



AAND Today

Official quarterly newsletter of the Alabama Association of 9-1-1 Districts
Second Quarter 2009 and ACCA Pre-Convention Issue

Alabama is 100 PERCENT!

It's been a long time coming, but as of Wednesday, July 8, **100 percent of Alabama's 9-1-1 districts are now Phase II compliant!**

All states have been considered "Basic" by the Federal Communications Commission in their 9-1-1 service, providing service to wireless 9-1-1 callers at the simplest level. Wireless 9-1-1 call dispatchers are given the telephone number of the wireless subscriber placing the call and the general location of the tower being used by the caller.

I've always believed that "close" only counts when you're playing horseshoes...and you have to get pretty close in my book to win. "Close" doesn't work when someone's life may be at stake.

Thanks to the diligent work of our 9-1-1 directors and board members, Alabama's 9-1-1 community has made the long journey from FCC's Basic to 100 percent Phase II compliancy, which means that not only does the 9-1-1 dispatcher have the wireless caller's phone number, but the equipment also allows for the plotting of the approximate location of the caller using special computer software.

I'd also like to single our **Walker County 9-1-1 Director Roger Wilson** and **Etowah County 9-1-1 Director Bill Brodeur** for their hard work and dedication to this project. We would not have made it without their leadership.

With more Americans on the move today than ever before, and more traditional telephones being traded in for wireless models, it was incredibly important that AAND and our 88 Emergency Communication Districts lead the way in making our state 100 percent Phase II compliant.

According to the Cellular Telephone Industry Association, nearly 46,000 Americans become wireless customers every day. The National Emergency Number Association estimates that of the 240 million calls made to 9-1-1 in 2006, at least 100 million were from wireless customers. It's growing leaps and bounds every day. That's a market we simply cannot ignore.

For me, as the outgoing president of AAND, this is a huge accomplishment – and it's one that we should all be proud of!

Funding for the enhancements around the state came from a 2007 act supported by this association and ACCA. This act passed only after the efforts of all of Alabama's 9-1-1 directors made numerous trips to Montgomery during the legislative session, walked the halls of the Alabama State House, and made numerous contacts with our legislators. It was truly a team effort.

We are the voice on the other end of the phone on perhaps that person's worst possible day. It's important for each of us to strive hard to do the very best job that we can to be a source of kindness and calm, a sense of authority, and perhaps most importantly, a leader in technology that will allow us to continue forging ahead of the tech revolution instead of chasing after it the way so many other states are doing right now.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve as your president during this most exciting time! It has truly been an honor and a pleasure for me to serve this great association!

*Hunter Simmons
AAND President / City of Homewood*

SAVE THESE DATES...

ETHICS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES (July 15-16) As a public employee, the actions of Emergency Communication District Administrators are subject to regular scrutiny by the public and the media. They are also subject state laws governing real or perceived conflict of interest and use of a professional position for personal gain. This course provides 9-1-1 administrators with sound practical understanding of the concept of ethics and a thorough foundation on Alabama's Ethics Law.

FUNDAMENTALS OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION II (Sept. 16-17) This course includes the fundamentals of managing the 9-1-1 department. Topics include budget preparation and development, managing expenditures, workplace safety, internal controls, general accounting, audit preparation, records retention, the Competitive Bid Law and Public Works.

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 per class.

**Alabama Association
of 9-1-1 Districts
2008-2009
Board of Directors**

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HOW TO REGISTER ONLINE FOR ACCA'S CONVENTION

- Please understand that much effort into making sure this system works well for ACCA and our affiliates. We are aware that problems may be experienced during registration. Change is not always easy. Do not hesitate to contact Jennifer or Donna for help.
- Registrations will not be accepted via any other method. You **MUST** register through the online system.
- Each person must register individually for the conference. It may be easier to assign one person the duty of registering everyone in your office for conferences and events. That staff member would be responsible for keeping up with everyone's login and password, and it could eliminate some confusion in the long run.
- Go to www.acca-online.org. Click on the **Conference and Events** tab on the top left side of the menu bar. Scroll down to the **ACCA Annual Convention**. 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. The default password is **Password1**. Once 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 your current account information.
- **If it says incorrect e-mail or password**, you may not already be in the system. Go to **New Visitor Registration** to create an account. You'll need to enter your contact information and hit **Create Account**. Continue to the next step.
- Click on **Upcoming Events** on the left side of the page. This will bring up a list of all upcoming events. You may have to scroll to page 4 or 5 to find the convention information.
- Click on **Convention Registration for Counties** and click **Register for this Event**. Look over the badge information provided and click **Add to Cart**.
- If you want to register for something else (fishing, golf, spouse tour, etc.) click **Continue Shopping**, and click **Upcoming Events** again to find the correct event. **NOTE:** You can have multiple items in your cart and check out all at once.
- **TO REGISTER YOUR SPOUSE OR GUEST:** Put your convention registration in your shopping cart. Hit **Continue Shopping** and click **Upcoming Events** again on the left side of the page. Click **ACCA Annual Convention Spouse Registration**. *Please note that Spouse Registration is different from the Spouse Tour.* There is no charge for Spouse Registration, but *the Spouse Tour costs money*. Change the information in the boxes provided to your spouse/guests information and click on **Add to Cart**.
- When you are ready, hit **Checkout** in the shopping cart. Enter your billing information if necessary. Click **Next** and 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.**
- You will receive an confirmation e-mail detailing your purchase when you complete registration.
- Call or e-mail Jennifer or Donna in the ACCA office if you have questions. (**Jennifer Datcher** – jdatcher@acca-online.org; **Donna Key** – dkey@acca-online.org; 334-263-7594)



