



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DECEMBER 2015

Director's Comments:



Proverbs 27:17 says "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." I could never find a more appropriate way to describe the last year and a half that I've had to work with Philip Lee than this verse. Philip has been more than just a colleague and mentor to me. He has truly become a trusted friend.

As he rides off into the retirement sunset, I will certainly miss having him around. Thanks again Philip for all that you did for AUCA, and for helping me to sharpen my sword each day.

The same can also be said of Ronnie Golden. For the last two years he has faithfully served as AUCA President. His tireless dedication to the role, and willingness to be there whenever I needed him during this transitional year as the new Executive Director, have been much appreciated.

As Ronnie moves out of the role of President, I will miss having him in this position. However, I look forward to his continued friendship, and service on our Board of Directors in 2016. I am also eagerly anticipating working with our incoming President, Shaun Gonzales, and continuing to build upon the legacy that great men like Philip and Ronnie have worked so hard to establish.

Thanks also to all of our members that have helped to make this a special year. I hope you and your families have a wonderful holiday season, and that 2016 will be a prosperous year for us all.

Tim

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**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from AUCA**

Upcoming Events:

Dothan Area OSHA 1926 Confined Space Competent Person Safety Training Class

AUCA, along with member partner company HB NEXT, is pleased to offer a Confined Space Competent Person Training Class catered to the new OSHA Confined Space Standard for Construction. Class size is extremely limited, so please contact the AUCA office as quickly as possible in order to register and guarantee your space.

Friday, January 15, 2016

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Flint Equipment Company

169 Ross Clark Circle NE

Dothan, AL 36303

AUCA Plans to Hold a Confined Space Competent Person Training Class in the Mobile Area Soon.

Be on the Lookout for Information on this Class, as well as for Details on all Upcoming 1st Quarter AUCA Lunch Meetings.

Mark Your Calendars Today!



News & Notes:

2016 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal

AUCA 2016 Membership Dues Notices will go out this month. Be on the lookout for the notice. We appreciate your past support of AUCA, and hope that your company will renew your membership with our group and help us continue to work to reach our goals in 2016.

We ask that you please return your dues by January 31st to ensure your listing in the 2016 Membership Directory and to guarantee no disruption in member benefits.

ASCE Releases Annual Infrastructure Report Card

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) recently released the 2015 Infrastructure Report Card. Alabama received an overall grade of "C-" for all infrastructure categories. Drinking Water was given a grade of C+, but it is estimated that \$7.9 Billion will be required over the next 20 years for the needed improvements for drinking water. Waste and Storm Water received a grade of C-, and an additional \$4.4 Billion will be needed 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.

Davis-Bacon Wage Rate Surveys

The United States Department of Labor is currently conducting Davis-Bacon Wage Rate Surveys for all counties in Alabama through February 29, 2016. AUCA recently held meetings in Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Mobile, and Huntsville to emphasize the importance of this survey process, and why it is critical for all Contractors to take the time to participate.



News & Notes:

ALDOT Interest on Late Payments

After discussions with the State Comptroller's Office, ALDOT has developed the below instructions for contractors to claim interest on late payments:

INSTRUCTIONS FOR INTEREST CALCULATION & CLAIMS – CONTRACTOR ESTIMATES

State vendors are entitled to interest on late payments per Sections 40-1-44 and 41-16-3 of the Code of Alabama and 26 U.S.C. §6621 of the U.S. Code. A vendor can claim interest for any payment that is not paid within 30 days after an invoice was received and accepted as not in dispute by the agency. The invoice acceptance date for ALDOT contractor estimates will be the estimate cut-off date or invoice date used for the preparation of the monthly contractor estimate for a project. The warrant date or check date will be used to calculate the number of days over 30 days that the payment is past due. The daily interest rate to be used is the current annual interest rate of 3% divided by 365 days. The amount of interest due is calculated by multiplying the number of days over 30, the daily interest rate and the invoice or estimate amount.

