



AAND Today

Official quarterly newsletter of the Alabama Association of 9-1-1 Districts
Second Quarter 2010

Looking Forward and Ready for Change!

By: Sonny Brasfield

Just the other day AAND held one of its best attended events – which hopefully set the tone for the next four years to be very productive for 9-1-1 in Alabama.

By the time the leaves begin to change in the Fall we'll have a new group of state leaders and 140 state legislators ready to put their stamp on the state of Alabama. As we prepare for the "changing of the guard", now is a great time for the leaders of 9-1-1 in Alabama to think about the future.

Our leadership in 9-1-1 around the country is undeniable and can be traced all the way back to the first emergency response call being made in Alabama through the most recent legislative session when our state set the bar for the release of audio recordings of 9-1-1 calls. The many significant improvements that have been made in recent years are the result of hard work and a unified voice for the betterment of 9-1-1 services throughout Alabama.

And, I guess, that was the message I tried to convey during the One-Day Workshop on July 13 -- if we are to accomplish much in the next four years, we've got to remember what has been the key to our success. That's not an original thought, but it is certainly one that applies as we look toward the future of communication and how it will impact the delivery of 9-1-1 services.

If the opportunity of a new set of legislative and state government

leaders is to be utilized to its fullest for the betterment of 9-1-1, then it is important for us to follow a method that has worked in the past. We must identify the problems and opportunities; work toward a solution that addresses the common good; and then present a unified voice that will allow us to overcome our opponents.

"The many significant improvements that have been made in recent years are the result of hard work and a unified voice for the betterment of 9-1-1 services throughout Alabama."

There are many outside our ranks who have ideas about how the Alabama 9-1-1 model could (or should) be altered. Not all of these people are experts in how a local 9-1-1 district operates. More importantly, not all of these people have the best interest of 9-1-1 at heart. With this in mind, it is important that these outside ideas motivate productive discussions to enhance, rather than hinder, the outstanding program that our citizens rely on today.

The consideration of new ideas is one of the most significant roles of an association; and has unquestionably been one of the keys to the positive steps we've taken together over the years. Even if the source of the new ideas is from outside the organization,

the ideas should be evaluated in light of the fluid environment we face in today's world.

The communication industry is changing. It seems that by the time you can pin-point just what communication "thing" you need, something new is unveiled and your brand new purchase is obsolete. As technology continues to march forward, the unavoidable restructure of our communication system is a massive challenge that can only be faced if we stand together during the next four years.

As fewer people utilize a traditional "land line" telephone, the revenue stream for Alabama's 9-1-1 systems is even further eroded. The statewide fee on wireless telephones – certainly adequate when it was enacted – simply does not produce revenue that approximates the call volume produced by the deployment of a wireless telephone into the hands of everyone old enough to say their name or walk up right. As technology marches forward, these problems are only going to worsen.

Do we know the solution that will allow the 9-1-1 districts to easily overcome all the challenges of the next decade? Certainly we do not and we can not predict the future.

Last week's message was to be a call for us to collectively start an active search for those solutions before someone from the outside steps up and solves the problems for us.

**Alabama Association
of 9-1-1 Districts
2009-2010
Board of Directors**

JERRY JACKSON
President
Calhoun County

JOHNNY HART
Vice President
Marshall County

MELISSA DOVE
Secretary/Treasurer
Wilcox County

**DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVES**

GEORGE GRABRYAN
District 1
Lauderdale County

ERNIE BLAIR
District 2
Huntsville-Madison County

CATHY BOYD
District 3
City of Mountain Brook

ROD COLEMAN
District 4
Tuscaloosa County

BILL RICHVALSKY
District 5
St. Clair County

BILL MEADOWS
District 6
Lee County

JANIE HAMRICK
District 7
Escambia County

CHAD SOWELL
District 8
Henry County

PAST PRESIDENTS

HUNTER SIMMONS
City of Homewood

DONNIE SMITH
Chambers County

CHRISTINE HEGER
Baldwin County

ROGER WILSON
Walker County

ART FAULKNER
Homeland Security

Public Safety Issues

911 Dispatch App Puts Emergency Data in Hands of Citizens

Article courtesy of: www.emergencymgmt.com

Whenever there's an incident, residents in California's San Ramon Valley want information fast. Richard Price, chief of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, knows this because visitors always flood the live dispatch section of the district's website,

www.FireDepartment.org.