2009 One-Day Workshop

July 14 • Alabama Power Facility • Clanton

AAND will hold its **Annual One-Day Workshop** on **July 14** at the Alabama Power Facility in Clanton. It's not too late to register online for the workshop. Log on to www.acca-online.org for more information.

The day will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. to allow most members to drive in that morning and return home that afternoon. If you wish to stay in Clanton overnight, contact Donna Key at (334) 263-7594 for hotel information.

Registration for the workshop is **\$15 per person, including lunch**.

ACCA's 81st Annual Convention Economic Development...The Missing Piece

The ACCA staff has designed the 81st Annual Convention this August to be an event that you will definitely want to attend with plenty of educational sessions to give you exciting ideas to take back to your counties and put to use in a real-world environment.

The conference will kick off on **Tuesday, Aug. 18**, with more than 70 commercial vendors from across the country offering products and wares that can save your county money.

The registration desk will be open on Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. inside the Exhibit Hall. *Be sure to pick up your registration packets for last-minute details about the week.* There is an **AAND Membership Meeting beginning at 3 p.m.** at a location to be determined later. We will have a lot to discuss during our membership meeting, so please make your plans to attend this very important meeting!

On **Wednesday, Aug. 19**, be sure to check out the hot topics during the **Opening General Session** after the Convention Breakfast from 7:30-8:30 a.m. The world has been watching the economy for months now, and everyone has the same question: What's next? Kicking off our morning session is Joe Zidle, senior director of Merrill Lynch Investment Strategy Management, who will offer some insights on the **State of the Economy – An Overview of Today's Markets. Development of Alabama's Rural Areas** with Larry Lee, director of the Center for Rural Alabama, will follow. Got questions about the federal stimulus package? Don't miss **Stimulus Funding for Alabama Counties** with David Perry, attorney with Manard Cooper & Gale. If your county already has flourishing industries, have you thought about a partnership with those companies? Check out **How to Better Partner with Existing Industry** with Bob Smith, senior project manager with the Alabama Development Office. And, if you've heard a little bit about what's going on in **Houston County**, stick around for the whole story with Ronnie Gilley, president of Ronnie Gilley Properties and Hon. Mark Culver, chair of the Houston County Commission.

After the **County Agents Kitchen Lunch** on Wednesday, be sure to catch one of the Concurrent Sessions.

- ✓ *County Bond Financing Review* with Mike Scroggins with the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts;
- ✓ *Improvement Districts* with Alston Ray of Johnston Barton Proctor & Rose, P.C., and several other topics from which to choose.

Thursday, Aug. 20, will begin with the **County Agents Kitchen Breakfast** to get your day off on the right foot! AAND's breakout session will be from 8:45 a.m.-12 p.m. **These topics have been tailored to meet 9-1-1 directors' specialized needs, so please make your plans to attend!**

- ✓ *Levelizing the Statewide Fee for 9-1-1 Service* with Bill Cobb of AT&T
- ✓ *Phase II Observations* with Walker County 9-1-1 Director Roger Wilson and Etowah County 9-1-1 Director Bill Brodeur
- ✓ *Statute Governing the Release of 9-1-1 Tapes* with ACCA Executive Director Sonny Brasfield
- ✓ *Working with Your Elected Officials* with Hon. Stanley Batemon, Chair of the St. Clair County Commission and ACCA Past President
- ✓ *Best Practices in Accounting and Audits* with Mike Scroggins of the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts

If you have registered your spouse to attend the Day at the Spa on Thursday, make sure your spouse knows the schedule for the day, which will be printed in the program included in your registration packet.

Thursday afternoon will also feature a **Convention Luncheon** honoring *2008-09 ACCA President Joe Faulk* before the Afternoon General Session gets underway.

Thursday's Afternoon General Session will not only include the Awards Program, ACCA's Business Session, Executive Director's Report and the district caucuses, but the ACCA staff has also scheduled a Washington Report and invited Sen. Jeff Sessions and Rep. Mike Rogers to join us for the afternoon.

And, don't forget the **President's Banquet at 6:30 p.m.** honoring **2009-10 President-Elect Larry White** of Escambia County followed by the **Presidential Inaugural Dance** featuring *The Sweet Young Uns*.

Log on to www.acca-online.org for more information! Make your plans now to attend!



