

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FEBRUARY 2023



Director's Comments:

The U.S. Department of Labor recently announced increases for OSHA civil penalty amounts. This comes at a time, when sadly there has been a significant increase in trenching accidents and deaths. With workloads for our industry showing no signs of a slowdown, please make sure to invest in the proper training and equipment for your employees.

AUCA facilitated a Competent Person for Trenching & Excavation Safety class on February 16th in Tuscaloosa that had thirty-three attendees from seven different companies participate. We applaud these companies for investing in the safety of their workers. If AUCA can be of assistance with coordinating a future class with one of our safety partners in your area, please let us know.

On March 11, 2020 a group of AUCA members gathered in Montgomery for our "Charge the Hill" Legislative Awareness Day event, that was followed by our Board of Directors Meeting. It was during the Board Meeting that we received word that the World Health Organization had declared a global pandemic due to Covid-19. In some ways that seems like yesterday, and in others it feels like a lifetime ago. I reflect back on how naïve we all were regarding how that one seemingly small announcement would impact our world for years to come.

But, on March 9th, we are going to hold our first "Charge the Hill" since 2020. While I make no promises, hopefully we won't turn the world upside down again by do so. In all seriousness, we hope that you can make plans to come join us.

The 2023 Legislative kicks off on March 7th, and there will be many new faces in the legislature as they begin the new 4-year quadrennium. Now is the perfect time to come help educate them on the importance of our industry and the critical infrastructure needs. We hope to see you in Montgomery!

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Tim

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Charge the Hill - Legislative Awareness Day

Thursday, March 9, 2023

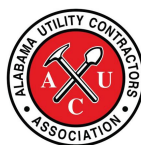
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**State House Building
11 South Union Street - Montgomery, AL 36130**



*The 2023 Alabama Legislative Session kicks off on March 7th,
and there are a large number of new Lawmakers.*

*This is your opportunity as AUCA members to join together in a unified
voice to help educate our Legislators on the concerns of the workforce that
supplies, installs, and rehabilitates the critical infrastructure of water,
sewer, gas, electrical, broadband, and other underground utility systems
throughout Alabama.*



SPONSORED BY:
CITY OF CLANTON



HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULT
JOB SEEKERS

CHILTON COUNTY CAREER AND TRAINING DAY MARCH 23 2023

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES AND OTHERS



JEFFERSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CLANTON CAMPUS

1850 LAY DAM ROAD
8:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

ONSITE HIRING

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
205.755.6840
DSTREET@CLANTONAL.GOV
CLANTONAL.GOV





AUCA 2023 Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Arrowhead Country Club

50 Ocala Drive Montgomery, AL 36117

General Meeting & Buffet Lunch - 11:30 a.m.

Golf Tournament - 1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil

(Immediately Following Golf Tournament)



General Meeting & Buffet Lunch

Guest Speaker: Chris Stewart

Cost: \$25/Person

(Included with Golf Registration or Corporate Sponsorship)

Attend the statewide General Meeting, enjoy a delicious lunch and then hear a presentation from our special guest speaker.

14th Annual Golf Tournament

4-Person Scramble Format

Cost: \$600/Team or \$150/Individual

Complete attached registration form and return ASAP.
Hole and Corporate Sponsorship opportunities available.
Sign up now before the event fills up!



Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil

Cost \$25/Person

(Included with Golf Registration or Corporate Sponsorship)

Come out and enjoy networking with your industry peers at our after tournament Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil.



APRIL 20, 2023 - EVENT REGISTRATION FORM



To register, please complete this form and return to the AUCA office by fax or email.

A copy of the registration form should also be submitted with payment.

Registration Deadline is April 13, 2023

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

GOLF TOURNAMENT



4-PERSON TEAM - \$600



INDIVIDUAL - \$150

Includes: Lunch, Golf/cart, goodie bag, beverage tickets, prizes, and Low Country Boil

- 1.) _____
- 2.) _____
- 3.) _____
- 4.) _____

- Handicap: _____
- Handicap: _____
- Handicap: _____
- Handicap: _____

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



CORPORATE & HOLE SPONSOR - \$250

Includes: Company logo on AUCA website and all event signage and promotional materials & admission for two (2) company representatives to General Meeting & Low Country Boil



