

CROAA *Advisor*.....

*Official quarterly newsletter of the County Revenue Officers Association of Alabama
Special ACCA 79th Annual Convention Issue*

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President's Message...

Many of you can remember when there wasn't a CROAA. Our organization has grown over the years because of the hard work and commitment of colleagues throughout our state.

Today, CROAA is a recognized and important part of county government. We are involved in legislative and educational activities that impact the daily activities of every county commission in this state. All of us, even those who are not active participants, benefit from the positive aspects of our association.

Earlier this year we honored one of the real "founding fathers" of our organization by presenting the first annual Outstanding Contribution to CROAA Award to one of the original members, **Don Allen**. For years Don was the director of the sales tax collection operation in Tuscaloosa County, which was one of the few sales tax collection offices in county government. During most of his career, he had few, if any, peers throughout the state with whom he could communicate and discuss the challenges of his responsibilities.

But in the mid 1990s, the Alabama Legislature authorized counties to begin collecting sales tax at the local level and Don joined with a handful of others to establish our organization. After all those years, Don finally found a place to discuss, debate and improve the collection of sales tax at the county level.

We have all benefited from his insight – and the insight of many others who established our organization. Don worked for 39 years in the same office before retiring on Dec. 31, 2004. **Susan Russell** from Walker County presented the award in April at the Shelby County Community Services Building.

On another note, I want to take this opportunity to thank the membership committee for their hard work in developing the wonderful brochure outlining the benefiting of participating in CROAA. The document looks great and is very informative. If you need copies, let us know.

Thanks again to **Larry Curvin, Sandra Hodo, Keith Crawford, David Bogue** and **Mike Stuardi** for their hard work.

When the schedule for this year's educational classes is released in just a few weeks, you will see that we're reaching out to both License Commissioners and Revenue Officers to participate in our educational program. At the local level, we know these employees and officials can benefit from the quality training provided by CROAA.

And, on a selfish note, our training programs will be more successful with more participation. So, please encourage those from your county to attend.

With the ACCA convention just around the corner, I trust you have all made your plans to participate in the convention and the training sessions designed especially for CROAA members. An extra "Thank You" is extended to Donna Key at the ACCA office for her assistance in coordinating the training sessions. Details on the session can be found inside this newsletter.

If you have not registered for the convention, please do so TODAY. There is a registration form found inside this newsletter for your convenience.

Finally, I also encourage you to take a look around on the Affiliates page of the ACCA website. The CROAA section has changed dramatically, and it looks great!

Kirk Keith, President

Why Should You Attend ACCA's 79th Annual Convention?



...because it's so much more than a week at the beach! Not only will there be interesting vendors to captivate and intrigue you on Tuesday, Aug. 21, 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.

For CROAA members, your week will begin on Tuesday with an Educational Session from 1-5 p.m. in Azure.

- *Welcome and Opening Remarks* by CROAA President Kirk Keith at 1 p.m.
- Lt. John Murphy of the Baldwin County Sheriff's Department will be on hand from 1:15-3:15 p.m. for a presentation on *Drug Information*.
- From 3:15-3:45 p.m. please take the opportunity to stroll through the Exhibit Hall in the Grand Ballroom and Ballroom Foyer to visit with our vendors.
- At 3:45 p.m., Montgomery County Archivist Lyn Frazer will join us with a presentation on *Retention of Records*.
- ACCA Assistant Executive Director Sonny Brasfield will round out our afternoon from 4:30-5 p.m. with a *Legislative Update*.

On Wednesday, Aug. 22, during the Opening General Session, you might want to check out, *County to County: Report Card on Economic Development on the County Level*, with Neal Wade, director of the Alabama Development Office, at 9:15 a.m. If your county has experienced a few growing pains with the recently enacted self-governance act, then at 10:15 a.m., check out *County To County: Surviving Self Governance* with Colbert County Commissioner Rex Burleson and Rhonda McCoy, administrative assistant to the Marshall County Commission Chairman.

Following the County Agents Kitchen Lunch, be sure to catch one of the Concurrent Sessions.

