

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FEBRUARY 2024



Director's Comments:

The 2024 Alabama Legislative Session convened in Montgomery on February 6th, and Governor Kay Ivey delivered her State of the State address that evening at the State Capitol. Her top agenda item this session focuses on improving Alabama's education system and she urged lawmakers to pass the CHOOSE Act to provide up to \$7,000 for families to spend on educational expenses.

Governor Ivey also said she would support legislation to give Alabama voters a chance to decide whether to approve a lottery as part of what she called a limited expansion of legal gambling and a crack-down on illegal gambling. Additional priorities of the Governor include workforce development, broadband expansion, election reforms, and teacher pay increases.

We are not even a full month in, but it has been quite a session so far. Thankfully we have upcoming opportunities to be included in the process. On March 7th, AUCA will hold our annual "Charge the Hill" Legislative Awareness Day at the State House in Montgomery. This event allows attendees to come and meet with their Representatives and get a first-hand look at just how the sausage is made.

Another opportunity will be at the annual AUCA Spring General Meeting, Golf Tournament and Crawfish Boil on April 18th at Arrowhead Country Club in Montgomery. We are honored to have Governor Ivey join us as our special guest speaker. Registration is now open, and we hope you can make plans to join us for this great event.

Lastly, on March 5th, Alabamians will go to the polls for the 2024 Primary Election. On the ballot will be offices of President, U.S. Congress, Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice, four Associate Justices, as well as party nominees for Public Service Commission President and four state Board of Education seats. Make sure to do your civic duty and vote!

Tim

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ALABAMA ELECTION DAY REMINDERS



“SAFE, SECURE, AND TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC. AS SECRETARY OF STATE, ENSURING FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IS A TOP PRIORITY.”

Wes Allen

Alabama Secretary of State



PREPARE TO HEAD TO THE POLLS WITH
WWW.ALABAMAVOTES.GOV

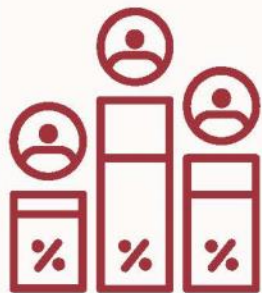
- ✓ VIEW/UPDATE YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS
- ✓ VERIFY YOUR POLLING LOCATION
- ✓ REVIEW YOUR COUNTY'S SAMPLE BALLOT

2024 PRIMARY ELECTION



MARCH 5, 2024

POLLS ARE OPEN 7 AM TO 7 PM



Election Results

ELECTION RESULTS WILL BE POSTED ON A DOOR OR OTHER VISIBLE LOCATION AT EACH POLLING LOCATION. CUMULATIVE ELECTION RESULTS WILL BE POSTED ONLINE AT WWW.ALABAMAVOTES.GOV.

**For more
information**

334-242-7210

sos.press@sos.alabama.gov

VOTING IN ALABAMA? HAVE YOUR PHOTO IDENTIFICATION READY.



Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Charge the Hill - Legislative Awareness Day

**Thursday, March 7, 2024
Montgomery, AL**

AUCA Board of Directors Meeting

**Thursday, March 7, 2024
Montgomery, AL**

Mobile Area Industry Lunch Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Tuscaloosa Area Industry Lunch Meeting

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Birmingham & Huntsville Area Industry Lunch Meetings

Dates To Be Announced

***AUCA 2024 Spring General Meeting,
Golf Tournament and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil***

**Thursday, April 18, 2024
Arrowhead Country Club
Montgomery, AL**

***AUCA 2024 Fall General Meeting
& Sporting Clay Shoot***

**October 10, 2024
Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club
Montgomery, AL**



Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Charge the Hill - Legislative Awareness Day

Thursday, March 7, 2024

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

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



The 2024 Alabama Legislative Session is underway!

Charge the Hill Day 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.