HOLE SPONSOR - \$100

Includes: Name recognition on golf hole signage and may set-up tent on course to network with golfers and distribute company prizes or literature during tournament

GENERAL MEETING

General Meeting Lunch: \$25/Person x Quantity () = \$ _____

LOW COUNTRY SHRIMP & CRAWFISH BOIL

Low Country Boil: \$25/Person x Quantity () = \$ _____

PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE OR ON DAY OF TOURNAMENT! Return form and payment to:

Alabama Utility Contractors Association

P.O. Box 383185

Birmingham, AL 35238-3185

Phone: (205) 582-9436

Fax: (205) 582-9155

Email: tim@aluca.org

To pay by credit card, please contact the AUCA office at (205) 582-9436.

FLAGGER TRAINING WITH FIELD EXERCISES

Instructed by Nancy Hudson

Mobile

April 4, 2023

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Montgomery

April 5, 2023

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Huntsville

April 25, 2023

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Birmingham

April 26, 2023

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM



THESE HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS WILL BE OFFERED TWICE AT EACH LOCATION. CHOOSE ONLY ONE WORKSHOP

REGISTRATION \$100

EARN

4.0 PDHs

MAXIMUM CLASS

30 SEATS

THIS WORKSHOP WILL COVER:

- Qualifications for Flaggers
- High Visibility Clothing
- Hand Signaling Devices
- Types and Colors of Devices
- Traffic Control Devices
- Sign Placement
- MUTCD
- Flagger Stations
- Field Exercises
- Outside Work Zone Setup
- Flagger Procedures
- Summary and Review

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION
PLEASE VISIT ENG.AUBURN.EDU/ATAP

workshop presented by the
Alabama Transportation Assistance Program
1301 Shelby Center, Auburn, AL 36849 • (800) 446-0382 • atap@auburn.edu



Upcoming Meetings & Events:

AUCA Industry Lunch Meetings
Dates and Locations To Be Announced

Charge the Hill - Legislative Awareness Day
Thursday, March 9, 2023
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
State House Building
11 South Union Street - Montgomery, AL 36130

AUCA Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, March 9, 2023
Montgomery, AL

***AUCA 2023 Spring General Meeting,
Golf Tournament and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil***
Thursday, April 20, 2023
Arrowhead Country Club
Montgomery, AL



***AUCA 2023 Fall General Meeting
& Sporting Clay Shoot***
Thursday, October 12, 2023
Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club
Montgomery, AL



News & Notes:

Mobile AGC / Mobile & Baldwin County Road Builders Association Meeting Mobile, AL - February 7th



AUCA Executive Director Tim Ayers was the guest speaker at the February 7th joint meeting of the Mobile AGC / Mobile & Baldwin County Road Builders Associations. He used the opportunity to discuss the importance of Underground Utility Damage Prevention.



News & Notes:

**OSHA Competent Person Trenching & Excavation Safety Training Class
Tuscaloosa, AL - February 16th**



Thirty-three (33) students from seven (7) AUCA member companies participated in our Excavation Competent Person Safety Training Class on February 16th. The class was taught by National Trench Safety and hosted by Warrior Tractor & Equipment Company.



**Working Safely
in Trenches**

When done safely, trenching operations can reduce worker exposure to cave-ins, falling loads, hazardous atmospheres, and hazards from mobile equipment.



OSHA standards require that trenches and protective systems be inspected daily and as conditions change by a competent person before work begins.

Never enter a trench unless:

- It has been properly inspected by a competent person.
- Cave-in protection measures are in place.
- There is a safe way to enter and exit.
- Equipment and materials are away from the edge.
- It is free of standing water and atmospheric hazards.

Prevent trench collapses:

- Trenches 5 feet deep or greater require a protective system.
- Trenches 20 feet deep or greater require a protective system designed by a registered professional engineer.

Protective systems for trenches:

- SLOPE or bench trench walls by cutting back the trench wall at an angle inclined away from the excavation.
- SHORE trench walls by installing aluminum hydraulic or other types of supports to prevent soil movement.
- SHIELD trench walls by using trench boxes or other types of supports to prevent soil cave-ins.

For more information:



OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Administration
www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA (6742)

OSHA 3243-09R 2018



News & Notes:

AUCA 2023 Scholarship Program - Deadline is February 28th:

The application process for our 2023 Scholarship Program will close on February 28th, and winning applicants will be selected at the March 9, 2023 AUCA Board of Directors Meeting.

