

AAND Today

Official quarterly newsletter of the Alabama Association of 9-1-1 Districts

First Quarter 2007

AAND's New President Ushers in a New Year...

Each year, we elect new officers and board members and begin to draft a new chapter in the history of our association. Our history is short, but our accomplishments have been great. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our past presidents, **Art Faulkner** and **Roger Wilson**, who put this association on the right path. I know I have some big shoes to fill, but because of their tireless efforts I feel confident they will be comfortable and sensible shoes. The officers and board members you have elected to serve this association in the coming year are some of the most dedicated folks I've ever had the privilege to work with, and we have committed to serve you and your 9-1-1 district to the best of our ability.

Recently, your AAND board of directors met in Montgomery with the leadership of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama. We have set a number of goals that we hope will serve you better as a member of the Association and foster improved communication and relationships among ourselves and others across this great state. We want to conduct the first-ever district meetings in February in preparation for the Legislative Session, and we have established a Legislative Committee to coordinate our efforts in Montgomery with a renewed focus on resolving the conflict with those prepaid and VoIP providers that are still not remitting their monthly service charge.

Additionally, if you are reading this letter, you will see that we have established a quarterly newsletter that we hope will effectively aid in the dissemination of valuable information. We will also continue to develop and improve our educational program and many of the board members are serving on ACCA's Steering Committees.

As your president, I want you to know that I care what you think! I want to hear from you. In a recent article, one of the great leaders in the 9-1-1 industry, Dr. Bill Munn, used a great quotation to illustrate the point I want to make to you today. As Gen. George Patton once stated, "No one is thinking if everyone is thinking alike." We, as a membership need to work toward the best interests of 9-1-1 for all ECDs in a cooperative and open manner, with everyone's opinions being of value. We need to have the



Immediate Past President Roger Wilson receives a plaque from President-Elect Chris Heger during the Association of County Commissions of Alabama's 78th Annual Convention in August commemorating his service to AAND.

ability to recognize opportunities when they present themselves, realistically confront the challenges we face, and stand together as a united front against any threat...and believe me, we will face many in the months to come. No one person can do all that alone. It takes a team of many, with many different and diverse gifts and talents to accomplish our mission, and I want you to be a part of that team.

I want to know what YOU think. You should have received or will be receiving dues letters for the coming year. If you are already a member, please renew your membership and invite your neighboring ECD who may not be a member to join also. WE NEED YOU!

Thank you again for your vote of confidence! I look forward to working with each of you and participating in our state government for the good of Alabama 9-1-1.

Chris Heger, Baldwin County 9-1-1, AAND President

**Alabama Association
of 9-1-1 Districts
2006-2007
Board of Directors**

CHRISTINE HEGER

President
Baldwin County

DONNIE SMITH

Vice President
Chambers County

HUNTER SIMMONS

Secretary / Treasurer
City of Homewood

GEORGE GRABRYAN

District 1
Lauderdale County

ERNIE BLAIR

District 2
Huntsville-Madison County

CATHY BOYD

District 3
Mountain Brook

ROD COLEMAN

District 4
Tuscaloosa County

BILL RICHVALSKY

District 5
St. Clair County

ANNETTE DEVAUGHN

District 6
Elmore County

HEATHER WALTON

District 7
Conecuh County

PAT HALL

District 8
City of Dothan

PAST PRESIDENTS

ROGER WILSON
Walker County

ART FAULKNER
Homeland Security

Membership Has Its Privileges...

You may be wondering about this newsletter you're reading right now...just why did you receive it?

As a member of the Alabama Association of 9-1-1 Districts, membership has its privileges! And, one of the benefits of membership is this newsletter, which will be published quarterly and jam-packed with information we think will be quite useful to you as 9-1-1 directors in the counties.

AAND is a statewide organization of professionals just like you. Through the Association, you will be provided educational opportunities to further your skills as a leader in your profession, all the while making important contacts that can prove most useful in the future.

