



# ACEA Today

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

## Are YOU a TIGER?

I guess it's poetic justice – an Auburn man working on an application for federal funding through a program called “TIGER!” Maybe that's a good sign that we'll be successful!



Wayne Sullivan  
ACEA President  
Jefferson County Engineer

I'd like to thank all of those who are heading up our efforts to make application for the discretionary funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation (the program now known as “TIGER”). I'm especially grateful to **Richie Beyer, Benjie Sanders, Henry Hawkins and Josh Harvill**, who are quarterbacking this effort, and to **Bryant Raby** who is providing staff insight and coordination from ACCA.

As you all know, I'm facing challenges at the county-level that exceed even my wildest nightmares. Therefore, my time on this project the last few weeks has been severely limited. But, those issues

have shown me very clearly the strength of this organization. I've received countless offers for help, and the commitment that has been shown on this grant application has been outstanding.

Several of us first discussed this application in February just a few hours after the stimulus legislation was signed into law. In March, **ACCA Executive Director Sonny Brasfield** and Henry Hawkins met with an official at the U.S. Department of Transportation to get a jump on preparation for our application.

We surveyed the membership to identify the bridges that could meet the application criteria. And now, we are well into the toughest part of the application process – collecting data on all the bridges, putting together the documentation, formulating an attractive application, and contacting other groups that can help lend some assistance in making our application one that rises to the top of what is expected to be a huge list of projects from all over the country.

**It's important that you do YOUR part. There's a deadline of July 15 for information to be forwarded to Benjie Sanders.** If you haven't responded, please do today. Because the complete application **MUST** be submitted no later than Sept. 15, **this July deadline is absolute.** Benjie and his subcommittee are working hard to contact everyone, but please do your part to make sure your bridges are included.

If you have questions, please contact me or any of the others actively involved in this application.

Right now I'd say our application will include about 75 bridges that can be let to contract during the time requirements outlined in the application procedures.

There's no way to know how our application will be received because the program is “only” \$1.5 billion and applications are expected from throughout the country. But I am very optimistic – War Eagle!

### ACCA EDUCATION PROGRAMS SET FOR EVALUATION

A committee of representatives of ACCA's affiliate organizations will convene several times this summer to look at options for enhancing the affiliate educational programs. The effort is part of the long-range plan adopted by ACCA's board of directors and membership last year.

“We look forward to working with the educational evaluation committee this summer to make sure we are meeting the needs of our staff members across the state,” said **ACCA President Joe Faulk**. “A program this important should be evaluated and enhanced every few years because we rely on the leadership of our staff members and trust that they are well-informed on the current challenges facing county government.”

ACCA's educational programs currently provide a “certification” process for various county employees, including a certification program for ACEA. Many of the courses offered in the program are common to all the educational programs and then specific courses are offered for each individual affiliate group.

“Our affiliate programs are an essential part of our success, both at the county and state levels,” explained **ACCA Executive Director Sonny Brasfield**. “We are very interested in doing whatever we can to provide the most effective training programs.”

## ACEA 2008-09 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**WAYNE SULLIVAN**  
President – Jefferson County

**TIM GRAVES**  
Vice President – Etowah County

**BILL BRIDGES**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
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District 4 – Chambers County

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District 6 – Elmore County

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District 7 – Pike County

**GARRY GRANTHAM**  
District 8 – Choctaw County

**WINSTON FOSHEE**  
District 9 – Conecuh County

**JUSTIN BARFIELD**  
EIT Rep – Houston County

### PAST PRESIDENTS

<b>RICHIE BEYER, CEA</b>	Elmore County
<b>BENJIE SANDERS, CEA</b>	Crenshaw County
<b>DENNIS McCALL</b>	Butler County
<b>PATRICK McDOUGALD, CEA</b>	Barbour County
<b>GREG BODLEY</b>	Morgan County
<b>HENRY HAWKINS III</b>	Chambers County
<b>RANDY TINDELL</b>	Coffee County
<b>RANDY COLE</b>	Shelby County
<b>DAVID BUFKIN, CEA</b>	Autauga County
<b>MIKE SHAW</b>	Marion County
<b>RICHARD SPRAGGINS, CEA</b>	Blount County
<b>MARK POOL</b>	Houston County
<b>DAVID POPE, CEA</b>	Madison County
<b>JOE RUFFER, CEA</b>	Mobile County

## 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 kicks off **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 **ACEA Board of Directors Meeting at 9 a.m.** and an **ACEA Membership Meeting at 10 a.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 of the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts;
- ✓ *Pros and Cons of Subdivision Regulations*, and several other topics to choose from.

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

- ✓ *Alabama Department of Transportation Update* with Ed Phillips
- ✓ *Employee Recruitment and Retention* with Robbie Hyde of Webb & Eley, P.C.
- ✓ *Workers Compensation Issues* with Hope Curtis of Webb & Eley, P.C.
- ✓ *Stimulus Discretionary Project* with Elmore County Engineer Richie Beyer, CEA

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, AEEMA*

- 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, CEA, 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*