



# News Bulletin

Association of County Commissions of Alabama  
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## **2004 Purchasing List Available**

Items that may be purchased through the ACCA Joint Bidding Program are now available on the ACCA website and may be purchased beginning on Jan. 1, 2004. The prices listed on the items will remain the same until Dec. 31, 2004.

Counties may purchase the items on the program without conducting their own local bids. Counties are encouraged to review the bid program and to consider purchasing from this list rather than conducting local bids.

## **District Meetings Kick-Off Session**

The ACCA district meetings begin on Jan. 6, setting the stage for the 2004 regular session of the Alabama Legislature. County officials are encouraged to register for and attend these important sessions. The meetings begin at 6 p.m. and will include dinner and a preview of the issues expected to surface during the 2004 session.

The meetings are scheduled for Jackson, Cullman, Shelby, Chambers, Pike and Clarke Counties. A complete listing of the meetings, dates and locations can be found at the ACCA website.

## **Your Day in the Sun**

The ACCA's Annual County Commission Days, a time set aside for your county to come to Montgomery to participate in the legislative effort, have been revised this year to make your time in Montgomery more effective.

All County Commission Days are scheduled for Tuesdays, with counties being assigned days based on ACCA districts. This will allow the Association's Legislative Committee members to serve as leaders of this event and will allow counties from the same area of the state to attend together.

Details on the event will be discussed at the district meetings.

## **Extensions Granted in Bridge Program**

A six-month extension has been granted to the 10 counties that did not obligate at least half of its revenue available through the 2000 bridge replacement program. These counties will forfeit any money not obligated by the end of May 2004.

All counties must obligate ALL of their bridge allocation by November of 2005. There will be no extensions granted at that time. Any unused bridge funds will be awarded to extra bridge projects that have been submitted prior to November 2005.

## **Baldwin, Barbour and Cullman Join Liability Fund**

Baldwin, Barbour and Cullman are the most recent county commissions to join the ACCA Self-Funded Liability Insurance Fund. The addition of these two counties bring the fund's annual premium to more than \$7 million, making the fund even stronger for all participating counties.

Other entities, such as community corrections programs and youth detention facilities, have also become part of the fund during the past year.

If your county is not a participant in this insurance program, please contact the ACCA office for more information.

## **"Super" Training Begins in January**

Training for supervisory personnel in the county engineers' departments will begin on Jan. 12 and 13, 2004. This two-day program will be repeated on Jan. 26 and 27 and then again on Feb. 9 and 10. County engineers are encouraged to schedule the attendance of all their supervisors for this important training.

This training is being held in Prattville, just off I-65 north of Montgomery.

## **Certified County Administrators**

A number of Certified County Administrators have just completed their first continuing education cycle, which is now required to continue the designation as a

Certified County Administrator. Those who successfully completed the requirements will be notified in early 2004 and county commissions are encouraged to recognize their achievement during a county commission meeting.

The membership of the Association of County Administrators of Alabama established these continuing education requirements to ensure that those administrators holding this important designation continue to enhance their professional development. A total of 12 Continuing Education Units are required every two years.

### **NACo Legislative Conference**

The Legislative Conference of the National Association of Counties is set for Feb. 27 - March 2, 2004, in Washington, D.C. Those who plan to attend are encouraged to sign-up as quickly as possible.

The Association will hold events for those attending the conference. Information on the events will be made available to county officials in the coming weeks.

### **No Host Hotel in Arizona**

County officials planning to attend the NACo Annual Conference in Arizona this summer should be aware of an important change in the procedure for obtaining sleeping accommodations. This year NACo discontinued its "lottery" system and will assign attendee hotels based on the date registration materials are received in the NACo office.

By early March the ACCA staff will establish the hotel in which the Alabama Headquarters Room will be located. Counties who wish to take part in the Alabama activities and more easily communicate with their colleagues will be encouraged to list this hotel as their first choice on their registration materials. However, your ability to be in the "Alabama" hotel will depend on how timely your registration is mailed. So please be prepared to respond to the Alabama notification when it is mailed to you in early spring.

### **"Home" on the Web**

If you have not already made the Association's web site your "home" page when signing on to the Internet, you are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. With the 2004 regular session of the Legislature just more than a month away, it is important that county officials check the site on a regular basis to obtain updates on legislative and other important matters.