Not a member of AAND? Then, you are receiving this inaugural edition of *AAND Today* with our compliments! If you would like to continue to receive future editions of this newsletter, or would like to learn more about becoming a member of AAND, please contact **Hunter Simmons**, AAND secretary/treasurer, by e-mail at hunter.simmons@homewoodal.org.



If you are looking for a group of professionals just like you, then look no further...because we are looking for YOU, too! Join AAND today!

Sincere Thanks for a Wonderful Year...

As past president, I want to thank those that worked the Legislature during my term. When BellSouth introduced its legislation for deregulation, we had to go into action, and we did. We introduced an amendment to establish bundled rates for leveled fees and added VoIP into our 9-1-1 law. We sought an increase in the wireless 9-1-1 fee, but without success.

Another project that took off was the 9-1-1 Director Certification Program. We have already held several classes and have had good attendance. The two classes specifically for 9-1-1 have been decided upon and are being developed.

As the immediate past president, I will serve on the Executive Committee and as a member of the Legislative Committee. This next Legislative year will be our year to get an increase in the wireless 9-1-1 fee. I ask that immediately following the November elections that you make contact with your Senators and Representatives and let them know who you are and offer your assistance on any 9-1-1-related issues that arise in Montgomery. It takes each of us to accomplish what needs to be done for 9-

1-1, so let's pull together for a better tomorrow for 9-1-1.

As **Chris Heger** enters into her term as president, I ask that each of us be there to support her.

In closing, I would like to thank **Sonny Brasfield** and the ACCA staff for their assistance during my term. There were definitely some interesting times, but all in all it was a great time I will always remember.

*Roger Wilson, Walker County 9-1-1,
AAND Past President*

AAND District Meetings

AAND will hold district meetings in February to prepare for the 2007 Legislative Session and to discuss other issues important to local 9-1-1 programs.

The meetings will be coordinated by each district representative to AAND's Board of Directors. More details will be circulated later, but you can volunteer by contacting your board member.

Get Involved in Your County Stakeholder Program...

Since its creation in 2003, one of the primary goals of the Alabama Department of Homeland Security (AL DHS) has been to build strong county teams across the state. That means making each of our counties as valuable an asset as possible to their citizens and their state. As Director of the Alabama Department of Homeland Security, Jim Walker has worked to ensure that these county teams are invaluable to our state in the event that federal Homeland Security grant money decreases.

Involving all local-level stakeholders in the grant distribution process is just one way of doing this. We brought together each Homeland Security point of contact and required them to establish a stakeholder committee made up of each discipline and each city in their county. These stakeholders were then asked to meet and develop a spending strategy for their counties. This process allows each member of the committee to have a voice in assessing county needs and determining which capabilities are lacking or needed. The work of these committees has benefited many 9-1-1 districts, and in doing so, has strengthened the 9-1-1 system as a whole. That's because federal Homeland Security dollars have been put into the 9-1-1 system as a result of stakeholder committees recognizing the needs of their 9-1-1 districts.

These districts have also witnessed considerable upgrades in communications technology. Old radios and

communications consoles have been replaced. Outdated computers have been brought up to speed. And, interoperable communications initiatives within each county were given funding to create a minimum communications capability, meaning everyone could operate on the same basic playing field.

This same initiative enabled counties to update repeaters and other communications tools, and allowed some counties to purchase repeaters for the first time. It also built an enhanced state and regional mobile communications capability. Mobile communications vehicles were placed in every region in the state, and one was also purchased for the Alabama Emergency Management Agency. Additionally, a mobile 9-1-1 vehicle was purchased. It is equipped with an IP-based 9-1-1 switch and can be used to enhance district call capacity or handle district calls in the event a district's switch is down.

As the Alabama Department of Homeland Security continues to foster the concept of building strong county teams, I urge each of you to actively participate in your county stakeholder committees. As grant funding decreases, strong county teams will play an increasingly vital role in securing future funds for counties. And, it will also serve as a key component in building and maintaining your current capabilities.

Art Faulkner, Homeland Security, AAND Past President

Get to Know Your Committee Members...

