



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARCH 2018

Director's Comments:



At the March 7th AUCA Board of Directors Meeting in Montgomery, we finalized the details for our inaugural AUCA Scholarship Program. This will be our first attempt, so we may not get it perfect right out of the gates. However, I feel that we are laying a solid foundation for something that will benefit our members, and help to improve the future of our industry.

The program will award two scholarships worth \$1,500 each. Scholarship money will be paid directly to the College or Trade School of the applicant's choice.

The application criteria is as follows:

- 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 a construction-related curriculum
- Must be either employed by, or related to an AUCA Member
- Application must be received by April 30, 2018

Application information will be sent out electronically to members, and will also be available on the AUCA website at the following link:

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

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Our industry desperately needs new blood, and this may just be the way for someone to get their opportunity. If you know anyone interested in furthering their education, we encourage them to apply.

Tim

News & Notes:

Phil Savage to Headline AUCA Spring General Meeting:



We are pleased to have Phil Savage as the guest speaker at the April 19th AUCA Spring General Meeting in Montgomery. Phil is a radio analyst for the Crimson Tide Sports Network, calling weekly Alabama football games, since 2009. He is also the author of the acclaimed book, *4th and Goal Every Day*, and since 2012 has served as the Executive Director of the Senior Bowl.

He is the former General Manager of the Cleveland Browns and regularly appears on ESPN on *NFL Insiders*, *NFL Live*, *SportsCenter*, and contributes to ESPN Radio. In addition to his ESPN role, he is also a regular host and contributor to Sirius/XM NFL and College Sports Nation coverage.

AUCA Scholarship Program:

- AUCA will be awarding two (2) Scholarships worth \$1,500 each.
- Money will be paid directly to the College or Trade School of the applicant's choice.
- Applications will be sent out electronically, and will also be available on the AUCA website.
- The Scholarship Committee will select the two winners from AUCA member company employees, or family members that apply before the April 30th deadline.

2018 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal

If your company has not submitted your membership dues renewal, please make arrangements to submit your payment by April 30, 2018. If dues are not received by this date, your company will be considered delinquent, and will not be included in the upcoming AUCA Membership Directory, or eligible for the Scholarship Program.

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.



News & Notes:

Mobile Area Lunch Meeting - March 20th *Tax Reform - Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*



Joey Bailey and Andrew Bailey from Crow Shields Bailey PC present on the Tax Cuts and Job Act, which Congress passed in late December 2017. It is designed to cut taxes on individuals and businesses, stimulate the economy, and create jobs.

AUCA Quarterly Lunch Meetings

We plan to present the same "Tax Reform" topic at our other upcoming meetings. However, due to the 2017 Tax deadline that looms on April 17th, we will wait until after that has passed in order to better accommodate our various presenters' schedules.

Birmingham Area Lunch Meeting

Date TBA

Huntsville Area Lunch Meeting

Date TBA

Tuscaloosa Area Lunch Meeting

Date TBA



Upcoming AUCA Events:



AUCA 2018 Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

**Thursday, April 19, 2018
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: Phil Savage

Cost: \$20/Person

(Included with Golf Registration or Corporate Sponsorship)

Attend the statewide General Meeting, enjoy a southern buffet lunch and then hear a great presentation from our scheduled guest speaker.

10th 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 \$20/Person

(Included with Golf Registration or Corporate Sponsorship)

Come out to our after tournament Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil. Enjoy networking, plus a Silent Auction to bid on your favorite team's sports memorabilia items.

Upcoming AUCA Events:

AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

Current Event Sponsors:

(Additional sponsorship opportunities available - deadline is April 13th)

Corporate Sponsors:



A Forterra Company



J. Smith Lanier & Co.
a Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC company



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FINANCIAL

BLANKENSHIP
CONTRACTING, INC.



Hole Sponsors:

Slaughter Construction Company
Dyas Human Resource Development
BenSource Employee Benefits

W.R. Mitchell Contractor
Ferguson Waterworks
R.T. Crowe & Associates





APRIL 19, 2018 - 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, 2018

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.) _____ | Handicap: _____ |
| 2.) _____ | Handicap: _____ |
| 3.) _____ | Handicap: _____ |
| 4.) _____ | Handicap: _____ |

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

CORPORATE SPONSOR - \$250
Includes: Company logo on event signage and promotional materials, and admission for one (1) company representative to General Meeting & Low Country Boil

HOLE SPONSOR - \$100
Includes: Name recognition on 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: \$20/Person x Quantity () = \$ _____

LOW COUNTRY SHRIMP & CRAWFISH BOIL

Low Country Boil: \$20/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.

Health & Safety:

Provided by www.oshatraining.com

Avoiding Ground Level Hazards Lurking at Excavation Sites

[Reference 1926 Subpart P]

Most people are mindful that work taking place inside an excavation can be extremely dangerous. Cave-ins, striking an underground utility line, or being exposed to a hazardous atmosphere are just a few of the potential hazards that could injure someone working within an excavation. However, there are many hazards located on or above the surface of the earth at excavation sites that could harm workers as well. So today we will discuss some of the dangers associated with trenching and excavation work that are present on or above the ground, and how we can avoid them.

