



AAND Today

Official quarterly newsletter of the Alabama Association of 9-1-1 Districts
Special ACCA 79th Annual Convention Issue

New 911 Act to Bring Change in Next Two Years

Change. Perhaps that word best describes what will happen over the next few months as a result of the enactment of the new law drafted and negotiated by the Alabama Association of 911 Districts.

The first big change is designed to put in place Phase II technology in every 911 district in Alabama in the next 24 months. The legislation provides up to \$2 million to reimburse districts for their expenditures to put Phase II in operation.

“We are very excited about the possibility of Alabama being fully Phase II compliant in the next two years,” said **AAND President Chris Heger** of Baldwin County. “Many districts simply did not have the money to make the change without this legislation.”

Also included in the legislation is the redistribution of 24 percent of the existing monthly fee paid by Alabama wireless customers.

The change will shift an estimated \$6.2 million a year from the companies providing wireless service into the operating budgets of the 911 districts that are utilizing the Phase II technology.

Because this revenue will not be provided to the districts until the \$2 million fund for Phase II reimbursement is established, local districts should not expect an increase in their revenue before February or March 2008.

Many technical changes were also made in the administrative and enforcement powers of the Commercial Mobile Radio Service Board, including provisions making it easier to conduct audits of the wireless companies remitting the monthly customer service

fee, penalties for any unpaid fees and the appointment of board members when the Alabama Legislature is not in session.

“Many of the changes related to the CMRS board are just technical,” Heger said. “However, it is important that the law now spells out how audits are to be conducted by the board. The new law even states that the board must follow the Alabama Taxpayers Bill of Rights, so it is fair to all concerned.”

Finally, the legislation also creates the Alabama Emergency Communication District Long-Range Study Commission. This commission is to evaluate a number of issues related to the operation of 911 districts, including the current funding and collection processes used in Alabama and other states, the administrative procedures used here in Alabama and other states, the technology used to provide 911 service, and the collection of the statewide 911 fee from those companies providing prepaid wireless communication services.

AAND will appoint two directors of local 911 programs to the study commission and the Association of County Commissions of Alabama and the Alabama League of Municipalities will each appoint a member of local 911 board. Four legislators will serve on the commission along with representatives of the wireless and wire line telephone industries and other groups.

The commission is to report its recommendations to the Alabama Legislature before the fifth day of the 2008 regular session, which begins in February. Any recommendations requiring changes to Alabama statutes will not take affect until approved by the

House and Senate and signed by Gov. Bob Riley.

“I believe this study commission is a very positive thing for the long-term future of 911 in Alabama,” Heger concluded. “Alabama has long been THE leader in 911 service and our willingness to take a look at new ideas only shows that we continue to be a national leader.”

SAVE THESE DATES...

LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL

RELATIONS (Oct. 17-18, 2007, in Montgomery) Public officials 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 the state governments, and its impact on the operation of county government. It includes the process of achieving success with location legislation and an introduction to some of the key players in county and state policymaking. \$155 - Call 800-634-7199 to register.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION I (Nov. 14-15, 2007, in Dothan)

The 9-1-1 administrator wears many hats: a leader, a manager and a supervisor. This course teaches the basic skills necessary to supervise employees, and how to apply many tried-and-tested management techniques that will help improve the performance of employees and the functioning of the unit. \$155 - Call 800-634-7199 to register.

ETHICS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES (DEC. 4-5, 2007, in Auburn in conjunction with ACCA's Legislative Conference)

As a public employee, the actions of 9-1-1 administrators are subject to regular scrutiny by the public and media. They are also subject to well-defined state laws governing real or perceived conflicts of interest, and the use of a professional position for personal gain. This course provides 9-1-1 administrators with a foundation on Alabama's ethics laws. \$155 - Call 800-634-7199 to register.

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Why Should You Attend ACCA's 79th Annual Convention?

...because it's so much more than a week at the beach! Not only will there be interesting vendors to captivate and intrigue you on Tuesday, Aug. 21, 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 AAND membership meeting from 3-4 p.m. in Sand Castle II. *New board members will be elected during this meeting, so please make every effort to attend!*

On Wednesday, Aug. 22, during the Opening General Session, you might want to check out, *County to County: Helping in Times of Disaster*, with Alabama Emergency Management Agency Assistant Director John James and Coffee County Emergency Management Director John Tallas. Following the County Agents Kitchen Lunch, be sure to catch one of the Concurrent Sessions.

