



# AAEM Today

Official quarterly newsletter of the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers  
Third Quarter 2008

## Good Things Still Ahead...

I am reminded of the old adage: "How time flies when you are having fun!" That saying surely fits when it is applied to being your AAEM President. In just little more than two months I will be passing the torch of leadership to **President Elect Ellen Haynes**. It has been an enjoyable tenure thanks to an outstanding supporting cast of Board Members and an active committee structure.



Eddie Hicks, CEM  
Morgan County EMA  
President, AAEM

The other point about having just a little more than 60 days until the AAEM Annual Conference also means that we must make our hotel arrangement ASAP. We have contracted for a block of rooms and we must prudently manage them. The bottom line is that we need for each

of you to make your reservation early. As for conference content, the Training Committee and the Conference Committee have another outstanding event planned for us. Conference information can be assessed through the AAEM or the ACCA web sites.

Every county should have received your FY07-08 EMPG allocation by now. The figure that you received was a result of a committee representing AEMA and AAEM working together to develop an equitable funding distribution formula for the EMPG funds.

One of the original goals that the committee agreed on was to do no harm to the counties, if at all possible. This new formula can be the platform for the next progression in the continued development of quality EMA programs in every county in

Alabama. This amount for the first time will assure that a county that wants an effective EMA program can have a full-time "qualified" director. This EMPG allocation, coupled with the Minimum Standards funding, raises the bar for the expectations for the EMA programs, directors and support staff.

I want to take the final part of my greeting to congratulate the Alabama EMA on receiving EMAP Accreditation. Any emergency manager that looks closely at the 64 standards should realize what an outstanding accomplishment this is.

It personally makes me proud to be associated with a group of professionals that has been recognized for meeting or exceeding internationally recognized standards. WAY TO GO AAEM!

### Make Your Reservations for the 2008 AAEM Summer Conference TODAY!

If you haven't already made your arrangements for the **2008 AAEM Summer Conference**, what are you waiting for? Mark your calendars for Sept. 15-17 and make your reservations at the Perdido Beach Resort!.



To reserve your room online, visit [www.perdidobeachresort.com](http://www.perdidobeachresort.com), and click on "Reservations." Enter group code 4284. You may also call the Resort directly at (800) 634-8001 and identify yourself as a member of the AAEM Summer Conference to receive our special rate of **\$138** for a standard room. **The deadline to make your reservations is Friday, Aug. 15.**

**Conference registration is \$200 per person until Friday, Aug. 22.** After Aug. 22, registration will be \$250. For a conference agenda, nomination information and more information about conference activities and a golf tournament registration, please log online to [www.acca-online.org](http://www.acca-online.org) and click on the AAEM page of the Affiliates Section. If you have any questions, please call Donna Key at (334) 263-7594.

## AAEM 2007-08 Board of Directors

**EDDIE HICKS, CEM**  
President  
AEMA

**ELLEN HAYNES**  
President-Elect  
St. Clair County

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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!

## What's so special about ACCA's 80th Annual Convention?

The Association staff has designed the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention to make the week-long experience something special for each member.

Not only will there be interesting vendors to captivate you on Tuesday, Aug. 19, 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 an AAEM membership meeting beginning at 4 p.m.** We will have a lot to discuss during our membership meeting, particularly covering the Annual Summer Conference and Trade Show, which is Sept. 15-17 at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, so please make your plans to attend this very important meeting!

