



ACAA Today

Official quarterly newsletter of the Association of County Administrators of Alabama

Second Quarter 2010

ACAA Conference Wrap Up and Looking Ahead!



Jenoice Bevis, CCA
ACAA Board President

Greetings from Lauderdale County. By now, most of you are looking at the budget and wondering where the revenue will come from to cover the continually escalating costs. You, like me, will prepare your budget while maintaining your daily tasks and those special challenges which walk through the door or come in the mail. Each day is different, never dull, and that is why we really enjoy our special jobs as county administrators.

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of seeing many of you at the annual Administrators' Conference in Point Clear. We had many excellent presenters during this conference and as I listened to each one, I was reminded once again of the many varied duties and responsibilities of the County Administrator.

We received information on everything from grants to legal updates to sales tax collection and insurance issues. I trust you found something of interest and value to you and your county to take back with you. I am extremely grateful to the ACCA staff for the planning the conference and for the hard work they put into these training opportunities for all the affiliate groups.

Conferences can present an excellent training ground for our new administrators. While you will gain much knowledge from the presenters, you will

also have an opportunity to meet with other administrators and "chat". This format will bring you invaluable knowledge from those who have already been there for many years. I encourage our veteran administrators to always be willing to mentor those that are new.

Some of you will be called upon soon, if not already, to serve on committees. Our current goals are to complete the projects to develop uniform personnel file and employee handbook guidelines and to develop a new commissioner packet. The Education Committee is continuing to refine our training classes.

Hopefully, we will soon have an information sharing site to network with each other and gain assistance with our challenging issues. Thank you to all who are now serving in some capacity in our association and to those who will help when called upon. It will take all of us to make this the Association we want it to be.

As your new President, I am honored to be a part of this association and look forward to serving my fellow county administrators this year.

Don't forget to make plans to attend the 82nd Annual Convention in August. ACCA has designed a great program for the Administrators, some of which will address the growing expenditures we are all facing. I look forward to seeing you all there.

"Our current goals are to complete the projects to develop a uniform personnel file, employee handbook guidelines and to develop a new commissioner packet."

2010 ACAA Annual Conference

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Syble accepting her award from Roger Rendleman

After more than 37 years at the Morgan County courthouse, Syble Atkins, has been honored as the 2010 County Administrator of the Year.

Syble was truly surprised when her name was announced as the award winner. "This award was one of the highlights of my career because the people I work with, Chairmen, Commissioners, office staff and department heads made it happen." It is so rewarding to know people around you care so much about you. I am so grateful for all of them. They make my job easy," said Atkins.



*Glenn Hodge, Mobile County
Tony Sanks, Escambia County*



A round of applause for Mike Scroggins as he will retire this year.

News you can use!

New Commissioner Orientation

It is important to prepare the new county commissioners who will be elected in November. The New County Commissioner Orientation Training, will be held **Nov. 30th - Dec. 1st** at Ross Bridge in Birmingham, Ala. This will be a great primer for the new county commissioner. One of the goals this year is to develop a "new commissioner" packet - information about how county government operates and what the commissioner (and the county commission) can and cannot do, along with county-specific information about the workings of the county he or she has just been elected to serve.

Administrators have already begun identifying items that should be included in this packet, and the packets will help ensure that come Nov. 2nd, those new faces joining county government will have valuable information to help them understand their role and be successful in their new job.

County Government Education Institute's 2nd Class a Success!

The second class under CGEI held at the Legends Conference Center in Prattville had a great turnout. Approximately 30 engineers and county commissioners attended the Legal Primer on County Roads course.

The next class, Legislative and Government Relations, will be July 28-29 at the same location in Prattville. More information is available online at www.acca-online.org under the **Education Courses** tab. If you have questions, please contact **Mary Pons** at mpons@acca-online.org.

New Resources Available on ACCA's Website!

Administrators can now obtain information and forms for submitting insurance claims through the Association's website by using a new link under the **Insurance** tab. Click on **Forms and Templates** and check out what is now available. If you have any suggestions of forms that you would like to see please contact **Amy Waters** at awaters@acca-online.org.

ACCA's 82nd Annual Convention: *Making the Right Move*



This years ACCA's Convention is slated for August 24-26, at Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Ala. The deadline for early convention registration is Friday, **July 23**.

Alabama's counties will have to focus on *Making the Right Move* in November with the election of several new statewide officers. Invited to the convention this year are the Democratic and Republican candidates for the Offices of Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General to address our membership.

Another focus will be how counties will tackle growing expenditures. While county revenues remain unchanged - medical expenses, lawsuits, transportation, 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.

"In order to address the massive fiscal drain on county budgets resulting from pre-trial detention, counties must first determine who is in their jail and why," Murray said. The state must then develop programs and alternatives that will reduce county costs while also protecting the citizens.

But Donald Murray, senior legislative director for NACo, who works directly with counties throughout the nation, says counties can take some steps that do not require legislative changes. He will also be apart of the opening general session to provide concrete examples of programs implemented in other states that have reduced costs to county governments.

Later in the convention, Richard Allen, commissioner of the Alabama Department of Corrections, will give counties insight into the operations of his department and how his agency will react to the massive cuts in the state budgets.

Counties are obviously impacted by any changes that could be on the horizon.

"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."

Educational Sessions

The convention will, of course, include breakout sessions for all the Association's affiliate organizations.

The Administrators' breakout session on August 26th will be from 8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m. Specific topics will include:

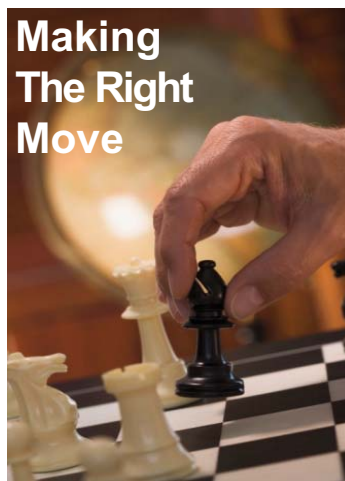
- ✓ *Examiners Report*
with Mike Scroggins
- ✓ *Check List for Tax Collection*
with Butch Burbage
- ✓ *Preparing Your New Commissioner*
with Mary Pons
- ✓ *Review of Omnibus and Q&A*
with Mary Pons and Mike Scroggins

An afternoon of concurrent sessions will also give counties needed insight and information on timely matters – problems that need the "right move" in the coming months.

Also, the 19th Annual Awards for Excellence in County Government will be presented during the Annual Convention's Awards Ceremony on Thursday, August 26th. The deadline for entries will be Friday, July 25th.

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

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



82ND ANNUAL Convention

Aug. 24-26, 2010 • Perdido Beach Resort • Orange Beach, Ala. • TENTATIVE AGENDA

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
- ▶ Pollution Control
 - ▶ Steps to Deny License Renewal, Taxpayer Advocacy Program
 - ▶ Ethics Overview
 - ▶ Overview of the County
 - ▶ Government Education Institute
 - ▶ CROAA Business Session
- 2 - 3 p.m.
- ▶ Minority Issues 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 Lunch
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
- ▶ 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, *Mike Scroggins*
- ▶ Checklist for Tax Collection: Are You Getting All Your Money? *Butch Burbage*
- ▶ Preparing Your New Commissioners, *Mary Pons*
- ▶ Review of Omnibus and Q&A Session, *Mary Pons and Mike Scroggins*

AAEM, AAND and CROAA Combined Breakout Session

- ▶ Effective Tools for Disarming Difficult People

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