- If your county considering going "GREEN," or you are concerned about the energy efficiency of your county, then check out *Session B: Energy Efficiency in Your County – Saving Tax-Payer Dollars* in Salon E at 1:30-2:15 p.m. and again at 3:15-4 p.m.
- The recent passage of the County Modernization Act is big news to a lot of people in county government, but there are many people who don't quite understand this new piece of legislation. Check out *Session C: County Modernization Act* in Salons FGH at 1:30-2:15 p.m. and again at 3:15-4 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 23, will begin with the AAND breakout session in Sand Dollar from 8:45 a.m.-12 p.m. Newly elected **AAND President Donnie Smith**, will preside.

- **Chambers County 9-1-1 and EMA Director Donnie Smith** will kick off morning session with a *TERT Update* from 8:45-9:30 a.m.
- Lee Moore with 9-1-1Consult, Inc., will be on hand from 9:30-10:15 a.m. for a discussion of the *Statewide Networks – Laying the Local Foundation for Next Generation 9-1-1*.
- ACCA Assistant Executive Director Sonny Brasfield will take the podium from 10:30-11:15 a.m. to discuss an *Update on Wireless Telephone Fee Legislation*.
- Wrapping up the morning session, Dr. Brad Fields, director of Emergency Programs with the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, will discuss, *Agricultural Terrorism*, from 11:15 a.m.-12 p.m.

Immediately following the last session, everyone will gather in Salons DEFGH for the Convention Luncheon Honoring ACCA 2006-07 President Rhondel Rhone from 12-1:15 p.m. The Afternoon General Session in Salons ABC will follow lunch and open with the awards ceremony. There will also be a *Report on the Alabama State Employees' Insurance Board* with Alabama State Employees' Insurance Board Executive Director William Ashmore and ACCA Executive Director Buddy Sharpless.

Following the Affiliate Reports and ACCA Annual Report will be the ACCA Business Session in which the reports of the Resolutions and Nominating Committees will be announced before the district caucuses will take place. And, don't forget the President's Banquet at 6:30 p.m. in Salons DEFGH.



Summer One-Day 9-1-1 Training Workshop a Success...

The Alabama Association of 9-1-1 Districts held its first One-Day Workshop on July 10 at the Fire Fighter Training Center in Wetumpka, Ala. Attendance was excellent, as more than 50 AAND personnel attended the event.

“Our first workshop was a huge success,” said **AAND President Chris Heger**. “Attendance exceeded my expectations, and I think this is a clear indication of the growing interest in our association. Comments from the attendees indicated that the topics were timely and informative and that they enjoyed the speakers’ presentations. I hope this will become an annual event.”

Fred Hayek, from the investment firm Hayek Kallen in Fairhope, Ala. spoke about the legal requirements for 9-1-1 districts in regards to investing money and answered questions from

attendees on investment opportunities and market trends.

AAND Past President Art Faulkner, always a welcome speaker for the group, gave an update from the Department of Homeland Security. **Chambers County 9-1-1 Director Donnie Smith** and Fred Springall from the Alabama Emergency Management Agency teamed to talk about *Communications During Mutual Aid Issues* and the *Regional Communications Vehicle*.

Despite blowing the breakers a few times, participants were able to tour the vehicle and get a first-hand lesson on how the vehicle can be used in times of disaster.



Pictured is Fred Hayek during his presentation at the One-Day Workshop.

ACCA Assistant Executive Director Sonny Brasfield gave an update on implementing HB318, the new wireless telephone fee legislation. He will update members again on the progress being made, and any other need-to-know information at the ACCA’s Annual Convention in August.

79th ACCA Annual Convention Registration Form

County or Company Name: _____ Person Completing Form: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Registration fee is \$185 per person for *ACCA members* if paid **before July 27**. (\$210 per person after July 27)

Registration fee is \$265 per person for *company representatives* if paid **before July 27**. (\$290 per person after July 27)

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

List below the names of the persons you are registering for the conference. Please indicate if each person is a (C) Commissioner, (CA) Clerk/Administrator, (CE) County Engineer, (EIT) Engineer in Training, (EMA) Emergency Management, (CRO) County Revenue Officer, (911) 9-1-1 Administrator, (G) Guest, (S) Spouse.

**Please return form and check payable to ACCA by July 27, 2007 to:
ACCA Convention • 100 N. Jackson Street • Montgomery, Ala. 36104 • Fax (334) 263-7678**



100 N. Jackson Street
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Important ACCA Convention Info Inside...