- Scholarships awarded will be worth \$1,500 each.
- Money will be paid directly to the College or Trade School of the applicant's choice.
- Applications are available on the AUCA website:

<http://www.aluca.org/scholarship-program.html>

Application Criteria:

- Must be a resident of Alabama.
- Must be enrolling in, or attending a community college, technical school, or university in Alabama.
- Open to any field of study, but preference may be given to applicants enrolled/enrolling in an engineering or construction-related curriculum.
- Must be either employed by, or have a parent or grandparent employed by a current AUCA member company.
- Cannot have previously received an AUCA Scholarship.
- Application must be received by February 28, 2023.

2023 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal

We have kicked off the 2023 AUCA membership renewal period. We are grateful to the companies that have already paid their 2023 AUCA dues. For those that have not yet renewed, please make arrangements to submit your payment promptly to ensure no disruption in member benefits.

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.

OSHA Fines to Increase as Multiplier Goes into Effect:

The U.S. Department of Labor has announced changes to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) civil penalty amounts.

Based on cost-of-living adjustments for 2023, OSHA's maximum penalties for "serious and other-than-serious violations" will increase from \$14,502 per violation to \$15,625 per violation.

Also, the maximum penalty for "willful or repeated violations" will increase from \$145,027 per violation to \$156,259 per violation.



News & Notes:

AUCA New Member Companies:

Dunn Utility Products

Byram, MS

Company Representative: Corey Easley

www.dunnutility.com

Hereford Construction, LLC

Toney, AL

Company Representative: Anna Holman

Common Ground Alliance DIRT Report:

The Common Ground Alliance (CGA) is dedicated to preventing damage to underground utility infrastructure and protecting those who live and work near these important assets through the shared responsibility of stakeholders. If your organization operates, locates or digs near buried utilities, you can contribute valuable information to CGA's annual DIRT Report.

March 31st is the deadline to be included in the annual report



All data collected by CGA is anonymous and confidential and is used to produce the annual DIRT Analysis and Recommendations Report and the DIRT Dashboard on the CGA website. This report gathers and analyzes data relating to damage and near miss events, such as the date and location, type of excavation equipment and work performed, affected facilities, service interruptions, excavator downtime and the root cause. This information can then be used to reduce damages by targeting marketing, education, and Best Practices where they can have the greatest impact.

The data is not used for enforcement or liability purposes. CGA does not publish the names of companies that submit data. It does not determine fault for individual damages. CGA's purpose is to look at the "big picture."

REPORT DATA to DIRT:
<https://www.cga-dirt.com/>



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Dan Kennedy - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

February 2023 Insights

118th Congress

Composition:

At this time, in the House of Representatives there are 222 Republicans and 212 Democrats, with one vacancy owing to the passing of Congressman Donald McEachin, Virginia's 4th congressional district. A special election will be held on February 21 to fill the seat. The Democrat is heavily favored to win/hold the seat. Should that be the result, Democrats would then have 213 Members.

In the Senate, there are 51 Democrats, and 49 Republicans.

Leadership:

House of Representatives:

Speaker – Congressman Kevin McCarthy (R-23-CA)
Majority leader – Congressman Steve Scalise (R-1-LA)
Minority Leader – Hakeem Jeffries (D-8-NY)
Minority Whip – Katherine Clark (D-5-MA)

Senate:

Majority Leader – Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY)
Majority Whip – Senator Dick Durbin (D-ILL)
Minority Leader – Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
Minority Whip – Senator John Thune (R-ND)

Committee and Subcommittee Assignments:

Committee and subcommittee assignments (as of this writing) are still a work in progress.

In the House, we are tracking the following: the Natural Resources Committee and its Subcommittee on Water and Oceans (with jurisdiction over Title XVI) - note: Congressman Bruce Westerman (R-AR-4) is the new Chair and Congressman Paul Grijalva (D-AR-3) is the top Democrat; the Energy Committee (with jurisdiction over the Safe Drinking Water SRF) – note: Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA-5) is the new Chair and Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ-6) is the Ranking Democrat; the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (with jurisdiction over the Clean Water SRF, the Alternative Water Source Program and surface transportation) – note: Congressman Sam Graves (R-MO-6) is the new Chair and Congressman Rick Larsen (D-WA-2) is the Ranking Democratic; and,



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the Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittees on the Interior (with jurisdiction over SRF funding), and Energy and Water (with jurisdiction over the USBR including Title XVI), and Transportation (with jurisdiction over surface transportation funding) – note: Congresswoman Kay Granger (R-TX-12) is the new Chair and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-3) is the Ranking Democrat.