ALDOT has designed an Excel worksheet to perform these calculations by entering the invoice date, the warrant date and the invoice amount into the worksheet. The worksheet is designed to allow claims for up to fifteen late payments/projects per worksheet.

A contractor can request interest on late payments by listing the applicable project numbers and the estimate numbers that were not paid within 30 days and sending this request to our Fiscal Section Administrator, Carissa Adams, in the Bureau of Finance & Audits at ALDOT. This information will be entered into the worksheet to calculate the interest due and a payment will be processed.

Carissa can be reached at 334-242-6366 or adamsca@dot.state.al.us.



News & Notes:

Free Spanish OSHA 10-Hour Class

J. Smith Lanier & Company, Inc., in coordination with American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), will hold a free OSHA authorized 10-Hour Construction Training Course taught exclusively in Spanish.

The Spanish Language OSHA 10 course will be provided in Birmingham in two five-hour sessions as follows:

- Thursday 1/14/2016 – 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (3 ten minute breaks)
- Friday 1/15/2016 – 7:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. (2 Ten Minute Breaks and 1 Thirty Minute Lunch Break)

Attendees must be present during the entire course to receive the OSHA 10-hour training card. **Attendees will need to have a picture I.D. with them.** There is no charge for the course, or the OSHA 10-hour authorized card, so there is no need to bring money. Snacks will be provided for the attendees.

The instructor will be Omar Lopez, OSHA Safety Training Specialist from the ARTBA, and the entire course will be taught in Spanish. Enrollment is limited to 40 attendees. A very heavy turnout is anticipated for this program, so email your attendees' names as soon as possible to jhanna@jsmithlanier.com.

Help Wanted:

Knapheide Truck Equipment will soon be moving into a new facility in Birmingham and is looking to fill the following positions:



- Technicians with either a knowledge of hydraulics or electrical, and capabilities to weld. The new location will also include a fabrication shop, so candidates that have experience working with shears and brakes would also be a plus.
- Automotive type painter.

If anyone knows someone that would be interested in any of these positions, please contact Mike Price from Knapheide by phone at 205-361-9792, or email at mprice@knapheide.com.



News & Notes:



AUCA held the 4th Quarter Board of Directors Meeting in Montgomery on December 9th.

Outgoing President Ronnie Golden and Incoming President Shaun Gonzales surprised everyone (including themselves) by wearing matching "Presidential" uniforms.



Warrior Tractor & Equipment Christmas Luncheon December 4th.

Forterra Pipe & Precast Lunch & Plant Tour December 15th.



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC

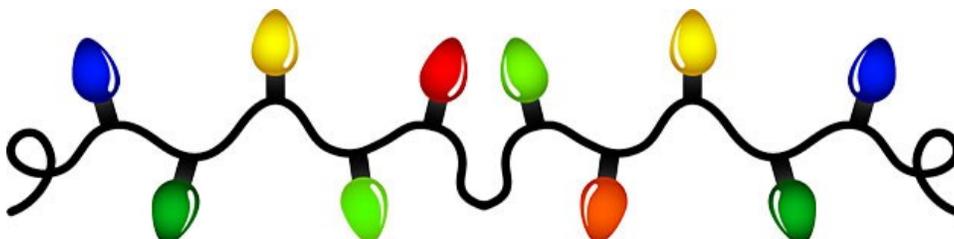
Congress Approves Federal Fiscal Year 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Congress approved federal FY 2016 Omnibus Appropriations legislation that funds the twelve federal appropriations bills through federal FY 2016 which ends on September 30, 2016. The passage of the Omnibus bill funds the federal government for most of 2016 and avoids a government shutdown.

As we reported to you in our previous notice, Coalition representatives have been vigorously advocating for higher clean water and drinking water funding amounts as well as full funding for the Corps of Engineers programs and other projects under the recently passed Water Resources Development Act. As we noted, both the U.S. House and Senate proposed cutting funding for the Clean Water SRF program to \$1 billion and Safe Drinking Water program to \$750 million, while the Obama Administration has proposed similar funding cuts.

