



AAEM Today

Official quarterly newsletter of the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers
First Quarter 2010

Looking at the future of AAEM

What a great way to kick off the new year with our Winter Workshop and special EOC Operation and Decision Making Course at Auburn University in January. Participation at both events proves our



Dan Long
Calhoun County
President, AAEM

emergency managers are hungry for knowledge, and our training committee is up to the task of answering the call.

However, the AAEM Board of Directors understands some of our members have been deeply affected by the downturn in the economy. Budgets have been cut for training and travel. We, too, feel that pain, and we are looking at making some adjustments in our training facilities while continuing to fulfill our training needs.

Because of these concerns, I have asked our President-elect to form a new committee to look into the future of our workshops and make a recommendation that would fit our needs.

This year has gone by faster than I could have ever imagined. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving this great group of folks I consider an extension of my family. But, the board's term isn't quite over, and I would like everyone to know that we are continuing to work for all of our members on a variety of projects.

The **Awards Committee** has developed several new awards this year. This information is included in this newsletter, along with some information concerning the Summer Conference/Gulf States Hurricane

The past six months have gone by faster than I could have ever imagined. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving this great group of folks that I consider an extension of my family.

Conference. Please review the guidelines for these new awards, and make sure to get your information in on time.

Did you know that AAEM is celebrating our Golden Anniversary this year? The **Membership Committee** is hard at work putting together some information about our journey through the years...and it should be a very interesting story! If you have anything to contribute, please let them know.

The **Legislative Committee** has definitely had their hands full, as they are working hard to get us ready to go to our nation's Capitol in March. We are also keeping a very close eye on events as they unfold in Montgomery during the Regular Legislative Session. If you haven't already registered, don't forget to make your plans to attend **ACCA's County Day @ the Legislature on March 31-April 1**. Communication with our local legislators is as important as with our Congressional delegation.

Finally, the **Tech Committee** redesigned our Web site and is working to make our online presence a fun and informative place to surf. Take a look and let the committee know what you think.

Our Summer Conference this year is a combo with AEMA and the Gulf States

Hurricane Conference. This gives us the time to learn from others and the benefit of getting two conferences for the price of one!

Remember: If you plan to run for office, get your information to the **Nomination Committee** SOON.

As we look back to where we began and where we are today, 50 years is a long way...and we've travelled a long distance as a group! What a ride!

My deep and lasting wish for AAEM is that we keep up the pace, the motivation of our membership...and pray that the only emergencies we see in our remaining lifetimes are few and very, very far between.

Happy retirement!

Several of our members have hit the retirement trail and will be missed!

Jane Stump, Jackson County EMA, retired in December after 37 years; **Nelson Bates**, Talladega County EMA, retired in December after 10 years; **Don Greene**, Shelby County EMA, retired in January after 10 years; **Spencer Black**, Limestone County EMA, retired in February after 39 years; and **Kirk Paradise**, Madison County EMA, will retire in March after 30 years.

AAEM 2009-10 Board of Directors

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www.aem.us

When you are mailing **anything** to AAEM, especially your membership dues or conference registrations, please make sure that the address your county commission office (particularly your accounts payable office) has on file is **100 N. Jackson Street, Montgomery, Ala. 36104.** Thank you for your help!

What happens if you're caught "On Main?"

If you're an emergency manager, now there's a possibility you could receive an award for it! The Stephanie Gibson "You're On Main" Award made its debut during the AAEM Winter Workshop, and was presented by **Tuscaloosa County Deputy EMA Director Billy Green**, who created the award, to **Sumter County EMA Director Margaret Bishop**.

"The award is named after Stephanie Gibson who, during Hurricane Ivan, got caught on EMA Main and broadcasted to the whole state what she thought about a certain official and how he was doing things," Green said. "Yes, she still has her job.

"I think everyone at one time or another has accidentally keyed up Main thinking that they are talking to one person directly. We have heard everything from, 'How do I get there?' to 'I love you, too!' and there's always someone that will key up and tell them, 'YOU'RE ON MAIN!'

"So, the purpose of the trophy is to have a little fun and award the person who got caught On Main with the best conversation. It was apparently revival week in Sumter County, and they were preaching up a storm and singing some good ole gospel hymns...broadcasted statewide thanks to Sumter County EMA Director Margaret Bishop. She had keyed her Linc in her purse, and we were all able to hear at least five minutes of what was going on."

For Bishop, not only was she surprised, she thought everyone had forgotten about the incident. Not exactly.