With the next Legislative Session around the corner, it's time to get to know your new Legislative Committee members. This session is already shaping up to be an active session, and there may be times when we will issue a "call to action" – meaning we need a show of force in the halls of the Alabama Legislature in downtown Montgomery!

Being on the Legislative Committee is a tough job, so the next time you meet a member, be sure to say thanks for a job well done! This year's members are Chairman **Art Faulkner**, **Ernie Blair**, ACCA Assistant Executive Director **Sonny Brasfield**, **Rod Coleman**, **Annette Devaughn**, **Johnny Hart**, AAND President **Chris Heger**, AAND Secretary/Treasurer **Hunter Simmons**, **Donnie Smith**, **Roger Wilson** and **Larry Wright**.

Another important committee that we have members volunteering their time for is the ACCA Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee. **Chris Heger** and **Donnie Smith** are serving on this committee and helping to shape ACCA's Legislative platform for the coming session.

Upcoming Education Courses...

Jacksonville State University, University of North Alabama and Troy University Dothan partnered with AAND, under the guidance of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama, to provide education and training programs leading to a certification as a 9-1-1 Administrative Professional.

This program was designed for the directors of AAND and includes seven courses of 12 hours each. A total of 84 hours is required to complete the certificate program.

For information, contact Ann Wells at Jacksonville State University at 800-634-7199, Lavonne Gatlin at University of North Alabama at 800-825-5862 ext. 5987, or Mary Davis at Troy University Dothan at (334) 983-0005.

Jan. 17-18: General Management and Supervision II or Disaster Preparedness (Your choice of class)

Feb. 14-15: Fundamentals of Emergency Communication District Administration I

March 14-15: Fundamentals of Emergency Communication District Administration II

Are You Registered for the 2006 Annual Legislative Conference?

If you have not yet registered for ACCA's 2006 Annual Legislative Conference, it's not too late. The conference is Dec. 14-15 at Renaissance Ross Bridge in Hoover, Ala. If you register before Nov. 17, registration is only \$110 per person for members.

If you have not yet reserved your hotel room, you need to do so quickly. Ross Bridge is full, but additional rooms have been arranged at the Hilton Garden Inn just off Lakeshore Parkway. Rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn are \$129 and may be reserved by calling (205) 314-0274. The deadline to receive this special rate is Nov. 22, and all you have to do is identify yourself as a member of ACCA.

As an added bonus for those of you working toward your certification, there is an educational opportunity for those much-needed credits that will begin on Wednesday, Dec. 13, and end by 12 p.m. on Thursday prior to the Legislative Conference. To register for this class, please contact Mary Davis at Troy University Dothan at (334) 983-0005.

During the Legislative Conference, AAND will have a breakout session on Friday morning, Dec. 15, immediately following the morning general session from 10:15 a.m. until 12 p.m. And, be sure to stay for lunch and the ACCA Business Session to vote on the Legislative program. So, what are you waiting for...REGISTER!

2006 ACCA Legislative Conference Registration Form

County Name: _____

Person Completing Form: _____

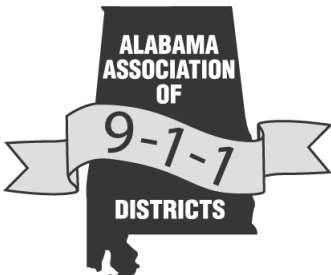
Phone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____ Email _____

ACCA member registration fee is **\$110** per person if paid before Nov. 17. (After Nov. 17, registration is \$125 per person.)
Non-ACCA member registration is **\$150** per person. (Company personnel only.)

\$_____ Total amount enclosed. Please do not ask ACCA to bill you. I have a disability requiring special assistance.

List below those you are registering for the conference. Please indicate if each person is a (AAND) E-911, (G) Guest or (S) Spouse.

**To pre-register for the conference, please fax this form to (334) 263-7678.
Please return completed form and check payable to ACCA by Nov. 17, 2006, to:
ACCA Legislative Conference | 100 N. Jackson Street | Montgomery, Ala. 36104 | Fax (334) 263-7678**



**100 N. Jackson Street
Montgomery, Ala. 36104**