AUCA 2024 Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

Thursday, April 18, 2024

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)



Spring General Meeting & Buffet Lunch

Guest Speaker: Governor Kay Ivey

Cost: \$25/Person

(Included with Golf Registration or Corporate Sponsorship)

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

15th Annual Golf Tournament

4-Person Scramble Format

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

Complete attached registration form and return ASAP.
Corporate and Hole 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 18, 2024 - 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 11, 2024

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

GOLF TOURNAMENT



4-PERSON TEAM - \$600

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

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

Handicap: _____

Handicap: _____

Handicap: _____

Handicap: _____



INDIVIDUAL - \$150

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY



CORPORATE & HOLE SPONSOR - \$250

Includes: Company logo on AUCA website w/ link to sponsor's website and logo on all event signage and promotional materials. Admission for two (2) company representatives to attend General Meeting & Low Country Boil. May also set-up tent on golf 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.

News & Notes:

Go Build Alabama Job Board - BETA Testers Request:

Go Build Alabama is in the process of adding a Job Board to the Go Build website. They need your help, as they are currently looking for companies that want to be BETA testers for the new job board and in the process be the first to have access and jobs openings listed on the job board. This is what they need from the BETA testers:

1. Identify the contact person and have them [SIGN UP HERE](#).
2. Fill-out Company Information and Job Descriptions by March 10.
3. Review your information on the Job Board for accuracy on April 15th.
4. Receive full access and be the first companies to use the job board by the end of April.

2024 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal

January kicked off the 2024 AUCA membership renewal period. We are grateful to the companies that have quickly paid their 2024 AUCA dues. For those that have not yet renewed, please make arrangements to submit your payment 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.

AUCA 2024 Scholarship Program - Deadline is February 29th:

The application process for our 2024 Scholarship Program will close on February 29th, and applications will be reviewed at the March 7, 2024 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 29, 2024.



News & Notes:

Governor Ivey Announces Funding for Broadband Projects:

Governor Kay Ivey has announced the allocation of \$148.3 million to further expand high-speed internet access to underserved areas throughout the state. The money comes from the federal American Rescue Plan Act, where in 2022 and 2023 lawmakers and Ivey dedicated more than \$300 million of the state's more than \$2 billion in ARPA funding for broadband expansion. The Alabama Department of Economics and Community Affairs is administering the grants.

"High-speed internet service continues to strengthen and expand across the state, and we are taking the necessary strides on this journey to achieve full broadband access for Alabama," Ivey said in a written statement.



March 19 - 22, 2024
51st Annual Spring Auction - Montgomery, AL

Construction Boot Camp Interviews:

Alabama AGC is hosting three (3) Construction Boot Camps in St. Clair, Chilton, and Walker counties this Spring. These two-week boot camps will provide basic hand tool, construction measurement, soft skills, and safety training to 12-15 graduating seniors at each location. The graduating seniors will be issued with PPE to take with them upon to the job upon completion of the training program. Each student will be certified with OSHA-10 hour training course and be available for interviews prior to high school graduation.

If you and your company would like to participate in any way including interviewing students for hire, please contact Byron McCain (bymccain@bellsouth.net).

Job interviews will take place at **3:00 p.m.** at the following locations and dates:

April 25 - St. Clair County – Eden Career Technical Center – County Road 33, Ashville, AL

April 29 - Chilton County – Le Croy Career Technical Center – 2829 4th Avenue North, Clanton, AL

April 30 - Walker County – Walker County Career Technical Center – 1100 Viking Drive, Jasper, AL



SUMMER QUICK TRAIN

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN
COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION?**

**JUNE 5 - JULY 1
11 AM - 3 PM**



This course is designed and recommended for recently graduated high-school students and adults who are interested getting a head start on learning a trade in the commercial construction industry. This is a 4 week program that will teach you basic construction skills, construction safety and employability skills that contractors are looking for when hiring.

- Basic Safety
- Basic Hand and Power Tools
- Intro to Construction Math
- Intro to Construction Drawings
- Basic Rigging
- Basic Communication Skills
- Basic Employability Skills
- Intro to Material Handling

STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE 4 WEEK PROGRAM WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL AREA CONTRACTORS FOR POTENTIAL FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT.



APPLY TODAY!