We are pleased to inform you that the bi-partisan bill provides \$1.394 billion for EPA's Clean Water SRF program and \$863 million for the Safe Drinking Water SRF program! On behalf of the Coalition, our Washington, D.C. lobbyist, Federal Advocates, worked very aggressively to secure a higher funding level for both the Clean Water SRF and Drink Water SRF. But more than that, these funding levels are a reflection of the well-respected reputation the Coalition has in D.C.

The Coalition wishes to thank Federal Advocates for their efforts in representing the Coalition on this matter and also thank all Coalition Chapter Members who contacted their Congressional delegation members and urged them to fund the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF programs, at a minimum, at the federal FY 2015 funding levels!



Legislative News:

Alabama Update:

The Alabama Legislative Session will kickoff on February 2, 2016. As was the case this year, much focus and attention will be centered on the state's financial condition. One Bill expected to be introduced is a proposed increase in the state's Gasoline Tax. AUCA will monitor this Bill closely.

There will be a series of informational meetings throughout the state in January to explain the purpose of the Bill. Details are shown below:

Thursday, January 7	Northport, AL
Tuesday, January 19	Hoover, AL
Thursday, January 21	Huntsville, AL
Tuesday, January 26	Mobile, AL
Thursday, January 28	Dothan, AL

**all meetings will be held 10a.m. to Noon*

The business community of Alabama will partner with the Alabama Legislature's Joint Transportation Committees for Regional Meetings throughout the state as shown above in January 2016.

Mark your calendars! Come get an update on the state of Alabama's infrastructure and share your thoughts about the needs for your Region with the Joint Transportation Committee and invited guest ALDOT Director John Cooper.

Federal Update:

President Obama Enacts FAST Act with WIFIA Funding Improvements

On December 5th, President Obama enacted the "Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act" (FAST Act). The measure provides funding for a five year infrastructure



Legislative News:

investment program (federal FY2016 - FY2020) that grows annual investments by approximately 15.1 percent for highways and a 17.8 percent for the nation's transit program. This is the first long-term transportation funding bill passed by Congress in 10 years.

During the Senate and House conference committee negotiations on the bill, Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) was successful in getting language in the legislation that eliminated the mandate contained in the WIFIA authorization for both the USEPA and the Corps of Engineers program that prohibited combining tax exempt financing with WIFIA assistance (i.e. combining WIFIA loans with municipal tax exempt bonds).

The \$305 billion measure includes \$70 billion from other areas of the federal budget that will provide for slight annual funding increases during the next five years. The FAST Act includes \$225.2 billion for the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) and approximately \$61 billion for the nation's transit program.

The HTF is increased from the current \$40.2B to \$42.3B in FY16, \$43.2B in FY17, \$44.2B in FY18, \$45.2B in FY19 and \$46.3B in FY20. Total transit funding is increased from current \$10.7B to \$11.8B in FY16, \$12B in FY17, \$12.2B in FY18, \$12.4B in FY19 and \$12.6B in FY20. Funding for FTA's Capital Improvement Grants, New Starts, Small Starts and Core Capacity, is increased from the current \$2.12B per year to \$2.3B per year for each of the five years.

Two new freight programs were included in the Act. The Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program (a discretionary grant program) and the National Highway Freight Program (a formula based program allocated to each State).





AUCA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Truckworx



TRUCKWORX

Truckworx is Alabama's premier heavy and medium duty truck dealer and your one-stop shop for all things truck and trailer. The company has six full-service dealerships throughout Alabama featuring nationally acclaimed parts and service departments and award-winning commercial product lines.



