

CROAA *Advisor*.....

*Official quarterly newsletter of the County Revenue Officers Association of Alabama
First Quarter 2009*

CROAA 2008-09 Board of Directors

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District 10 - Baldwin County

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Remembering a CROAA Founder

When someone thinks of a milestone anniversary they typically think of the 10th, 25th, 50th, 100th, but do they think of the 12th? This year the County Revenue Officers Association of Alabama marks its 12th anniversary. So, why is our 12th anniversary is so significant?

Twelve years ago, four individuals, representing four different counties, came together and put the wheels in motion for the creation of CROAA.

These individuals drove to and from Montgomery and picked up their phones an untold number of times. It was through their hard work that a strong foundation was laid for CROAA and one we continue to build from today.

So, who were these four members and what county did they represent? They were **Don Allen** of Tuscaloosa, **Betty Peterson** of Madison County, **Ed Sims** of Morgan County, and **Janice Stewart** of Mobile County.

When CROAA was officially formed on May 6, 1997, Betty served as president, Don as vice president, and Janice as secretary/treasurer. Ed later served as CROAA president for two years.

On May 6, CROAA will mark its 12th anniversary, and we will do so with a heavy heart. On Jan. 22, 2009, CROAA lost one of our founding members. Don Allen worked for Tuscaloosa for 39 years, before he retired on Dec. 31, 2004.



Don Allen receiving the first Outstanding Contribution to CROAA award from Susan Russell in 2007.

What I remember of Don was that he was integral in working behind the scenes and helping in every way he could. He never wanted the spotlight or the credit for the considerable effort he gave to the organization. He was always content with doing the nuts-and-bolts work that was needed to move the organization forward, like the creation of the standardized reporting form we all use today.

In 2007, CROAA created the Outstanding Contribution to CROAA award, and Don was recognized as the first recipient of the award. As we mark our 12th anniversary on May 6, let's remember the contribution Don gave to the continued success of CROAA. His imprint on this organization will always be felt.

*Kevin Caputo
CROAA President
Madison County*

Membership Has Its Privileges...

As a member of the County Revenue Officers of Alabama, membership has its privileges! And, one of the benefits of membership is this newsletter, which will be published quarterly and jam-packed with information we think will be useful to you. CROAA is a statewide organization of professionals just like you. Through the Association, you will be provided educational opportunities to further your skills as a leader in your profession, all the while making important contacts that can prove most useful in the future.

Not a member of CROAA? If you would like to learn more about CROAA, log on to www.acca-online.org and look for CROAA in the Affiliates section.

Not sure if your membership dues are up-to-date? Please e-mail **Jennifer Datcher** at jdatcher@acca-online.org.

Membership dues are \$10 annually. Make checks payable to County Revenue Officers Association of Alabama and mail with completed form, which can be found online, to:

CROAA
100 N. Jackson Street
Montgomery, Ala. 36104
(334) 263-7594
Fax (334) 263-7678

HOW TO REGISTER ONLINE FOR CONFERENCES



- Please understand that a lot of effort went into making sure this system works well for ACCA and our affiliates. We are aware that some will experience problems or have trouble registering, but do not hesitate to contact Jennifer in the ACCA office to help resolve issues.
- Registrations will not be accepted via any other method. You **MUST** register through the online system.
- Each person must register individually for the conference. You might want to think about assigning the duty of registering everyone in the office to one staff member. That staff member would be responsible for registering each person individually for all ACCA events and keeping up with everyone's login and password.
- First, go to www.acca-online.org.
- Click on **Conference and Events** 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 log in. 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 current 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** to bring up all of your current account information.
- **If it says, "Incorrect E-mail or Password,"** we must not have you in the system. Go to **New Visitor Registration** to create an account. You'll need to enter your contact information and hit **Create Account**. From there continue on to the next step.
- Click on **Upcoming Events** on the left side of the page. This will bring up a list of upcoming events. There will be several pages, and 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 on **Add to Cart**.
- If you need to register for something else (fishing, golf, spouse tour, etc.) click **Continue Shopping**, and click on **Upcoming Events** *again* on the left side of the page 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. Click **Continue Shopping** and click on **Upcoming Events** *again* on the left side of the page. Then, click on **ACCA Annual Convention Spouse Registration**. *Please note the 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 the **Checkout** button in the shopping cart. Enter your billing information if necessary. Click **Next**. Then 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.
- Please call or e-mail Jennifer or Donna in the ACCA office if you have questions: Jennifer Datcher at jdatcher@acca-online.org; Donna Key at dkey@acca-online.org; (334) 263-7594.

Legislative update...

SALES TAX ON FOOD – HB116 by Rep. John Knight is officially dead for this session. This bill would have exempted unprepared food from the state sales tax. House members angered over earlier opposition to this bill continued to slow the progress of legislation through the House. ACCA staff would like to express appreciation to all county officials and staff that contacted legislators on this matter.

TICKET SCALPERS – HB71 by Rep. Cam Ward, as introduced, would have repealed the state and county license for ticket scalpers. An ACCA amendment protected the license, but it did include an exemption for those persons who sell tickets exclusively on the Internet. The bid passed the House and is awaiting final passage in the Senate during the final two working days of the session.

