

## ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

**TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**JANUARY 2016**

### **Director's Comments:**



The new year is off to a fast start. Earlier this month we held a successful Competent Person Confined Space Safety Training Class in Dothan. We have a similar class scheduled for the Mobile area on February 19th. In addition to Confined Space, the Mobile Class will also focus on Excavation Safety.

Safety is something that should never be taken lightly. Unfortunately, there was a jobsite fatality in our state this month from someone in our very industry. A tragedy like this serves as a reminder of just how risky this business can be. Please keep the family of the gentleman that lost his life in your thoughts and prayers. And please also make sure that you and your employees take every precaution to prevent any more such accidents from happening.

The Legislative Session will kickoff on February 2nd. Once again, AUCA will be represented throughout the session by our Lobbyist, B.T. Crowe. A Gas Tax will be proposed to improve the roads and bridges in the state. However, it is imperative that we also continue to bring focus on the needs of our underground infrastructure. Clean drinking water (as evidenced by the recent events in Flint, Michigan) is essential to survival and healthy living.

Years ago, the Alabama Legislature established a State Revolving Loan Fund for Wastewater Treatment (SRF) and the Alabama Drinking Water Finance Authority. The purpose of these programs was to take state funds and match them with federal dollars to create a loan fund to offer low interest loans to governmental entities for wastewater treatment and drinking water projects. AUCA, along with the League of Municipalities, will seek additional matching funds from the Legislature to continue these nationally recognized programs.

Thanks for your continued support of AUCA!

*Tim*

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*Upcoming Events:*

**Mobile Area Competent Person Excavation and  
Confined Space Safety Training Class**

AUCA will be offering a full day long Competent Person Training Class on the topics of Excavation and the Confined Space Standard for Construction. Class size will be limited, so please contact the AUCA office as quickly as possible in order to register and guarantee space for your company.

**Friday, February 19, 2016  
Beard Equipment Company  
2480 East I-65 Service Road North  
Mobile, AL 36617**

***AUCA Quarterly Lunch Meetings***

We are finalizing the dates and details for the 1st Quarter local lunch meetings. The meetings will likely take place in late February and/or early March. Be on the lookout for updates.

***Spring Statewide General Meeting  
& Golf Tournament***

**April 21, 2016  
Arrowhead Country Club  
Montgomery, AL**

***Mark Your Calendars Today!***



## News & Notes:

### **Davis-Bacon Wage Rate Surveys**

February 29th is the deadline to complete Davis-Bacon Wage Rate Surveys currently being conducted by the United States Department of Labor. The survey includes all counties in Alabama, and covers Building and Heavy Construction projects that were active during the time frame of January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014.

It is very important that Alabama Contractors complete the WD-10 survey form online or postmark and mail by February 29, 2016.

### **2016 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal**

January begins the membership renewal period. We are off to a great start with our 2016 renewals. Special thanks to the many companies that have already paid their 2016 AUCA dues, and to those that have made additional voluntary contributions to our Legislative PAC Fund. For those that have not yet done so, please make arrangements to submit your membership dues as quickly as possible.

Should you have any questions, need another copy of the invoice sent to you, or wish to pay by credit card, please contact the AUCA office at (205) 582-9436.

### **AUCA Newest Member Company:**

**L & K Contracting, Inc.**

Dothan, AL

Company Representative: Chris Kirkland

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### **Job Opportunity:**

AUCA has a member company in Birmingham looking for an inside sales position with the ability to perform full material take-off's. Any interested candidates should contact the AUCA office for additional information.



## News & Notes:

### **Competent Person Confined Space Safety Training Class Dothan - January 15, 2016**

Special thanks to Flint Equipment Company in Dothan for hosting and providing lunch and refreshments to the attendees of the recent Competent Person Confined Space Safety Training Class. We also thank each attending company for taking a proactive approach to ensure that their employees are properly trained.



### **AUCA Logo Decals**

AUCA has just received an order of AUCA logo decals and will be distributing these to all our member companies.

We encourage you and your employees to put them on your hard hats, automobiles, tools, equipment, etc. to show your support for AUCA. The more visible we are, the more effective we can be as an association.



## News & Notes:

### **AUCA Membership Directory**

AUCA will be publishing a printed membership directory in 2016. This will be an additional resource to offer our members, containing valuable industry information. We will follow-up with all member companies soon to ensure that we have the correct contact information for your company before the directory is printed.

