

CROAA *Advisor*.....

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

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What's on the horizon for CROAA?

It seems that whenever you pick up the paper or turn on the television, someone is talking about global climate change. Some say the temperature outside is hotter, the sea levels are rising, glaciers are melting, or rain forests are disappearing.

Here in Alabama it's hard to see those changes – Alabama it seems is always hot, the Gulf of Mexico's water level seems to be the same, we have no glaciers, and we have no rain forests, but something seems to be happening. The question is, what is it?

So, what similarity does global climate change have in common with the collection of local licenses and taxes in Alabama? Well, change is coming. The question is: What type of change, and when is it going to take place?

Each year at ACCA's Annual Convention there is talk of what's going to happen in the next legislative session. For the past two years, the main topic of discussion has been removing the state's portion of sales tax from unprepared food and whether the locals' portion will be affected. That topic ended this year the same way it has for the past two years – without passing.

Does that mean that the issue is dead? Does that mean those wanting to pass it are going to refocus on the issue and approach it from a different angle? Or, does it mean something else?

Removing the sales tax from unprepared food is only one of many issues we as an organization are faced with each year. Going back a number of years we have also faced Streamlined Sales Tax, Business License Reform, 1998's Uniform Revenue Procedures and numerous others.

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Since our last meeting at the ACCA's Annual Legislative Conference at Ross Bridge, a tremendous amount of work has been done by a number of our members. The work that is being done today will better position

our organization for the future.

As you travel to ACCA's 81st Annual Convention this year and inevitably take a walk along the beach and look out over the Gulf, the question becomes is there a Category 5 hurricane coming our way sometime soon, or is it just a cluster of clouds that will pass on by.

Either way, we as an organization need to be prepared and ready to work together at a moment's notice...because change will inevitably be coming.

*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 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. Please 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. 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 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 with questions. (**Jennifer Datcher** – jdatcher@acca-online.org; **Donna Key** – dkey@acca-online.org; 334-263-7594)

ACCA's 81st Annual Convention Economic Development...The Missing Piece

The ACCA staff has designed the 81st 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 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.* The **CROAA and License Inspector Education Program** will kick off at **1 p.m.** All CROAA topics have been tailored to meet **YOUR** specialized needs. **Remember: Many of our guest speakers will be travelling great distances to be with us. Please make your plans to attend!**

- ✓ *Training for Local License Departments* with Randy Winkler, Business and License Tax Manager of the Alabama Department of Revenue;
- ✓ *Bankruptcies and the Sales-and-Use Tax and Business Licenses* with Mark Griffin, assistant counsel with ADOR;
- ✓ *Fraud: What constitutes it? How do you prove it? How do you document it?* A discussion with Emanuel Roberts, manager of the investigators with ADOR;
- ✓ *Legislative Update* with Mary Pons, ACCA Staff Attorney;

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;
- ✓ *Is Self-Governance for Your County?* with Bill Cook, Macon County Compliance Officer; 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! The **CROAA and License Inspector Education Program** will be from **8 a.m.-12 p.m.**

- ✓ *Business Session* with President Kevin Caputo, presiding
- ✓ *Conducting Legal Research* with Laura Alfano, attorney and professor at Virginia College
- ✓ *Revenue and Economic Forecasting* with the Legislative Fiscal Office

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 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 Member Meetings
- 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 Session

- **Training for Local License Departments**, *Randy Winkler, Business and License Tax Manager, ADOR*
- **Bankruptcies and the Sales-and-Use Tax and Business Licenses**, *Mark Griffin, Assistant Counsel, ADOR*
- **Fraud**, *Emanuel Roberts, Manager of Investigators, ADOR*
- **Legislative Update**, *Mary Pons, ACCA Staff Attorney*

- 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, P.C.*
- 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 Session

- **Conducting Legal Research**, *Laura Alfano, Professor, Virginia College*
- **Revenue and Economic Forecasting**, *Legislative Fiscal Office*

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, 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 Batemon, 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

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*