81st ANNUAL Convention

Aug. 18-20, 2009 • Perdido Beach Resort • Orange Beach, Ala. • TENTATIVE AGENDA

MONDAY, AUG. 17

- 12 p.m. Golf Tournament Lunch
- 1 p.m. Golf Tourney at Glenlakes Golf Club in Foley
- 1-7 p.m. Fishing Expedition at Reel Surprise Charter Docks

TUESDAY, AUG. 18

- 9-10 a.m. ACEA Board Meeting
- 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Affiliate Membership Meetings** (ACEA-10 a.m.; ACAA-1 p.m.; AAND-3 p.m.; AAEM-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 Meeting
- 12-1 p.m. Strolling Lunch in the Exhibit Hall
- 1-5 p.m. CROAA Education Session
- 2-3 p.m. Minority Issues Steering Committee (*Open Forum*)
- ACCA Workers Comp and Liability Insurance Fund Meeting
- 5-6:30 p.m. Opening Reception in the Exhibit Hall

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19

- 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.-Noon Opening General Session
- State of the Economy – An Overview of Today's Markets, *Joe Zidle, Senior Director, Merrill Lynch Investment Strategy Management*
 - Development of Rural Areas, *Larry Lee, Director, The Center for Rural Alabama*
 - Stimulus Funding for Alabama Counties, *David Perry, Attorney, Maynard Cooper & Gale*
 - Report of the Nominating Committee
 - How to Better Partner with Existing Industry, *Economic Development Association*
 - An Economic Success Story in Houston County, *Ronnie Gilley, President, Ronnie Gilley Properties and Hon. Mark Culver, Chairman, Houston County Commission*

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

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

- **County Bond Financing Review**, *Mike Scroggins, Examiners of Public Accounts*

- Feeding of Prisoners, *Mary Pons, ACCA Staff Attorney*

- Is Self-Governance for Your County? *Bill Cook, Macon County Compliance Officer*

- **Improvement Districts**, *Alston Ray, Johnston Barton Proctor & Rose, P.C.*

- Jail Workshop, *Ken Webb, Webb & Eley*

- Pros and Cons of Subdivision Regulations

4:45 p.m. ALGTI Board Meeting

THURSDAY, AUG. 20

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

8 a.m.-12 p.m. CROAA Education Session

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

COMMISSIONERS

- Stimulus Discretionary Project, *Richie Beyer, Elmore County Engineer*

- Update on FEMA Public Assistance Grants, *Benjie Abbott, AEMA*

- ADEM's Recycling Grant Program, *Phillip Davis, ADEM*

- The Role and Duties of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, *Glen Zorn, Assistant Commissioner*

- County Striping Programs: Two Approaches, Same Results – Saving Money! *Mark Pool, Houston County Engineer, and Benjie Sanders, Crenshaw County Engineer*

ACEA

- ALDOT Update, *Ed Phillips, ALDOT*

- Employee Recruitment and Retention, *Robbie Hyde, Webb & Eley, P.C.*

- Workers Compensation Issues, *Hope Curtis, Webb & Eley, P.C.*

- Stimulus Discretionary Project, *Richie Beyer, Elmore County Engineer*

ACAA

- Examiners Report, *Mike Scroggins, Examiners of Public Accounts*

- The Ins and Outs of Self-Collecting Solid Waste, *Jim Ransom, Baldwin County Environmental Services Director, and Robert Bevis, Lauderdale County Solid Waste Manager*

- State Employees Insurance Board Update, *Tonya Campbell, SEIB Marketing Director*

- New Requirements for Performance Bonds, *Mary Pons, ACCA Staff Attorney*

- Insurance Update, *Sonny Brasfield, ACCA Executive Director*

AAEM

- Emergency Fund Legislation, *Rep. Mac Gipson and Sen. Bobby Denton (Invited)*

- EMA's Relationship to the County Commission, *Hon. Rhondel Rhone, Clarke County Commissioner*

- Bid Law Overview, *Mike Scroggins, Examiners of Public Accounts*

- Good Government Practices: Ethics Law, Open Meeting Law and Other Important Issues, *Mary Pons, ACCA Staff Attorney*

AAND

- **Levelizing the Statewide Fee for 9-1-1 Service**, *Wayne Hutchens, AT&T*

- **Phase II Observations**, *Walker County 9-1-1 Director Roger Wilson and Etowah County 9-1-1 Director Bill Brodeur*

- **Statute Governing the Release of 9-1-1 Tapes**, *Sonny Brasfield, ACCA Executive Director*

- **Working with Your Elected Officials**, *Hon. Stanley Batemon, Chair, St. Clair County Commission*

- **Best Practices in Accounting and Audits**, *Mike Scroggins, Examiners of Public Accounts*

10:45 a.m.-4 p.m. Spouse Program – A Day at the Spa

12-1:15 p.m. Convention Luncheon Honoring 2008-09 President Joe Faulk

1:45-4:45 p.m. Afternoon General Session

- Awards Ceremony

- Washington Report (Sen. Jeff Sessions, *Invited*, Rep. Mike Rogers and NACo President Valerie Brown)

- ACCA Business Session Executive Directors Report District Caucuses

6:30 p.m. President's Banquet Honoring 2009-10 President-Elect Larry White

8 p.m. President's Inaugural Dance Featuring *The Sweet Young Uns*