We will also have several advertising opportunities within the directory to showcase your company. We hope that you will consider placing an ad in the directory to help make it a more valuable resource to our members. The premier spots are limited, and may sell out quickly. Please contact the AUCA office if your company would like to reserve a spot.

Below is the Membership Directory advertising rate sheet:

- Back Outside Cover - Full Color - \$1,000**
- Front Inside Cover - Full Color - \$1,000**
- Back Inside Cover - Full Color - \$1,000**
- Tab Pages - Full Color - \$750**
- Full Page (5" x 8") - Black & White - \$500**
- Half Page (5" x 3.5") - Black & White - \$250**

We will be developing a full media kit to send out to those interested in advertising with AUCA in the membership directory, website, or newsletter.



## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC

### **REAUTHORIZATION OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE WRRDA RE-AUTHORIZATION BILL**

Clean Water Construction Coalition representatives have been in active discussions with House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee staff members concerning the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act. The Committee has begun an effort to draft legislation to reauthorize the WRRDA 2014 Act and is considering including reauthorization of the CWSRF program as part of the bill.

At this time, it appears that including the reauthorization of the CWSRF as part of the WRRDA measure has bipartisan support, however, the Democrats and Republicans have different ideas concerning funding levels. The Democrat members of the House T & I Committee have drafted a \$13.8 billion, 5 year bill while the Republicans have indicated that they support moving a reauthorization bill at the funding level of the average of the last five years of appropriations to the program. The Republicans are willing to move legislation at higher funding levels but only if budget offsets that equal the increased funding are identified. Currently, Democrat members and staff are working to identify budget offsets. At the request of the House T & I Committee, the Coalition reviewed the draft bill and submitted comments to the Committee staff.

### **COALITION REPRESENTATIVES MEET WITH OMB OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS PRESIDENT'S FY 2017 BUDGET**

Coalition representatives met with officials from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) several weeks ago to advocate for the highest funding levels for the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water SRF's to be included in the President's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget. OMB assists the President in the development of the Administration's annual budget. Last year the Obama Administration proposed substantial cuts to the annual Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water programs. The Coalition is urging the Administration to increase funding for the CWSRF and SDSRF programs. The Administration is expected to release its FY 2017 budget on February 9, 2016.



## Legislative News:

### **Alabama Update:**

The 2016 Alabama Legislative Session begins on February 2nd. At this time, AUCA does not plan to introduce any bills during the session. However, we will be watching closely a number of bills that could impact our industry, including the proposed Gasoline Tax for Infrastructure/Transportation improvements.

Improved Underground Infrastructure Funding will always be one of our highest priorities. The recently released 2015 ASCE Report Card has given our state an overall grade of "C-" for infrastructure. It is estimated that \$7.9 Billion will be required over the next 20 years for the needed improvements for drinking water, and an additional \$4.4 Billion over the next 20 years to maintain and improve the wastewater infrastructure in Alabama.

AUCA will continue to work with elected officials to educate them on these issues, and to help develop funding strategies to eventually bring these needed projects to the construction stage. Doing so will help create job opportunities for AUCA members, as well as help provide for a better quality of life for Alabama citizens.

AUCA will continue to have representation on the Alabama Legislative One-Call Study Commission in an effort to require mandatory participation in a Single Statewide One-Call Notification System, and to work towards improved safety and enforcement of the current One-Call Law.

AUCA will work towards improved awareness and adherence of the Prompt Pay Law (Act #2014-404) that was passed in 2014 to ensure timely payment and fair treatment of Contractors.

***As always, AUCA will continue to play "defense" on any bills introduced that would adversely impact or our industry***

***Remember to check our weekly  
"Legislative Pipeline" email report  
for continuous legislative updates***





**AUCA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:**  
**Flint Equipment Company**



169 Ross Clark Circle NE  
Dothan, AL 36303  
Phone: (334) 794-8691  
Fax: (334) 794-8696

1220 Henderson Highway  
Troy, AL 36081  
Phone: 334-566-4181  
Fax: 334-566-4361

In 1932, John Deere opened a sales and service location in Albany, Georgia to serve southwest Georgia's large farm population – small beginnings for a company that would one day grow into the multi-faceted FlintCo of today.

