyone's login and password.
- Go to www.acca-online.org.
- Click on the **Conferences and Events** tab on the top left side of the menu bar. Scroll down to the **ACCA Legislative Conference**. Click on the tab to register online. *(This will bring you to a welcome page.)*
- Your first step is to login. You must be logged in to register for an event. Click on **Login** on the left side of the page.
- Enter your primary e-mail address. *If you have never registered before, your default password is **Password1**.* After you login for the first time, it will prompt you to change to password. After you change your password, click on **Click Here to Continue**. This will bring up all of your current account information.
- **If it says incorrect e-mail or password**, we must not have you in the system. Go up to **New Visitor Registration** to create an account. You'll need to enter your contact information and hit **Create Account**. From there continue on to the next step.
- From here click **Upcoming Events** on the left side of the page. This will bring up a list of all upcoming events. There will be several pages. Scroll through the pages to find the Legislative Conference.
- Click on the **Legislative Conference** and click **Register for this Event**. Look over the badge information provided and click on **Add to Cart**.
- When you click on Add to Cart you might see a button at the bottom of the page that says **Group Registration**. Click on this to register multiple people from your county at once.
- When you are ready, hit the **Checkout** button in the shopping cart. Enter your billing information if necessary. Click **Next**. Then choose your payment option. You have the option of being billed for the event or paying with a credit card. **If you choose Bill Me, please print your receipt and use that as an invoice for payment.** Please make all checks payable to ACCA, 100 N. Jackson Street, Montgomery, AL 36104.
- Once you complete your registration, you will receive a confirmation e-mail detailing your purchase.
- Questions? Please call (334) 263-7594 or e-mail Jennifer Datcher (jdatcher@acca-online.org) or Donna Key (dkey@acca-online.org) in the ACCA Office.