Scan the QR code to
access the online application.
Applications due no later than
June 1, 2024.



News & Notes:

Alabama Underground Damage Prevention Authority (ALUDPA)

The Alabama Underground Damage Prevention Authority (ALUDPA) was established for the purpose of enforcing the Alabama Underground Damage Prevention State Law, for reviewing penalty provisions, and for reviewing the adequacy of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Program.

The Enforcement Program is a complaint-driven process where a complaint may be submitted against an entity for violation of the Alabama Underground Damage Prevention State Law. A complaint may be submitted as information only and not designated for enforcement penalties.

A complaint may be submitted using the Complaint Form [at this Website](#) no later than 30 days after the occurrence of an alleged violation. The submitted Complaint Form is reviewed by the ALUDPA for determination of an alleged violation and for penalty provisions that may apply. The reported violator is then notified by the ALUDPA that a response may be submitted using the Response Form at this Website no later than 14 days after the ALUDPA notification.



A GUIDE TO ALABAMA'S

Enforcement Process

HOW TO SUBMIT AND RESPOND TO COMPLAINTS
AT WWW.ALUDPA.ORG



Alabama Legislative News:

The 2024 Alabama Legislative Session convened in Montgomery at noon on Tuesday, February 6th. Governor Kay Ivey delivered her State of the State address that evening at the State Capitol. Her top agenda item this session focuses on improving Alabama's education system and she urged lawmakers to pass the CHOOSE Act to provide up to \$7,000 for families to spend on educational expenses. Governor Ivey also said she would support legislation to give Alabama voters a chance to decide whether to approve a lottery as part of what she called a limited expansion of legal gambling and a crackdown on illegal gambling. Additional priorities of the Governor include workforce development, broadband expansion, election reforms, and teacher pay increases.

Legislators met for three legislative meeting days during the first week and are expected to continue this pattern for the next few weeks of the session. There are usually just two legislative meeting days per week, with other days devoted solely to committee meetings.

Week two was another busy one, with the House and Senate each convening for another three legislative meeting days. Garnering the most headlines were Senate bill (SB1) targeting "ballot harvesting" and the House bills (HB151 and HB152) on gaming. The Senate passed SB1, and the House approved the two-bill package, including a constitutional amendment, to legalize gaming in Alabama. SB1, that would make it a Class B felony for an Alabamian to pay another person for assistance with an absentee ballot and punishable by up to 20 years in prison, headed to the House where it will likely be subject to a public hearing before the House Judiciary Committee.

The gaming legislation would authorize a state lottery, up to 10 casino sites with table games and slot machines, allow in-person and online sports betting, and also authorize the Governor to negotiate a compact with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. HB151 and HB152 moved to the Senate for consideration. If approved by the Senate, the constitutional amendment will be placed on the November ballot for approval by voters. Gaming bills in recent years that originated in the Senate have passed, but ultimately died in the House. With House passage already occurring, it seemed likely that the gaming proposal would go before Alabama voters in the November general election, which would be the first public vote on gambling in Alabama since a proposed lottery was rejected in 1999.

But week three saw the momentum from the swift House passage of the gaming legislation slow down in the Senate. It now looks less certain that the constitutional amendment to allow voters to decide on whether to allow gaming will be on the November ballot.

The Legislature returned to Montgomery for the 10th legislative day on Tuesday, February 27th. The length of the regular session is limited to 30 legislative meeting days within a period of 105 calendar days from commencement, so by the end of the month they will already be nearing the midpoint. However, with two spring break weeks scheduled during March, things will begin to slow down a little. Through the first three weeks, a total of 381 bills have been introduced, with 227 in the House and 154 in the Senate.

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



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Ryan Sharpe - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

February 2024 Insights

Budget Agreement

In early January, Congressional leaders reached an agreement on overall FY24 Budget totals although funding for individual programs has yet to be determined.

Under the agreement, non-defense budgets would remain largely unchanged but there would be reductions in appropriations for unspent pandemic aid, IRS enforcement, emergency funding and mandatory program spending. House Republicans remain fiercely divided over this agreement and many continue to advocate for substantial spending cuts.