By 1968, John Deere had expanded into the heavy construction equipment market and the dealership was sold to a small group of local investors. The heavy equipment division of the company was named Flint Equipment Company and the agricultural division became Albany Tractor Company. In 1979, a new division, selling and servicing large industrial, agricultural and marine engines was added – Flint Power Systems (formerly known as Engine Distributors). In 2002, the company which had prospered and grown from 15 employees in 1968 to over 280 employees was purchased by Mr. Thomas C. Cannon, a lifelong resident of Albany, Georgia.



Today, the FlintCo Family of Companies – Flint Equipment Company, Albany Tractor Company and Flint Power Systems, with 28 offices in three states – stands at the forefront of the equipment industry in the southeast United States. Our long and noteworthy history is testament to our continuing belief that good customers and good employees are the power that drives the company.

## Health & Safety:

*Provided by Josh Broaddus @ J. Smith Lanier & Company*

### **COLD WEATHER SAFETY**

Summer and Fall are gone and the Winter months are upon us. Even though it's cold outside we still have to work and get the job done. There are several things we can do to keep warm and prevent cold weather related accidents.

The first thing we want to do is to keep our body temperature at or about normal, 98.6F. This can be accomplished by wearing layers of clothing both inside and outdoors. Wear cotton or lightweight wool next to the skin and wool layers over your underwear. Keep dry by having proper rain gear available and a pair of good, water-proof boots. An extra pair of clean, dry socks can really come in handy. Don't forget to protect your neck and ears; you can lose a lot of heat from these two areas, and a good pair of gloves is essential.

Do you know the signs of frostbite? Skin will become white and you won't have much circulation. In the worst case, blisters will form but you won't feel any pain. First aid for frostbite is as follows: NEVER rub the frozen part of the body with snow -- Add extra clothing or use a blanket to cover the frozen area -- get out of the cold and into a warm location -- the frozen area may be immersed in warm water but NEVER use hot water -- if the condition does not improve seek professional medical attention.

Another area of concern during cold weather is the use of portable heaters. If they are not maintained properly they can cause accidents. Carbon monoxide can result from defective ventilating and from incomplete fuel burn. All portable heaters should be checked by a competent person before being put into use. Locate fuel containers, regulators, piping and hose where they will not be subject to damage. LP gas containers not in use should be stored upright, in a specified outside location and protected against damage. Containers in use must be kept in an upright position and secured. Always be sure to protect the valves from physical damage.

Cold weather is here to stay for a few months -- keep your guard up against cold weather injury.



## A Solution For Employers

### Contractors Retirement Plan Features:

#### Employer

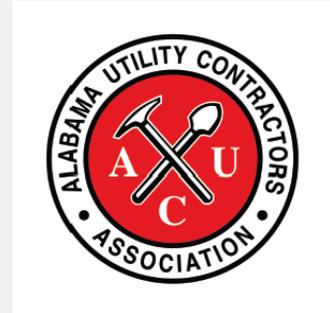
- No cost to employer, no TPA or audit fees
- Fiduciary relief from most 401k liabilities
- Powerful recruiting and retention tool
- Association leadership oversees the plan operation

#### Employee

- Reduced "group" costs on investments
- High focus on *Retirement Readiness*
- Easy enrolling, daily investment changes
- Call center is both live and 24/7 voice response
- Brand name, diverse investment options

#### Plan administrator

- We track eligibility and mail enrollment kits to home address
- Participants call vendor for all issues
- New compliance process eliminates costly errors
- Arduous paper notices mailed by vendor
- Loans, hardship, etc., all handled by vendor!



For more information please contact  
**Linda Smith and Jodi McMahon at  
205-536-9204**

Linda Smith and Jodi McMahon are registered Investment Advisors Representative, with Cambridge Investment Research Advisors, Inc., A broker dealer, member FINRA/SPIC. Cambridge, BenSource Employee Benefits, and AUCA are not affiliates.

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***AUCA IS A MEMBER-DRIVEN, NEEDS  
FOCUSED TRADE ASSOCIATION CREATED  
SOLELY TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE THE  
UTILITY INDUSTRY IN THE STATE OF  
ALABAMA.***

**We're on the Web !  
[www.aluca.org](http://www.aluca.org)**

**Please print out this newsletter to share with others in your company. And, if you are receiving this for the company owner, please print out a copy for him/her.**

***Let AUCA Be Your Source For All Your  
Training Needs***

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