"I was so surprised when Billy walked up with that trophy," Bishop said. "I actually thought maybe it was for someone else and for some other reason. I thought everybody had forgotten about my little incident. But, it made my day! Now, I'm ready to give it to the next person that gets On Main!"

The trophy will be passed along each year to the individual that tops them all each year of getting caught On Main. Will YOU be next?



Sumter County EMA Director Margaret Bishop receives the On Main Award from Tuscaloosa County Deputy EMA Director Billy Green.

Planning to run for office?

If you are interested in running for office on the AAEM Board, please take time to prepare the necessary paperwork to qualify for the upcoming election to be held this summer.

All qualifying information must be enclosed in your package. Applicants may call to verify your package has been received with all the necessary paperwork enclosed.

According to the bylaws, all interested persons can present their Letter of Intent and their supervisor's Letter of Support on the first day of the conference (June 1, 2010) to the Chair of the Nomination and Credential Committee.

No U.S. Mail, FedEx, or UPS will be received after 4 p.m. on Friday, May 28, 2010.

Positions available for voting: President-Elect, Area 1 Director, Area 2 Director, Area 3 Director, Area 4 Director, Area 5 Director, Area 6 Director, Area 7 Director and Area 8 Director.

Mail information to: Sumter County EMA Director Margaret A. Bishop, P.O. Box 99, Livingston, AL 35470-0099; (205) 652-6347 or fax (205) 652-7230

association of county commissions of alabama

COUNTYDAY@THE Legislature

March 31-April 1 • Alabama Activity Center | Alabama State House • Montgomery, Ala. • REGISTER TODAY!

ALL COUNTIES SHOULD BE REPRESENTED!

The 2010 County Day @ the Legislature will be **Wednesday, March 31, and Thursday, April 1**. This two-day event gives county officials an opportunity to show their strength and to spread their county's story to Alabama's lawmakers.

Log on to www.acca-online.org and click on **Conferences and Events** to register online for County Day @ the Legislature and download an information packet and list of hotels.

Continuing the Wednesday-Thursday schedule this year will mean that fewer organizations will hold events on these

days, and ACCA staff believes that it will increase legislator participation in our breakfast and allow you to have greater access to your legislators for meetings and dinner.

A **Legislative Briefing** will be **Wednesday, March 31**, at the **Alabama Activity Center** in downtown Montgomery. *Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m., and the briefing will begin at 2:30 p.m. It will outline the current status of the ACCA's legislative package and danger bills.*

Dinner on Wednesday evening will be on your own. **We highly encourage you to begin making arrangements now to have dinner with your respective legislators.** This is the perfect opportunity for you to connect with your legislators! Use your time in Montgomery wisely!

Our traditional **Breakfast with Legislators** will be **Thursday, April 1**, in the Ballroom of the **Alabama Activity Center** from **7:45-9 a.m.** Following breakfast, we will go immediately to the Alabama State House and spend the rest of the morning lobbying.

County Day requires an overnight stay, so please plan accordingly.

Registration is **\$25** per person, which includes Breakfast with Legislators on Thursday.

Contact **Donna Key** by e-mail at dkey@acca-online.org or at (334) 263-7594 if you have questions concerning County Day @ the Legislature.

APRIL IS NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH. CELEBRATE WHAT YOU DO FOR YOUR RESIDENTS!

National County Government Week was created 19 years ago to raise public awareness and better understanding about the roles and responsibilities of our nation's counties.

Due to the tremendous success nationally of this one week, the National Association of Counties' expanded the week to a full month to give local governments more time for activities to reach citizens through education and public outreach. Beginning in 2010, the month of **April** will be National County Government Month.

The activities held during April, sponsored by local governments, should be designed to help local citizens understand how their counties and elected officials can respond to their needs. In many ways, this special month is an introduction for county residents to their local government and its services.

By participating in National County Government Month, you and your fellow county leaders will be helping to elevate the public identity of local government in your community.

Most local residents don't see their government as doing good deeds for its residents. Instead, many residents only see government as the entity that raises taxes, refuses to pave a

road, or imposes regulations on them (such as mandatory trash collection in the county) that they may not immediately understand. For these residents, local government is viewed negatively, but there are many ways for you to turn the tide.



National County Government Month is the perfect opportunity for local officials and county employees to take the time to show our county residents, and local media, the good deeds that local government does every day.

A packet with several easy-to-do ideas to help your county get involved with National County Government Month, along with weekly *Tipster* mini-newsletters, can be found online at www.acca-online.org.