"Traffic to our website really spikes," he said. "We know there is interest in what's causing the smoke or where the sirens are coming from. We wanted to take that information and put it in the field."

Now, mobile technology will give residents an on-the-go glimpse into the district's 911 dispatch center. Touted as the first of its kind, the www.FireDepartment.org iPhone app arrived as a tool for users to have real-time access to information about emergencies and disasters in the community without needing a desktop computer.

"The idea was to have that functionality on a mobile platform where it would be more useful," Price said. "This is a consumer version."

Users can view active incidents and pinpoint locations on an interactive map. They can access a log of recent incidents and a photo gallery of significant events. The app allows for customization as well. For example, users can choose to be notified of incidents by category, or listen to live

emergency radio communications using their handheld devices. The new app gives users access to public information like they've never had it before, Price said. If a resident is stuck in traffic, or sees smoke or hears a fire truck, he or she needs only to tap the app to find out what's going on and where.



The district, Price added, also will use the app to communicate with its Community Emergency Response Team members and to share pertinent data during disasters.

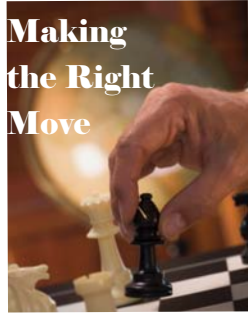
"That's how we'll be communicating with them when normal command and control avenues aren't available," he said. "It does provide some transparency."

The app was built at a low cost. The district, Price said, brought on students from the College of Informatics at Northern Kentucky University for iPhone engineering and programming services. The district's service area encompasses approximately 155 square miles and serves a population of 167,500. Even if you don't live in the San Ramon Valley, Price said, you can still listen to the live actions of dispatchers, firefighters and paramedics.

"In the future we think there will be far more people in the mobile environment than the desktop environment," Price said. "We can push information directly to a phone now."

ACCA's 82nd Annual Convention

Making the Right Move



Making the Right Move

ACCA's 82nd Annual Convention is slated for August 24-26, at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Ala. The deadline for early convention registration is **Friday, July 30**. Alabama's counties will have to focus on **Making the Right Move** in November with the election of several new statewide

officers. This year the Democratic and Republican candidates for the offices of Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General will address our membership.

Another focus will be on how counties will tackle growing expenditures. While county revenues dwindle, medical expenses, lawsuits, transportation and employee costs are skyrocketing.

Nationally, many innovative and productive ideas have been utilized to improve the financial plight of counties facing the same challenges as those here in Alabama. And the opening general session of ACCA's 82nd Annual Convention will focus on applying these innovative ideas here in Alabama's 67 counties.

"We're excited about this opening session," said ACCA Executive Director Sonny Brasfield, "because it should provide counties with ideas that can translate into a positive impact back home."

Also, new officers and district representatives will be elected at the AAND membership meeting which will be held August 24th at 3 p.m. Members are encouraged to get involved and to serve in a leadership position.

Educational Sessions

The convention will, of course, include breakout sessions for all the Association's affiliate organizations. Including a combined session on **Effective Tools for Disarming Difficult People**, which we all know can be the toughest part of the 9-1-1 job.

And don't forget the President's Banquet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday honoring **2010-2011 President-Elect Ricky Burney** of Clay County followed by the **President's Inaugural Dance** featuring *The Maxxx* band.

Log onto www.acca-online.org to register and get more information. We hope to see you there!

News of Interest

One-Day Workshop Draws Great Attendance!

The One-Day Workshop on July 13th was a great success. More than fifty 9-1-1 administrators were represented in Millbrook, Ala. If you would like additional information on the presentations, please contact Amy Waters, awaters@acca-online.org as she will post it on the ACCA web site for your convenience.



9-1-1 Bill Passes and Receives National Attention!

As most of you know, on April 27th the bill banning 9-1-1 calls being released to the media was signed into law. The bill was nationally recognized as it was a rare piece of legislation; only a few states have adopted this similar law. The attention of the bill became a hot topic among several news outlets including; *The NY Daily News*, *The CantonRep* (Canton, OH) and *MSNBC*. *National Public Radio* also interviewed Sonny Brasfield and had some interesting questions as the media is concerned with not being able to report accurately without the 9-1-1 calls. We are happy to know that AAND is leading the way as the rest of the country takes note. Thanks to all the AAND members who worked to secure legislative support for this important law.