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(251)957-4000

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Truckworx is Alabama's exclusive Kenworth Truck dealer offering a full line of heavy and medium duty Kenworth trucks including daycabs, dump trucks, work trucks, cabovers, and sleeper trucks that are fully customizable to meet your company's specific needs. Truckworx also offers class 6 & 7 conventional trucks and class 4 & 5 cabover trucks from Hino (made by Toyota), perfect for applications including dump trucks, utility trucks, refuse trucks, and box trucks. From Isuzu Commercial Trucks, the company offers class 3, 4, and 5 cabover trucks with options for diesel or gas engines. Applications include landscapers, construction, utility trucks, dump trucks, and box trucks. Truckworx also offers a wide variety of trailer lines to accommodate our customers' needs. Trailer offerings include dump, flatbed and pneumatic tankers from MAC Trailer, lowboy trailers from Talbert, vacuum and roll-off trailers from Dragon Products, steel dump trailers from Clement, log trailers, lowboys, chip vans, and flatbeds from Pitts Trailers, and lowboys from McLendon Trailer. Truckworx is also the Blue Bird bus dealer for the state of Alabama and offers all Blue Bird products, OEM parts and warranty service at all locations.



Truckworx has been a part of Alabama business for more than 37 years, expanding from a single Kenworth dealership with 9 employees in Birmingham, Alabama to over 340 team members throughout Alabama and Mississippi currently. The company was founded in 1978 by B.B. and Bob Mitchell, now CEO, and is still family-owned and operated today.



Health & Safety:

Provided by Josh Broaddus @ J. Smith Lanier & Company

Utility Knife Safety

There's one hand tool that demands your respect over many others in the workplace, a tool that can cut you to the bone in an instant . . . the utility knife.

Many workers use utility knives to cut strapping, puncture shrink-wrap and open packaging. But one wrong move and these retractable blades can do serious harm. In fact, nearly 40 percent of all injuries attributed to manual workshop tools in the US involve knives with retractable blades.

Many accidents involving utility knives occur for the following reasons:

- Drawing the knife towards you instead of away from your body.
- Working with a dull blade. (Dull blades require more pressure, increasing the potential for injury.)
- Trying to cut more than the knife can handle.
- Improperly storing the knife with the blade extended.
- Failing to wear personal protective equipment.
- Neglecting to inspect the tool before use.

There have been cases where workers have suffered injuries from exposed blade tips. This is because the blades did not completely retract into the handle. That's why it's important for workers to use the proper size blades or replace defective retraction mechanisms. Some companies use self-retracting utility knives – the blade automatically retracts into the handle when not in use.

Problems also arise when some employees don't have or can't find a utility knife supplied by the company. As a result, they tend to use whatever is handy, such as a pocket knife or other tool with a sharp edge. This can quickly turn hazardous if the tool slips or is used incorrectly.

The following are safety precautions to keep in mind when using utility knives:

- Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes in case a blade breaks.



Health & Safety:

Continued from Page 11

- Always use a sharp blade. They are safer than a dull blade.
- Wear cut resistant gloves and sleeves (at least Level 3) to protect your hands and arms.
- Hand a utility knife to a co-worker with the handle first.
- Use one of the newer model self-retracting blade knives. The technology has increased the safety of this tool tremendously over the past several years.
- If the application allows, use one of the new knives with a shielded knife surface such as the Klever Kutter or similar.
- Consider using a rounded tip blade if the application allows for such.
- Ensure the blades are properly positioned in the handle before use.
- Keep extremities out of the cutting path.
- Don't apply too much pressure on the blade.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions when changing blades.
- Don't use utility knives to pry loose objects.
- Dispose of dull or broken blades in a puncture-resistant container.
- Use of disposable knives with breakaway blades is not meant for industrial use.

Utility knives are extremely handy on the job, but they can also be handy in causing serious injuries.



A Solution For Employers

Contractors Retirement Plan Features:

Employer

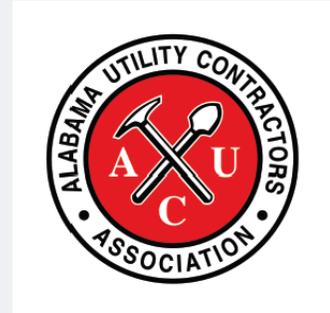
- No cost to employer, no TPA or audit fees
- Fiduciary relief from most 401k liabilities
- Powerful recruiting and retention tool
- Association leadership oversees the plan operation

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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SOLELY TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE THE
UTILITY INDUSTRY IN THE STATE OF
ALABAMA.***

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