- Is your county going "GREEN?" If you are concerned about the energy efficiency of your county, or you want to do more to help the environment, then go to *Session B: Energy Efficiency in Your County – Saving Tax-Payer Dollars* in Salon E at 1:30-2:15 p.m. and again at 3:15-4 p.m.
- The recent passage of the County Modernization Act is big news to a lot of people in county government, but there are many people who don't quite understand this new piece of legislation. Check out *Session C: County Modernization Act* in Salons FGH at 1:30-2:15 p.m. and again at 3:15-4 p.m.
- *Session E: Improvement Districts* in Salon E at 3:15-4 p.m. and again from 4-4:45 p.m. with ACCA Staff Attorney Mary Pons may be something you will find intriguing.

Thursday, Aug. 23, will begin with the CROAA breakout session in Emerald from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. **CROAA President Kirk Keith**, will preside.

- The morning session will kick off from 8-8:45 a.m. with the Business

Session. Please make your plans to attend this session so a quorum is present.

- Joan Crumbley and Barbara Russell with the Alabama Department of Revenue will be on hand to discuss *100% Penalty Rules* from 8:45-10:30 a.m. (There will be a morning break from 10:15-10:30 a.m.)
- Deborah Lee with the Sales Tax Local Tax Unit of the Alabama Department of Revenue will join us at 11 a.m. to help us answer the question, *How is Your Relationship with the Alabama Department of Revenue?*

Immediately following the last session, everyone will gather in Salons DEFGH for the Convention Luncheon Honoring ACCA 2006-07 President Rhondel Rhone from 12-1:15 p.m.

The Afternoon General Session in Salons ABC will follow lunch and open with the Awards Ceremony. There will also be a *Report on the Alabama State Employees' Insurance Board* with Alabama State Employees' Insurance Board Executive Director William Ashmore and ACCA Executive Director Buddy Sharpless.

Vice President Kevin Caputo will address the ACCA membership to deliver the CROAA report during the ACCA Affiliate Reports beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Following the Affiliate Reports and ACCA Annual Report will be the ACCA Business Session in which the reports of the Resolutions and Nominating Committees will be announced before the district caucuses will take place. And, don't forget the President's Banquet at 6:30 p.m. in Salons DEFGH.

Membership has its privileges...

CROAA exists to promote the proficiency and professionalism of county revenue officers. We offer unique opportunities to bring together revenue officials from across the state through meetings and training events, and we offer numerous opportunities to network with other professionals...just like you.

As an affiliate of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama, CROAA's annual meetings and other gatherings are held in conjunction with other ACCA events, which gives our members even greater opportunities for diverse interaction with county officials.

CROAA offers three membership designations:

Regular Members

Regular members must be employed in an office responsible for any portion of the collection or enforcement of taxes at the county level. As a regular member, you are entitled to vote on matters, such as the election of CROAA officers and directors, the ratification of the annual dues, and any amendments to the CROAA by-laws.

Associate Members

Associate members can be individuals, companies or

corporations (who are involved in the collection of local taxes or who support the purposes and goals of the Association), elected officials, State of Alabama employees, or faculty and staff of institutions of higher education. Associate members shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of regular members, but may not hold office or vote on CROAA matters.

Honorary Members

The Board of Directors may grant honorary membership to persons, companies or corporations that have supported the goals of CROAA. Honorary members are not allowed to vote or hold office.

Contact CROAA Secretary/Treasurer Brenda Meads at bmeads@co.baldwin.al.us for more information about becoming a member or a membership application.



If you are looking for a group of professionals just like you, then look no further...because we are looking for YOU, too! Join CROAA today!

79th ACCA Annual Convention Registration Form

County or Company Name: _____ Person Completing Form: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Registration fee is \$185 per person for *ACCA members* if paid **before July 27**. (\$210 per person after July 27)

Registration fee is \$265 per person for *company representatives* if paid **before July 27**. (\$290 per person after July 27)

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

List below the names of the persons you are registering for the conference. Please indicate if each person is a (C) Commissioner, (CA) Clerk/Administrator, (CE) County Engineer, (EIT) Engineer in Training, (EMA) Emergency Management, (CRO) County Revenue Officer, (911) 9-1-1 Administrator, (G) Guest, (S) Spouse.

**Please return form and check payable to ACCA by July 27, 2007 to:
ACCA Convention • 100 N. Jackson Street • Montgomery, Ala. 36104 • Fax (334) 263-7678**



CROAA
100 N. Jackson Street
Montgomery, Ala. 36104

Important ACCA Convention Info Inside...