LONG-TERM FINANCING LEGISLATION – SB393 by Sen. Tom Butler and **HB479** by Rep. Marcel Black are very important pieces of legislation. These ACCA priority bills reform the way counties enter into long-term financing agreements, such as bonds. The county will complete a checklist created by the Examiner of Public Accounts. This bill goes a long way in providing both accountability and openness while dealing with a complicated process. This is a proactive piece of legislation that is also being supported by the bond underwriting community. **Please encourage your Senators to SUPPORT HB479 by Rep. Black and your Representatives to SUPPORT SB393 by Sen. Butler.**

PERFORMANCE BONDS FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS – HB173 by Rep. James Fields and **SB111** by Sen. Hank Sanders would revise Alabama's law regarding the bonding of local elected officials and employees to require bonding in an amount that more adequately protects the county from losses covered by the bond, and to provide that any forfeiture is paid to the entity suffering the loss for which forfeiture occurs. An agreed-upon amendment will be offered on the floor to clarify questions raised by the state's comptroller. Passage of this bill will significantly improve the bonding process for local officials. **Please encourage your Senators to SUPPORT HB173 and your Representatives to SUPPORT SB111.**

ABATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS EXCISE TAX – Representatives of the financial community accepted requested changes from ACCA, and **HB568 PASSED**. This legislation now awaits final action on the Senate floor. As introduced, this legislation would have endangered the Financial Institutions Excise Tax paid to counties throughout the state.

ACCA-accepted amendments ensure that any incentives given are limited to new bank headquarters facilities or call

centers and that the incentives apply only to the tax paid to the county in which the new operation is located.

Made plans for the summer?

ACCA's 81st Annual Convention is almost here. Have you made your plans to attend? If not, we've included a tentative agenda and instructions on how to register online in this newsletter for your convenience.

The convention, entitled *Economic Development...The Missing Piece*, is scheduled for **Aug. 18-20** for the **Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach**. Log on to www.acca-online.org and click **Conference and Events** to register online.

Don't forget to make your hotel reservations! To reserve online, visit www.perdidobeachresort.com, click "Reservations," and use group code 3703. You may also call the hotel at (800) 634-8001 and identify yourself with the Association of County Commissions of Alabama to get ACCA's discounted rate of **\$147 per night** for a standard room. The deadline to make hotel reservations is **July 17**.

Plan for your certification.

Below is a list of classes being offered in the next couple of years to help members plan ahead for their certification. It's never too early to mark your calendars:

- **Feb. 10-12, 2010** – Course I: Overview of County Revenue
- **April 7-9, 2010** – Elective: Business Licensing in Local Government
- **July 14-16, 2010** – Elective: How to Safely Perform Revenue Field Work
- **Feb. 9-11, 2011** – Course II: Legal Considerations of Local Revenue
- **April 6-8, 2011** – Course III: Enforcement of Licenses and Taxes
- **July 13-15, 2011** – Elective: Local Tax Options

CROAA ELECTIVE

Local Tax Options – July 8-10 at the Shelby County Community Service Building

This course will discuss the tax structure for the State of Alabama, concerning both the well-known taxes, as well as other taxes, that are not seen as frequently, but are also part of the tax structure of Alabama.

Registration is \$195. Register online at www.coned.jsu.edu or call 800-634-7199.

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 Tournament Shotgun Start
Glenlakes Golf Club in Foley, Ala.

1 – 7 p.m.

Fishing Expedition
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 Educational Session

2 – 3 p.m.

- Minority Issues Steering Committee (Open Forum)
- ACCA Workers Compensation 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
- Nominating Committee Meeting
- Resolutions Committee Meeting

8 – 11:30 a.m.

Registration Desk Open

8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Opening General Session

- State of the Economy, *Dr. David Bronner (Invited)*
- Development of Rural Areas, *Larry Lee, Director, The Center for Rural Alabama*
- Stimulus Funding for Alabama Counties, *David Perry, Attorney, Maynard Cooper & Gale*
- An Economic Success Story in Houston County, *Mark Culver, Chairman, Houston County Commission; Ronnie Gilley, Owner, Ronnie Gilley Properties*
- Economic Development Districts
- Partnering with Industry
- Report of the Nominating Committee

12 – 1:15 p.m.

County Agents Kitchen Lunch

1:30 – 4:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

- Jail Workshop, *Ken Webb, Webb & Eley, P.C.*
- County Bond Financing Review
- Feeding of Prisoners
- Pros and Cons of Subdivision Regulations
- Is Self-Governance for Your County? *Bill Cook, Macon County Compliance Officer*
- Improvement Districts, *Alston Ray, Johnston Barton Proctor & Rose*

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 Educational Session

8:45 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

Commissioners

- Stimulus Discretionary Project
- Update on FEMA Public Assistance Grants, *Benji Abbott, AEMA*

- ADEM's Recycling Grant and Dump Cleanup Programs, *Phillip Davis, Solid Waste Branch, ADEM*
- Rural Water and Sewer Authorities
- County Striping Programs: Two Approaches, Same Results – Saving Money!

ACEA

- ALDOT Update
- Employee Recruitment and Retention
- Stimulus Discretionary Project
- Workers Compensation Issues

ACAA

- Examiners Report
- Sanitation Collection
- Reimbursement for Elections

AAEM

- Emergency Fund Legislation

AAND

- 211 Program
- Elected Officials View of 9-1-1

10:45 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Spouse Program – A Day at the SPA

12 – 1:15 p.m.

Convention Luncheon Honoring 2008-2009 President Joe Faulk

1:45 – 4:45 p.m.

Afternoon General Session

- Awards Ceremony
- Washington Report
Sen. Jeff Sessions (Invited)
Rep. Mike Rogers
NACo President Valerie Brown
- ACCA Business Session
Executive Directors Report
District Caucuses

6:30 p.m.

President's Banquet Honoring 2009-2010 President-Elect Larry White

8 p.m.

President's Inaugural Dance
Featuring *The Sweet Young Uns*