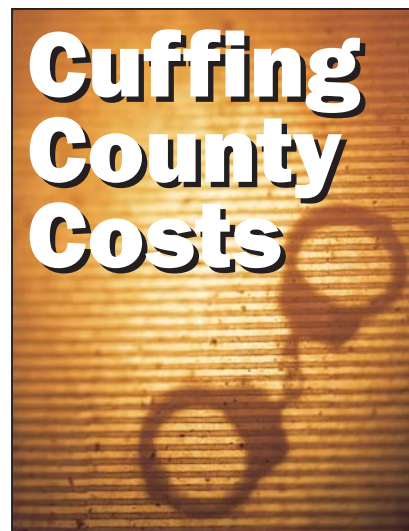
On Wednesday, Aug. 20, you might want to check out the hot topics during the Opening General Session. Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb will be on hand to discuss *Juvenile Justice Reform and Community Corrections*. For a look at a different type of court, join Montgomery County Judge Tracy McCooley for a look at drug court. And, to see what Alabama's District Attorneys are doing to fight the growing meth problem in our state, check out *ZEROMETH*. Following the County Agents Kitchen Lunch, be sure to catch one of the Concurrent Sessions.

- ➔ *Why You Need a Fatality Management Plan* with Cindy Lesinger of the Alabama Department of Public Health;
- ➔ *Statewide Interoperability Program* with Art Faulkner with the Alabama Department of Homeland Security;
- ➔ *It's a Thick Book – Constitutional Reform Video*; to name a few.

Thursday, Aug. 21, will begin with the AAEM and AAND breakout session from 8:45 a.m.-12 p.m. **These topics have been tailored to meet emergency management directors' and 9-1-1 directors' needs, so please make your plans to attend!**

- ➔ *What is Your Persona?* with ACCA Executive Director Buddy Sharpless
- ➔ *Department of Homeland Security Update* with Director Jim Walker
- ➔ Mike Scroggins with the State Revenue Examiners Office will deliver the *Examiners Report*.
- ➔ This year's legislative session made some significant changes to the state's bid law, and these changes affect how you can make purchases in equipment and necessities for your office. Make sure you don't miss this *Update on the State Bid Law Changes*.

ACCA's Business Session, following the Affiliate Reports and ACCA Annual Report, will include the reports of the Resolutions and Nominating Committees prior to the district caucuses. And, don't forget the **President's Banquet at 6:30 p.m.** followed by the **Presidential Inaugural Dance** featuring The Sweet Young 'Uns.



# 80<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL Convention

Aug. 19 - 21, 2008 • Perdido Beach Resort • Orange Beach, Ala. • TENTATIVE AGENDA

## Monday, August 18

12 p.m.

Golf Tournament Lunch

1 p.m.

Golf Tournament Shotgun Start  
Soldiers Creek Golf Course in Elberta, AL

1 – 7 p.m.

Fishing Expedition  
Reel Surprise Charter Docks

## Tuesday, August 19

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Affiliate Membership Meetings  
ACEA – 10 a.m.; ACAA – 11 a.m.;  
AAND – 3 p.m.; **AAEM – 4 p.m.**

11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Exhibit Showcase

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Registration Desk Open

12 – 1 p.m.

Strolling Lunch in the Exhibit Hall

1 – 5 p.m.

### CROAA Educational Session

- Titling of Manufactured Homes, *Mike Gamble, ADOR*
- Preparing for the Next Legislative Session, *Sonny Brasfield, ACCA*
- Revenue and Economic Forecasting, *Kelly Butler, Legislative Fiscal Office*

1 – 2 p.m.

ACCA Board of Directors Meeting

2 – 3 p.m.

ACCA Workers Compensation and Liability  
Insurance Fund Meeting

4 – 5 p.m.

AAEM Membership Meeting

5 – 6:30 p.m.

Opening Reception in the Exhibit Hall

## Wednesday, August 20

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Convention Breakfast  
Nominating Committee Meeting  
Resolutions Committee Meeting

8 – 11:30 a.m.

Registration Desk Open

8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### Opening General Session

- Juvenile Justice Reform and Community Corrections, *Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb*
- Montgomery County Drug Court Program, *Judge Tracy McCooey*
- ZEROMETH Program, *Etowah County District Attorney Jimmie Harp, and Greg Davis, President, d groupe*
- NACo Update, *Hon. Don Stapley, NACo President-Elect*
- Alabama Department of Finance, *Jim Main, State Finance Director*

12 – 1:15 p.m.