Continuing Resolutions

Narrowly avoiding a government shutdown, Congress passed continuing resolutions to extend funding for appropriations bills including those that fund Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Grants and State Revolving Funds (SRFs) until March.

The Senate and House Appropriations Chairs have come to an agreement for the 12 spending bills but have not yet released any details. Under last year's debt agreement, substantial spending cuts will be imposed if the new appropriations bills are not enacted.

House Budget Resolution

The House budget resolution provides for overall budget totals for the next five fiscal years for the 13 major categories of the government. The Appropriations Committees would decide how much each of its subcommittees can spend and each subcommittee will direct the spending of its allocation.

Over the next decade, this resolution would limit annual spending increases, cut discretionary funding, reduce the deficit, and create a surplus. It has not been considered in the Senate and its future is uncertain.

SRF Funding & WIIN Grants

The Senate-reported Interior Appropriations bill allocates \$1.639 billion for Clean Water SRFs while the House-passed bill provides \$1.005 billion. For Safe Drinking Water SRFs, the Senate Interior Appropriations bill allocates \$1.126 billion while the House-passed version provides \$870 million.

Through our partners in Washington, the Clean Water Construction Coalition continues to advocate for passage of the Senate Appropriations bills that provide higher SRF base funding levels. In addition, we are continuing to oppose the use of earmarks as takedowns from SRF funding that are in-

Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

(Continued from page 12)

cluded in the House version.

Both the House-passed and Senate-reported Energy and Water Appropriations bills provide \$20 million for WIIN grants.

President's Budget

While the President's Budget is supposed to be submitted to Congress by February 5, it will likely be delayed, possibly until early March.

STREAM Act

The Coalition is still pursuing legislative action on the STREAM Act which would provide \$300 million for water recycling, \$750 million for surface and groundwater storage and conveyance projects, \$150 million for desalination projects, \$100 million for drinking water projects, and \$250 million for environmental restoration projects.

Other Issues

The Coalition continues to support appropriations for the Alternate Water Source Program and recycled water mega projects.





February is American Heart Month. Do you have employees trained in CPR? Do your employees have access to a maintained AED with trained responders? Here is a safety talk on recognizing and responding to a heart attack.

5-minute safety talk

6 Steps to Take During Any Medical Emergency

1. Recognize the emergency.
2. Check the scene for safety issues.
3. Check the person. If no response, move to Step #4.
4. Call 9-1-1 when appropriate.
5. Obtain consent and care for person until help arrives.
6. Have the person seek medical attention when appropriate.

Heart Attack

Heart attacks occur when the blood supply to the heart is insufficient and typically results in the death of part of the heart muscle. Heart attacks can be mild to severe and can result in death.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Persistent discomfort, pain or pressure in chest
- Pain that may spread to neck, jaw, shoulder or arm
- Shortness of breath, dizziness, lightheadedness
- Feeling of impending doom, pale skin, sweating
- Shortness of breath, indigestion, nausea or vomiting, back or jaw pain (*other symptoms that women especially may experience*)

STEPS TO TAKE

1. Call 9-1-1 for any victim experiencing chest discomfort, even if the victim says it's not serious.
2. Help the victim rest in a comfortable position. Loosen constricting clothing.
3. Ask the victim if he or she is taking heart medication and help obtain the medication. Follow the directions on the medication.
4. Encourage the victim to chew and swallow 1 uncoated adult aspirin (325 mg) or 2 to 4 low-dose "baby" aspirin (81 mg each) unless he or she is allergic to aspirin or cannot take aspirin for any other reason.
5. Stay with the victim and be reassuring and calming.
6. Be ready to give CPR if needed. (**Note:** Only employees with CPR training should administer CPR.)
7. Do not let the victim eat or drink anything (including water).



Visit nsc.org/members
for more safety tips

Alabama Utility Contractors Association
P.O. Box 383185
Birmingham, AL 35238-3185
Phone: 205-582-9436
Fax: 205-582-9155
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**

**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**

Contact the Association Office for more information

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