In the Senate, we are tracking the Environment and Public Works Committee (with jurisdiction over the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water SFR's, the Alternative Water Source Program and surface transportation) note: Senators Thomas Carper (D-DEL) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) are the Chair and Ranking Member; the Energy and Natural Resources Committee (with jurisdiction over Title XVI) – note: Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and John Barrasso (R-WY) are the Chair and Ranking Member; and, the Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittees on the Interior (with jurisdiction over SRF funding), Energy and Water (with jurisdiction over the USBR including Title XVI) and Transportation (with jurisdiction over surface transportation funding) - note: Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) are the Chair and Ranking Member.

Legislative and Investigative Priorities:

None announced by either party in the Senate or by the House Democrats. The House Republicans have announced the following legislative priorities –public debt, crime, inflation, abortion, energy, term limits and government mandate – and the following investigative priorities – the southern border, Afghanistan withdrawal, COVID origin, DOJ and the FBI, Hunter Biden, and President Biden's classified documents.

Lame Duck Session Unfinished Business

The Coalition supports action on the following in the new Congress:

1) "Build Back Better" Bill: Round Two?

The effort by Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) to extend the child care credit and pair it with the renewal of an expired R&D tax break for businesses and other non-controversial items (not disclosed) did not materialize as agreement could not be reached with Senate Republicans. Their plan is to try again in the new Congress. If so, we would continue to advocate for funding for the Alternative Water Source Program and large scale water recycling projects, inclusion of H.R. 5118 or some variation, and any other items of interest.

Included in the House-passed "Build Back Better" bill of interest to the Coalition:

- \$30B for Safe Drinking Water SRF lead service line replacement projects;
- \$100M for state public water systems;
- \$700M to reduce lead in school drinking water;



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- \$100M for large scale water recycling projects;
- \$1.15B for emergency drought relief;
- \$125M for Alternative Water Source Program grants;
- \$2B for sewer overflow and storm water reuse grants;
- \$4B for reduction of carbon in the surface transportation sector;
- \$4B for affordable and safe transportation access; and,
- \$6B for local surface transportation projects.

No funding for the Clean Water SRF is included in the House BBB. It does include new taxes.

Unofficially, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee released its BBB title which includes \$9B for SDWSRF-funded lead remediation projects, \$225M for rural and low-income water assistance grants, \$125M for Alternative Water Source Program grants, and \$500M for sewer overflow and storm water reuse municipal grants.

NOTE: Brown/Bennet's staff say that the plan is still to push forward on this. Now looking for Republican support.

2) H.R. 5118, the "Wildlife Response and Drought Resiliency Act" and S. 4231, the "STREAM Act" (Support to Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture and Municipalities Act)

No action in the lame duck session. H.R. 5118 passed the House. S. 4231 was introduced in the Senate. The Coalition supports enactment of H.R. 5118 or some variation.

H.R. 5118 authorizes \$600M for WIIN grants. This is in addition to the \$550M appropriated in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for both traditional Title XVI and WIIN grants. The bill also increases the Federal share from \$20M to \$50M, provides priority project funding and authorizes \$700M (again, this is in addition to the \$450M appropriated in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) for large water recycling projects with total estimated cost of at least \$500M.

S. 4231 authorizes \$300M for FY24-28 for WIIN grants. These funds are over and above the BIF WIIN grant appropriated amount of \$550M. The Federal share is \$20M. Priority funding is given to projects that meet certain criteria.

NOTE: Checked with Cong. Napolitano's staff regarding plans for this Congress. Told too early to know. Check back in 2-3 weeks. Also waiting on Senator's Feinstein plans re the STREAM Act.

Funding Items

President's FY24 Budget and the FY24 Congressional Budget Resolution – support highest funding levels for programs of interest.



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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FY24 Appropriations Bills - support highest base funding levels for programs of interest with earmark funding over and above the base and not as a takedown.