County Agents Kitchen Lunch

1:30 – 4:45 p.m.

### Concurrent Sessions

- Saving Money on Juvenile Justice, *Morgan County Judge Shelly Waters and Morgan County Commission Chairman John Glasscock*
- Removing Sales Tax on Food, *Kimble Forrester, Alabama ARISE*
- Why You Need a Fatality Management Plan, *Cindy Lesinger, ADPH*
- Houston County Toll Road, *Houston County Commission Chairman Mark Culver*
- Statewide Interoperability Program, *Chuck Murph, ADHS*
- It's A Thick Book – Constitutional Reform Video

## Thursday, August 21

7:45 – 8:45 a.m.

County Agents Kitchen Breakfast

8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### CROAA Educational Session

- Business Session
- Tax Abatements, *Angela Till, ADOR*
- Current Issues Regarding Sales and Use Taxes, *Jeff Patterson, Attorney*

8:45 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### Breakout Sessions / Commissioners

- Wireless Internet for Economic Development, *Danny D'Andre, Alabama Power*
- National Incident Management System, *Richard Harvey, Fire Chief, City of Springville*

- How U.S. Communities Can Work for Your County, *Mary Pelfrey, Program Coordinator*

### ACEA

- ALDOT Update, *Ed Phillips, ALDOT County Transportation Bureau Chief*
- Use of Recycled Cooking Oil for Bio-Diesel Fuel, *Rob McElroy, Daphne Utilities General Manager*
- Workers Compensation Losses, *Jerry Gill and Connie Wilson, Meadowbrook Insurance*
- Concrete Inverts for Metal Pipes, *Henry Hawkins, Chambers County Engineer*
- Update on New Road and Bridge Funding, *Sonny Brasfield, ACCA*

### ACAA

- Examiners Report, *Mike Scroggins*
- Ins and Outs of Property Insurance, *Cindy Mims, Meadowbrook Insurance*
- Update on Bid Law Changes, *Mary Pons, ACCA Staff Attorney*

### AAEM and AAND

- Update on Bid Law Changes, *Mary Pons, ACCA Staff Attorney*
- What is Your Persona? *Buddy Sharpless, ACCA Executive Director*
- Examiners Report, *Mike Scroggins*
- DHS Update, *Jim Walker, Director*

10:45 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Spouse Program – A Day at the SPA

12 – 1:15 p.m.

Convention Luncheon Honoring  
2007-2008 President Jerold Dean

1:45 – 4:45 p.m.

### Afternoon General Session

Pros and Cons of Tax Abatements; Awards Ceremony; Affiliate Reports; ACCA Annual Report and Business Session

6:30 p.m.

President's Banquet Honoring 2008 – 2009  
President-Elect Joe Faulk

8 p.m.

President's Inaugural Dance Featuring The  
Sweet Young 'Uns

# 80<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL Convention

Aug. 19 - 21, 2008 • Perdido Beach Resort • Orange Beach, Ala. • REGISTRATION

## CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

County or Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Person Completing Form: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

ACCA member registration is **\$185 per person before July 25.** (\$210 per person after July 25.)

Company registration is **\$265 per person before July 25.** (\$290 per person after July 25)

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

**List below those you are registering for the convention.** Please indicate if each person is a  
(C) Commissioner, (CA) Clerk/Administrator, (CE) County Engineer, (ACE) Assistant County Engineer, (EIT)  
Engineer in Training, (AAEM) Emergency Management, (CROAA) County Revenue Officer, (AAND) E-911,  
(CR) Company Representative, (G) Guest or (S) Spouse.

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***Please note that cancellations will not be refunded after Friday, Aug. 8, 2008.***  
**Please return completed form and check payable to ACCA by Friday, July 25, to:**

**ACCA Annual Convention • 100 N. Jackson Street • Montgomery, Ala. 36104 • Fax (334) 263-7678**