

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FEBRUARY 2025



Director's Comments:

The 2025 Alabama Legislative Session convened in Montgomery on Tuesday, February 4th. That evening, Governor Kay Ivey delivered her State of the State address at the State Capitol, emphasizing public safety as her top priority for the session. She also highlighted key initiatives, including parental leave, K-12 education, school cell phone bans, and restructuring the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Additionally, and notable for many of our members, the Governor celebrated the completion of 500 road and bridge projects across every county in the state, along with more than 200 broadband expansion projects, which will provide high-speed internet access to 142,000 additional addresses. Funding has also been designated for 495 water and sewer infrastructure projects statewide.

Throughout February, lawmakers utilized 10 of the 30 available legislative meeting days, introducing a total of 586 bills (377 in the House and 209 in the Senate). They plan to pause for a "District Work Week" from March 10-14 and a traditional "Spring Break" from March 24-28. By law, the Legislative Session is limited to 30 session days within a 105-day calendar period from commencement and must conclude no later than May 19, 2025.

This session has already been highly active for our industry, with several bills introduced or forthcoming that impact public works projects under Title 39. One notable proposal focuses on Alternative Project Delivery Methods, backed by the Alabama Department of Finance in collaboration with city and county governments, school systems, universities, and various state agencies. Additionally, legislative revisions to the Alabama Damage Prevention (One Call) Law are in progress, addressing key issues such as extending the "Mandatory Membership" sunset clause, as well as provisions related to Large Projects, White Lining, and Hand Digging.

On March 6th, AUCA will host its annual "Charge the Hill" Legislative Awareness Day at the State House in Montgomery. This event offers attendees the opportunity to meet with their representatives and gain firsthand insight into these legislative developments that could directly affect our members.

We encourage you to join us and be a strong advocate for our industry!

Tim

Inside This Issue:

Upcoming Events	2-7
News & Notes	8-11
CWCC Report	12
Health & Safety	13-14

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Charge the Hill - Legislative Awareness Day

**Thursday, March 6, 2025
Montgomery, AL**

AUCA Board of Directors Meeting

**Thursday, March 6, 2025
Montgomery, AL**

AUCA Birmingham Area Industry Lunch Meeting

**Tuesday, March 18, 2025
BWWB Historic Cahaba Pumping Station Museum
Birmingham, AL**

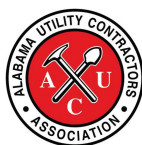
Guest Speaker: Daniel White, P.E. - Deputy Director of Jefferson County
Environmental Services Department

***AUCA 2025 Spring General Meeting,
Golf Tournament and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil***

**Thursday, April 24, 2025
Arrowhead Country Club
Montgomery, AL**

***AUCA 2025 Fall General Meeting
& Sporting Clay Shoot***

**Thursday, October 16, 2025
Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club
Montgomery, AL**



Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Charge the Hill - Legislative Awareness Day

**Thursday, March 6, 2025
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

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



The 2025 Alabama Legislative Session commenced on February 4th. Numerous bills have been introduced that could impact our industry, and others that are highly anticipated are likely forthcoming.

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.





ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
I-10 MOBILE RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT

**YOU ARE INVITED
TO AN IN-PERSON SUBCONTRACTOR/
SUPPLIER OUTREACH EVENT
MARCH 12, 2025 • 5:00 P.M. (CDT)**

**JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT UPCOMING
CONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES ON THE
I-10 MOBILE RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT**

Kiewit Massman Traylor, a Joint Venture (KMT) is providing progressive design-build services for the delivery of the Alabama Department of Transportation's Mobile River Bridge Project.

The Project will provide a new six-lane cable-stay bridge over the Mobile River with approaches starting just east of Virginia Street in Mobile and ending between the I-10 Bayway Bridges, approximately one-half mile east of the East Tunnel Interchange. The Project begins at the I-10 Broad Street Interchange and ends east of the existing Wallace Tunnel Interchange.

For information about the Project, visit: <https://mobileriverbridge.com/>

Please join us to learn about the Project and upcoming contract opportunities — and to meet members of our project team.

Firms certified (or eligible for certification) as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) by the Alabama Unified Certification Program are highly encouraged to attend.

Firms currently certified in their home state Unified Certification Program may apply for DBE certification with ALDOT.