The national theme is "Healthy Counties," and your county commissions may call on you to help plan activities during April. **ACCA has fully endorsed this program for many years and has been pleased with Alabama's performance on the local level with this project.** We hope to continue our tradition again this year.

If you have questions, please contact **Director of Public Relations Lori M. Quiller** at (334) 263-7594 for details.

2010 AAEM Summer Conference TENTATIVE Agenda

Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel • Mobile, Ala. • June 1 - 2, 2010

TUESDAY, JUNE 1

10:30 a.m. - Noon

AAEM Board of Directors Meeting

12 - 5 p.m.

AAEM Conference Registration

1 - 5 p.m.

AAEM Opening General Session

Dan Long, AAEM President, presiding

1 - 2 p.m.

AAEM 50 Year Retrospective

2 - 2:30 p.m.

AEMA State of the State

Brock Long, AEMA Director

2:30 - 3 p.m.

NWS Update

3 - 3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15 - 4:15 p.m.

Topic TBA

4:15 - 5 p.m.

District Caucuses

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

AAEM President's Dinner and Awards Ceremony

Dan Long, AAEM President, presiding

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

7:30 - 7:50 a.m.

Morning Devotional

7:30 - 8:15 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Morning General Session

Roy Waite, AAEM First Vice President, presiding

8 - 9 a.m.

County Budgeting Strategies

Alex Dudchock, Shelby County

Administrator and Butch Burbage, Shelby County Finance Manager

9 - 9:30 a.m.

Case Study: Flooding in Houston County

Mark Pool, Houston County Engineer

9:30 - 10 a.m.

Case Study: Relief Efforts in Haiti

Linc Larson, US Air Force

10 - 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m. - Noon

Business Session and Induction of New AAEM Officers

Noon

Adjourn and begin Gulf States Hurricane Conference

AAEM Announces New Awards Program

The Awards Committee is unveiling a batch of new awards just in time for the Summer Conference. For an awards application, as well as complete conference information, log on to www.acca-online.org and click on **Conferences and Events**.



EMA ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD: New Emergency Manager with less than two years experience who demonstrates innovative methods for enhancing Emergency Management. This candidate should possess a minimum of Intermediate Level certification.

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AWARD: A retired Emergency Manager with 10 or more years experience who has distinguished themselves through outstanding service to their community and the state by exhibiting an exceptionally high standard of leadership and professionalism.

PAT NEUHAUSER SPIRIT OF EMA AWARD: High level of enthusiasm in promoting emergency management, willingness to share and serve, dedicated, faithful and loyal. **This is the most prestigious award offered by AAEM.**

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Recognizes a volunteer who has demonstrated loyalty, a willingness to serve at a moment's notice in any emergency needing their assistance.

NOTE: To ensure all counties have a fair chance of being recognized, the following four awards are given in two categories. The first award goes to a rural county, a county with a population under 50,000. The second award goes to an urban county, a county with a population of more than 50,000.

PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM OF THE YEAR AWARD: Recognizes a program that has developed a structure in preparing for disasters. Developed a plan, exercised the plan, developed a volunteer management program, worked with the community to better prepare, for example: Be Ready Day, Storm Spotter, Co-op plans, mass casualty planning, etc.

RESPONSE PROGRAM OF THE YEAR AWARD: Recognizes a program that has developed a structure in responding to disasters, such as a program that has responded to a disaster-displayed outstanding, timely response to an affected area, citizens/victims-sheltering, ICS, NIMS, commodity distribution, etc.

RECOVERY PROGRAM OF THE YEAR AWARD: Recognizes a program that has focused on restoring the affected communities to its previous state. Developed plans, conducted meetings, worked with elected officials to secure grants or community involvement to help rebuild, etc.

MITIGATION PROGRAM OF THE YEAR AWARD: Recognizes a program that has focused on long-term strategies to protect lives and reduce the impact of disasters. Secured funding for shelters, sirens, radios, etc.-made a difference in the community to mitigate the effects of disasters.



Connecting the Phases of Response Pre-Landfall to Recovery

June 2-4 • In conjunction with AAEM's Summer Conference

TOPICS INCLUDE

94-Hour Myth
National Logistics Strategy
Hurrevac 2010
Social Networking
Pet Evacuations
Situation Awareness
Public Health
Debris Overview and Contracts
Evacuations
Sheltering
Public Information
IMAT Team

For hotel and registration information, log on to www.acca-online.org
and click on **Conferences and Events**.