Title XVI WIIN Grants – the USBR announced that \$150M plus what is provided in the FY23 appropriations bill would be available for 2023 WIIN grants. Was contacted by the USBR on Jan. 23. Said as far as the anticipated schedule for FY23 WIIN Act funding opportunities, they are still developing the schedule, but the plan is to first release the funding opportunity for the large-scale water recycling program in the spring with funding opportunities for WIIN grants and desalination construction to follow in the summer.

Earmarks – track consideration for possible opportunities.

EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grants – track announcements and opportunities.

Alternative Water Source Program grants – pending action on a second round of infrastructure spending.

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023

For review, included in the FY23 omnibus appropriations bill is \$1.639B (state allotments and earmarks) for the Clean Water SRF, which is in addition to the \$2.750B provided in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act aka the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, \$1.126B (state allotments and earmarks) for the Safe Drinking Water SRF, which is in addition to the \$2.750B provided in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act aka the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and “not less than \$20M” for WIIN grants.

Also included for transportation programs - \$800M for national infrastructure investments (RAISE/TIGER/BUILD), \$1.145B for bridge replacement and rehabilitation, \$150M for PROTECT grants, \$800M for local and regional projects, \$19B for the FAA, \$62.9B for the FHWA formula programs including \$3.4B for discretionary highway programs and projects, \$873.6M for FMCSA, \$1.2B for NHTSA, \$3.4B for FRA including \$555M for the Intercity Passenger Rail grant program, \$560M for CRISI grants, \$2.45B for Amtrak, including \$1.26B for the Northeast Corridor and \$1.19B for National Network grants, \$16.9B for the FTA, including \$13.6B for buses, \$2.6B for capital investment grants, and \$542M for transit infrastructure grants; and, \$896.1M for MARAD.

Bill Tracking

Bills of the 117th Congress not enacted into law by the conclusion of that Congress must start anew (if still being pursued by Members) in the 118th Congress – starting at the beginning of the legislative process with introduction. We will note bills of interest, focusing on those that are marked up by committees and/or come to our attention.

Fleet Safety:

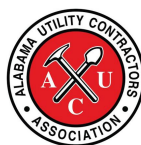
Provided by Marsh McLennan Agency - Southeast Risk Control Services

Defensive Driving - Avoiding Intersection Accidents

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 40 percent of all motor vehicle accidents and 20 percent of all fatal crashes occur at intersections. So it should come as no surprise that intersections are far-and-away the most dangerous places on our roadways. They require pedestrians, bicycles and motor vehicles to cross paths at various speeds, setting the table for a potentially fatal scenario.

Take a second and think about the number of intersections you drove through on your way to work this morning — a lot more than you thought, right? Each time we pass through a busy intersection, we are at risk, but if you develop the following habits you can decrease your odds of being involved in an accident.

- Always watch for cross traffic when approaching an intersection. Even if you have the right-of-way, don't assume every driver will stop for the red light or stop sign. An aggressive driver may speed up when they see the yellow caution to "beat the light". Take a quick look to the left and right before you enter the intersection.
- When turning right at intersections, make sure the car ahead of you clears. Rear-end collisions, where the trailing vehicle's driver "thought the car in front of them was already gone" are one of the most common intersection-related accidents. When making right hand turns at intersections, keep your eyes moving and check back to your right before accelerating to make sure the driver ahead of you didn't hesitate.
- Side-swipes are another common type of intersection-related accidents. It's important to never change lanes while driving through an intersection as another vehicle may be turning from across the street into your lane.
- A faulty or dead traffic light system, creating an uncontrolled intersection, is one of the most dangerous traffic situations. Always treat an intersection with a faulty traffic light system as a four-way stop, but be extremely cautious as some drivers may not know what do to in this situation.
- Remember that motor vehicles aren't the only ones traveling through many intersections. Be aware of the environment you are driving in, and be on the lookout for pedestrians using sidewalks and cyclists using bicycle lanes before you accelerate or turn at an intersection.
- When you are approaching intersections, maintain a safe speed so you can stop gradually. If you approach an intersection too quickly and have to stop abruptly, you may be rear ended by a driver who is matching your speed and following too closely.



Alabama Utility Contractors Association
P.O. Box 383185
Birmingham, AL 35238-3185
Phone: 205-582-9436
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E-mail: tim@aluca.org

***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**

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Training Needs**

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