CONTACT US

Email: info@kmtjv.com

Website: www.buildwithkmt.com

KMT is actively seeking to engage local, small, and disadvantaged firms interested in subcontractor and supplier opportunities on the Project.

Contract opportunities include (but are not limited to):

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Construction Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asphalt Milling/ Paving • Barrier Wall (Temporary Concrete, Slipform) • Bridge Structure (High Level/ Interchange) • Clear & Grub • Concrete Flatwork • Curb & Gutter • Demolition • Diving • Drainage (Culverts/Pipe) • Drilled Shafts • Earthwork • Erosion Control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing (Temp and Permanent) • Geotechnical (Borings) • Ground Improvements • Guardrail • HDD Boring • ITS Systems • Landscaping • Lighting (Architectural/ Roadway) • Maintenance of Traffic • Painting & Coatings • Pavement Markings • Piling (Steel or Concrete) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Tensioning • Potholing • Rebar Installation • Soil Cement • Support of Excavation • Survey (Construction/ Control) • Temporary Electrical • Temporary Lighting • Trucking • Tugboats • Utilities (Electrical, Gas, Sewer, Water) • Walls (CIP/MSE) | <p>Materials/Supply/ Support Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggregates • Catering • Concrete • Equipment Maintenance • Fuel • Girder (Steel or Concrete) • Heavy Haul • Janitorial Services • Miscellaneous Metals • Office Supply & Install • Precast - Drainage • Rebar • Safety Supplies • Signage |
|---|---|--|--|

COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION

KMT is committed to meeting or exceeding the DBE goals established for the Project. We will maximize opportunities through: dividing work into economically feasible packages to ensure equitable and meaningful participation; providing timely notification of opportunities through various outreach methods; and partnering with industry and community assist agencies to provide support and resources to firms seeking assistance.

KMT is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



PLEASE JOIN US!



IN-PERSON EVENT
MOBILE, AL
SPACE IS LIMITED. RSVP REQUIRED.



MARCH 12, 2025
5:00 PM (CDT)



CLICK HERE TO REGISTER
BY MARCH 7TH TO RECEIVE EVENT
LOCATION AND DETAILS.

Birmingham Area Industry Lunch Meeting March 18, 2025

Making the Case for Termination: The End of Jefferson County's 1996 Sewer Consent Decree

Daniel White, P.E. - Deputy Director for Jefferson County
Environmental Services Department

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

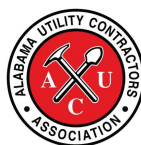
Birmingham Water Works Board Historic Cahaba Pumping Station Museum

4012 Sicard Hollow Road
Birmingham, AL 35243

Join AUCA for our Industry Lunch Meeting.
Daniel White, P.E. - Deputy Director Environmental Services
Department will be presenting on the interesting topic of
Jefferson County's Sewer Consent Decree as well as
highlighting upcoming projects in the area.

Lunch is \$25 per person - AUCA members will be invoiced.
Members are also encouraged to invite industry guests or prospective
AUCA members.

Lunch will be catered. Reservations are required, so if you plan to
attend, please RSVP today to: tim@aluca.org.





AUCA 2025 Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

Thursday, April 24, 2025

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: Andy Burcham

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.

16th 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 24, 2025 - 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 17, 2025

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:

AUCA 2025 Scholarship Program:

The application process for our 2025 Scholarship Program is now open. Scholarships will be awarded to applicants that have not previously received an AUCA scholarship. Deadline for submissions will be February 28th, and winning applicants will be selected at the March 2025 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, 2025.

2025 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal

January kicked off the 2025 AUCA membership renewal period. We are grateful to the companies that have quickly paid their 2025 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 New Member Company:

Lakeview Risk Partners, LLC

Birmingham, AL

Company Representative: Gaines Mooror

www.lakeviewrisk.com



News & Notes:

Charlotte Kopf retires after 50 years with Alabama AGC:

After 50 years of dedicated service to Alabama AGC, Mobile Section Manager Charlotte Kopf has retired. Throughout her career, she also led the efforts of the Mobile and Baldwin County Road Builders Associations, providing invaluable support to members and the broader construction industry in the Mobile Bay area.

Charlotte played a key role in launching work zone safety advocacy efforts decades ago and has since spearheaded National Work Zone Awareness Week campaigns and events both locally and statewide. One of her most impactful initiatives was the public service announcement, "Driving through Work Zones is NOT a GAME!"