82nd ANNUAL Convention

Aug 24-26, 2010 • Perdido Beach Resort • Orange Beach, Ala. • Register online at www.acca-online.org

Monday, August 23

12 p.m. Golf Tournament Lunch

1 p.m. Golf Tournament Shotgun

Tuesday, August 24

9 - 10 a.m. ACEA Board Meeting

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Affiliate Meetings

ACEA - 10 a.m.; ACAA - 1 p.m.; AAND - 3 p.m.; AAEM Board Meeting - 4 p.m.

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Registration Desk Open

11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Exhibit Showcase

11 a.m. - Noon ACCA Board of Directors

12 - 1 p.m. Lunch in the Exhibit Hall

1 - 5 p.m. CROAA Breakout Session

- ▶ Sales Tax Exemption for Pollution Control Devices
- ▶ Steps to Deny License Renewal
- ▶ Auditing for 6 years and how the 25% rule applies
- ▶ Ethics Overview
- ▶ Overview of the County Government Education Institute
- ▶ CROAA Business Session

2 - 3 p.m.

- ▶ Minority Issue Steering Committee (Open Forum)

2 - 3 p.m.

- ▶ ACCA Workers Compensation & Liability Insurance Fund Meeting

5 - 6:30 p.m.

- ▶ Opening in the Exhibit Hall

Wednesday, August 25

7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Convention Breakfast

7:45 - 8:30 a.m.

Nominating Committee Meeting

Resolutions Committee Meeting

8 - 11:30 a.m. Registration Desk Open

8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

- ▶ Opening General Session
- ▶ Improving Pretrial Justice
- ▶ Reducing Expenses Associated with Pretrial Detainees

- ▶ Gubernatorial Candidates
- ▶ Report of the Nominating Committee
- ▶ Attorney General Candidates
- ▶ Lieutenant Governor Candidates

12 - 1:15 p.m. County Agents Kitchen

1:30 - 4:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

- ▶ The Future of Alabama's Prison System
- ▶ EPA Storm Water Update
- ▶ Tour of Auburn University Biomass Gasification and Electrical Power Mobile Laboratory
- ▶ Electronic Hearings for Prisoners
- ▶ Problems with Municipal Police Jurisdictions
- ▶ Increasing County Influence in Legislative Elections
- ▶ Managing Public Input

4:45 p.m. ALGTI Board Meeting

Thursday, August 26

7:45 - 8:45 a.m. County Agents Breakfast

8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m. Breakout Sessions:

Commissioners

- ▶ Why the Collection of 9-1-1 Fees is Important to Your County, *Jim Sasser, Attorney, Alabama Wireless 9-1-1 Board*
- ▶ Commissioners and EMA Directors Working Together
- ▶ Federal Energy Policy Update: Climate Change Legislation

Combined Session with Engineers After the Break

- ▶ Discussion of Boundary Problems with Subdivisions
- ▶ Home Builders Perspective on Subdivision Regulations
- ▶ Lessons Learned: Private Road Subdivisions

ACEA

- ▶ ALDOT Update
- ▶ National Center for Pavement Preservation

Combined Session with Commissioners After the Break

- ▶ Discussion of Boundary Problems with Subdivisions
- ▶ Home Builders Perspective on Subdivision Regulations
- ▶ Lessons Learned: Private Road Subdivisions

ACAA

- ▶ Examiners Report
- ▶ Checklist for Tax Collection: Are You Getting All Your Money?
- ▶ Preparing Your New Commissioners
- ▶ Review of Omnibus and Q&A Session

AAEM, AAND and CROAA Combined Breakout Session

- ▶ Effective Tools for Disarming Difficult People, *Dr. Rick Voyles, Conflict Resolution Academy*

12 - 1:15 p.m.

- ▶ Convention Luncheon Honoring 2009-2010 President Larry White

1:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Afternoon General Session

- ▶ Awards Ceremony
- ▶ Update on the Alabama Trust Fund
- ▶ Update on the Road and Bridge Constitutional Amendment
- ▶ ACCA Business Session
- ▶ Executive Directors Report
- ▶ District Caucuses

6:30 p.m.

President's Banquet Honoring 2010 - 2011 President-Elect Ricky Burney

8 p.m.

President's Inaugural Dance