



# AAEM Today

Official quarterly newsletter of the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers  
Second Quarter 2009 and ACCA Pre-Convention Issue

## Time for New Resolutions

This is such a wonderful organization of caring and generous individuals that I am truly excited and humbled to be the lucky individual with the title of “President” for the next 12 months.



Dan Long  
Calhoun County  
President, AAEM

And, it’s going to be an interesting year, I’m sure. They always are, aren’t they? I mean, think about it for just a moment. Back in early January, did you set out a list of “New Year’s Resolutions” for yourself?

Were there things that you wanted to accomplish during this year? Read more and spend less time watching television? Spend more time with your family? Receive your professional certification? Do a better job of filing away those papers that are piled up in the corner of your office? (It’s okay...we’re all family here at AAEM, and we ALL have that pile of paper somewhere in our office – some more than one!)

I do it every year, and every year I manage to come up a little short. But, that doesn’t mean I don’t make that list come every January!

Goals are great motivators. In my book, there is absolutely nothing wrong with not checking off everything on that list come December. For me, that just means I have a head start on the new year.

Looking back on last year, it truly was a fantastic year for AAEM! **Ellen Haynes** had a great list...and I don’t think she left much for us to “carry over.”

She and her team did a fantastic job of looking out for our organization with outstanding programs and training, communication, legislative work, and more.

**In order for us to continue doing good work for ourselves, our counties and our profession, we must have the strength to stand together, particularly during the legislative months.**

But now, it’s up to us to continue to carry on with a new list...more resolutions for a new year...new things that we can accomplish in the coming months and continue to build on the strong foundation that Ellen and all of our past presidents and previous board members have laid out for us.

In order for us to continue doing good work for ourselves, our counties and our profession, we must have the strength to stand together, particularly during the legislative months.

We’ve prided ourselves on the strength of our organization for so long because membership in AAEM is strictly voluntary. The work that we do in this

organization is above and beyond the dedicated work that we do for our counties and our citizens each day.

Membership in AAEM allows us to stretch our minds through ample educational opportunities as well as fellowship with others in the emergency management community...and not just here in Alabama, but on the national stage as well.

For us to remain strong, we need to continue our tradition of volunteerism. If you haven’t volunteered for a committee, now is the time to contact a committee chair and find out what you can do to make our organization a voice to be heard in the legislature on the state and national levels.

The board of directors and I have already begun adding to our list of “New Year’s Resolutions,” but we want to know what our members want from their organization as well.

We’ll continue working closely with the staff of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama for guidance and advice, and **Executive Director Sonny Brasfield** will continue to work closely with us to help steer our association in the most positive of directions.

Talk to your Area Directors, talk to your board members...talk to me...let us know what you want from YOUR association so that we can provide for YOU! It’s going to be another great year!

## AAEM 2009-10 Board of Directors

**DAN LONG**  
President  
AEMA

**ROY WAITE**  
President-Elect  
Clarke County

**ELLEN TANNER HAYNES**  
Immediate Past President  
AEMA

**MINDY NASH**  
Secretary / Treasurer  
Shelby County

**RONNIE ADAIR**  
Area 1 Director  
Mobile County

**JESSICA TOMLIN-SEABROOK**  
Area 2 Director  
Crenshaw County

**WAYNE HAYES**  
Area 3 Director  
Bibb County

**ERIC JONES**  
Area 4 Director  
Elmore County

**SCOTT PORTER**  
Area 5 Director  
Fayette County

**PHYLLIS LITTLE**  
Area 6 Director  
Cullman County

**DEBORAH GAITHER**  
Area 7 Director  
Gadsden / Etowah County

**DON HARTLEY**  
Area 8 Director  
AEMA

[www.aem.us](http://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!

## 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](http://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. There will be several pages. 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.**
- Once you complete your registration, you will receive an confirmation e-mail detailing your purchase.
- Call or e-mail Jennifer or Donna in the ACCA office if you have questions. (**Jennifer Datcher** – [jdatcher@acca-online.org](mailto:jdatcher@acca-online.org); **Donna Key** – [dkey@acca-online.org](mailto:dkey@acca-online.org); 334-263-7594)



## ACCA's 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention Economic Development...The Missing Piece

The ACCA staff has designed the 81<sup>st</sup> 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 **AAEM Membership Meeting beginning at 4 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! AAEM's breakout session will be from 8:45 a.m.-12 p.m. **These topics have been tailored to meet emergency management directors' specialized needs, so please make your plans to attend!**

- ✓ *Emergency Fund Legislation* with Rep. Mac Gipson and Sen. Bobby Denton (invited)
- ✓ *EMA's Relationship to the County Commission* with Hon. Rhondel Rhone, Clarke County Commissioner and ACCA Past President
- ✓ *Bid Law Overview* with Mike Scroggins of the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts
- ✓ *Good Government Practices: Ethics Laws, Open Meetings Law and Other Important Issues* with ACCA Staff Attorney Mary Pons

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](http://www.acca-online.org) to register and get 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 Bateman, 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*