To honor her contributions, a celebration was held on February 4th at BLUEGILL Restaurant in Spanish Fort.



ACCS Innovation Center New Skills for Success Course Announcement:

We are adding to the SFS course development list – **Heavy Equipment Mechanic Assistant**.



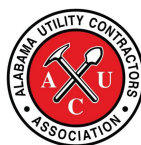
Here's where we need your help:

1. **We need an SME (Subject Matter Expert)** for this course. [Share this link with your ideal SME.](#)
2. **We need the doers** – the individuals in your operation who are maintaining heavy equipment every day. While we have supervisors and industry professionals involved, we're missing the vital input from the people doing the work. Their insight will help ensure that the course reflects the true scope of the job and the real-world skills required.

Why this is important: We need individuals who can speak directly to the hands-on, day-to-day operations of the work. This isn't just about supervisors or people who used to do the job – it's about the boots-on-the-ground workers who can tell us exactly how their role fits into the bigger picture of road building. Their input will help us create a course that will truly prepare the next generation of workers for success.

Please share this information with the right person on your team who can help take this course to the next level. [Share this link with the best Heavy Equipment Mechanic you know!](#)

Thanks for your support and for helping us build the best possible training for the industry!



News & Notes:

Contractor's Group Retirement Planning:

BenSource Employee Benefits, an AUCA member company, is staffed to take your call with any questions you may have about starting a retirement plan, or to compare your current plan with the ***Contractor's Retirement Plan***.

Here are just few of the unique benefits of this plan:

- Eliminates all TPA costs, all audit costs, 5500 costs and document costs
- Greatly reduces employee investment costs - the *power* of group buying
- Eliminates nearly all of the HR tasks typically associated with 401k
- Diverts the significant fiduciary liability away from the business owner

BenSource can be reached at (205) 536-9204 or online at www.bensource.com.



Alabama 2025 Legislative Session Update:

The 2025 Alabama Legislative Session convened in Montgomery on Tuesday, February 4th. During the month of February, lawmakers met for 10 of the possible 30 legislative meeting days and have introduced a total of 586 bills, with 377 of those in the House and 209 in the Senate. They are planning to pause for a "District Work Week" during the week of March 10-14th and for a traditional "Spring Break" during the week of March 24-28th. The Legislative Session is limited by law to 30 session days within a 105-calendar day period, so it must conclude no later than May 19, 2025.

This has already been a very active year for our industry. Multiple bills impacting public works projects governed under Title 39 have been introduced or will be forthcoming. Amongst those is a proposed bill pertaining to Alternative Project Delivery Methods. This controversial legislation is being proposed by the Alabama Department of Finance, along with representatives of city and county governments, school systems, universities, and various state agencies. Changes to the Alabama Damage Prevention (One Call) Law are also being worked on to address numerous items including the extension of the "Mandatory Membership" sunset clause along with Large Projects, White Lining and Hand Digging.

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



Grants Available Now

Let CICT Help Fund Your Craft Training Program



If you currently offer or would like to provide craft training within the commercial construction industry, you're eligible to apply for grants from the **Alabama Construction Industry Craft Training (CICT) Board**. These grants include funding for contractors' in-house training programs. In the fiscal year 2023, CICT awarded over \$5 million, which helped fund training for more than 4,000 students across 93 training programs.

Types of Grants:

CICT grants are reimbursable grants and applications may be submitted at any time.

1. Craft/Apprenticeship Training Grant

- Up to \$100,000 per trade.
- Skills/craft tied to a specific trade.

2. Task Grant

- Up to \$15,000.
- Short-term/seminar-type training.

Eligible Training Providers:

- Alabama commercial construction business, for-profit and not-for-profit.
- 2-year and 4-year accredited postsecondary institution recognized by SACS.
- K-12 education entity recognized by the Alabama State Department of Education.
- Trade union.
- Other related entities approved by the board.



Go Build Alabama connects training programs awarded by CICT to career-seekers interested in the skilled trades. Together, Go Build Alabama and CICT can help build a qualified workforce that meets Alabama's growing demand for skilled construction workers.

Apply for funding now at alcict.com



The mission of the Alabama Construction Recruitment Institute and the Go Build Alabama campaign is to recruit a new generation of skilled trades-people for the commercial and industrial construction industry, by creating a recruitment campaign that dispels the misperceptions about working in the trades, promotes training programs, and enhances the image of the construction trade professional and the industry as a whole.

Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Kyle England - Chairman CWCC

The Clean Water Coalition staff have been highly focused on ways to improve our operations and fill in any gaps with the retirement of longtime CWCC lobbyist Sante Esposito. The way we see it: Sante Esposito's retirement can be either a setback for the Coalition or we can treat this as an opportunity to grow our efforts and even elevate to a new level. I choose the latter every time.

In 2025, we will be incorporating bi-weekly or monthly meetings (TBD) to foster better engagement. As meeting dates roll around, we ask that all members make their best efforts to attend. If you cannot attend, please send a representative in your place. Going forward, staff will make our best effort to accommodate the best time slot for your schedule and time zones.

As for new updates, we are pleased to announce that we will be moving forward in hiring Mae Stevens of Banner Public Affairs as the Coalition's new federal lobbyist. Mae leads the Water Practice at Banner and her team comes with an extensive background in water infrastructure policy.

I've provided some links below, we invite you to take a look and get to know the team:

[Banner Public Affairs Website](#)

[Public Policy in the Water Sector with Mae Stevens](#)

[Water Infrastructure Expert and Former EPA Leader Wendi Wilkes Joins Banner Public Affairs](#)

We hope you can make plans to join us and be a vocal voice for our industry.

BANNER



cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org

Health & Safety:

Provided by oshatraining.com

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk:

Cold Stress – Recognizing the Early Signs and Symptoms

[Reference: (5)(a)(1) of OSH Act]

Have you ever been so cold that your fingers or toes felt numb? Or, your teeth started chattering and your body was shivering uncontrollably? Or, perhaps you were so cold that you could not think clearly about your work because you were miserable? If so, those are some of the ways your body reacts to try and get warm in a cold environment. Unfortunately, it is also telling you it is struggling with the early stages of cold stress, which may eventually lead to injuries or illnesses.

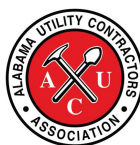


Cold stress refers to the physical stress experienced by the body when it's exposed to cold environments, especially for prolonged periods of time. Cold stress happens when your body loses heat faster than it can produce it. Over time, this causes your core body temperature to drop, leading to problems that can affect your health and safety. Recognizing the early signs of cold stress is the first step to staying safe in cold weather.

Shivering is one your body's first responses to try and defend itself against the cold. When temperatures drop to the point that you get cold, sometimes you notice that parts of your body begin shivering. That is because your brain is subconsciously sending repeated signals to your muscles to contract and then relax very rapidly, making you shiver. Those muscle contractions require energy, which your body provides by burning calories, a process that literally generates body heat. However, shivering also uses up your energy very fast, which can leave you feeling fatigued, and eventually make it harder for the body to continue to warm itself. So, it is important when working in cold weather to keep refueling your body by consuming high-energy foods like nuts, granola bars, or even hot soup or broth, to help keep your up metabolism.

Tingling or numbness in your fingers and toes is another early sign of cold stress. The tingling or numbness occurs because, as your body's core temperature beings to drop and hypothermia begins to set in, your brain subconsciously sends out signals to cause specific major blood vessels in your arms and legs to constrict, or tighten. This, in turn, redirects blood away from your extremities and towards your core, thereby protecting your vital organs by helping keep the most important parts of your body warm. However, there is an unfortunate trade-off, as this process leaves your fingers, toes, ears, nose, and other extremities not only feeling tingly and numb, but also at risk of freezing.

So, if you recognize any of these signs or symptoms of cold stress, it is important to get to a warm place, and then we can assess what can be done to help keep you warmer as you work.



TRENCHING SAFETY

5 Things You Should Know to Stay Safe



1 Ensure there's a safe way to enter and exit.
See 1926.651(c)



2 Trenches must have cave-in protection.
See 1926.652(a)

3 Keep materials away from the edge of the trench.
See 1926.651(j)



4 Look for standing water or other hazards.
See 1926.651(h)



5 Never enter a trench unless it has been properly inspected.
See 1926.651(k)



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.***

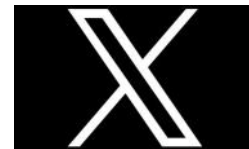
**We're on the Web!
www.aluca.org**

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

facebook



@AlabamaUCA

LinkedIn