- **Always look above where you will be digging to see if there are any electrical lines hanging overhead.** Because our focus is usually directed downward while we dig, it is easy to accidentally raise a backhoe bucket or long section of pipe into an energized electrical line. If any overhead electric lines are present it may be necessary to have them de-energized or insulated to prevent electrocution, so check with the Competent Person or your Supervisor.
- **Identify any encumbrances present on the surface that could present a potential safety hazard once excavation begins.** A large boulder located next to an excavation could roll and fall into the excavation if the soil collapses from beneath. And trees, utility poles, and communication equipment poles located adjacent to the edge of an excavation could also fall over and strike someone standing nearby as the soil near them is being excavated. So always check with the excavation site's competent person to see if it is necessary to first relocate any surface encumbrances or secure them in place with bracing before digging begins.
- **Always make sure you and your co-workers are easily seen by equipment operators and vehicle drivers in the area.** Always wear your high visibility vest or similar garments. And follow company / organizational policy regarding use of traffic control devices and flaggers where required to avoid being struck by a vehicle when working near roadways.
- **Keep your distance from excavation equipment** equipped with buckets, such as front-end loaders, backhoes and excavators, as the bucket can strike you as it is raised, lowered, or makes a sudden swing. Never assume the equipment operator sees you standing nearby. And also avoid standing or walking directly behind any vehicle or piece of earth-moving equipment because the operator's vision may be blocked when backing up.

(Continued on page 8)



Health & Safety:

Continued from Page 7

- **Avoid standing next to any trailers, dump beds, or roll-off containers as they are being loaded or unloaded** to avoid being struck by hazards such as soil spillage or other falling materials, rolling pipes, or wheeled excavation equipment.
- **Never stand or walk on any sidewalk, slab, or foundation where the soil beneath has been excavated** unless your supervisor or competent person has given you the okay to do so. In some cases, underpinning or shores may have to be installed to support these structures so they do not collapse when someone stands on top of them.

While these are not the only above-ground hazards to avoid on trenching and excavation sites, they do represent some common causes of worker injuries and deaths. So keep these tips in mind.

OSHA:

Provided by Josh Broaddus @ J. Smith Lanier & Company

OSHA's main page has a scrolling list of topics they consider important, and one of the 4 topics [currently trending](#) on the main page is on Trenching and Excavation, which has been a National Emphasis program since 1985. With all the rain that much of the country has been experiencing this season, it is important to remember that water intrusion creates an additional hazard.

The OSHA standards prohibit employers from allowing workers to enter an excavation where water has accumulated or is accumulating unless adequate precautions are taken to protect workers. Such precautions can include special support or shield systems to prevent cave-ins, water removal to control the water level, or the use of a safety harness and lifeline. If an employer uses water removal equipment to control or prevent water accumulation, the equipment and operations must be monitored by a competent person to ensure proper use.

If excavation work interrupts the natural drainage of surface water, the OSHA standards also require the use of diversion ditches, dikes, or other suitable means to prevent surface water from entering the excavation and to provide adequate drainage of the adjacent area. In addition, a competent person must inspect excavations subject to runoffs from heavy rains, and excavations subject to such runoffs are subject to the requirements described previously above.



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC

U.S. House and Senate Pass Omnibus Spending Bill and Avoid Federal Government Shutdown

With another threat of a federal government shutdown, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a massive \$1.3 trillion omnibus spending bill with the U.S. Senate following suit. President Trump signed the spending measure which will fund the federal government to September 30, 2018. The measure increases military and domestic spending for federal fiscal year 2018.

Of interest to the Clean Water Construction Coalition, the omnibus bill includes \$21.2 billion for infrastructure spending. Water related infrastructure spending identified in the measure includes the following:

- \$2.97 billion for EPA's water infrastructure programs. Funding includes \$2.857 billion for the Clean Water and Drinking Water revolving funds, which are provided directly to the states for water and wastewater infrastructure projects. This is an increase of \$600 million above fiscal year 2017.
- The bill supports an estimated \$6 billion in new lending under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program (WIFIA) by utilizing \$63 million in appropriations to finance more than 100 times that amount to accelerate investments in water projects with national and regional significance.
- Funds new water programs authorized in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WINN) Act to support testing for lead contamination in schools and child care centers (\$20 million), lead reduction projects in rural areas (\$20 million), and water projects in communities working to improve compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (\$10 million).

Other federal infrastructure programs received additional spending fiscal year 2018. The Highway Trust Fund program will receive an additional \$3.49 billion and be funded at \$44.23 billion, the Airport Improvement Program will receive an additional \$1 billion and U.S. DOT'S Tiger Grant Program will be funded at \$1.5 billion, a \$1 billion increase.



Legislative News:

Alabama Legislative Session Update:

The 2018 Alabama Legislative Session is winding down. As this report is written, Legislators are meeting in Montgomery for their 25th Legislative Day. Although they can meet for up to 30 Legislative Days, this is believed to be the final time they will convene in the 2018 Session.

The 2019 General Fund Budget has passed, and been signed by Governor Ivey. The new fiscal year will begin on October 1st, and the \$2 Billion General Fund Budget will be a \$167 Million increase over this year's budget. Lawmakers are still working on the \$6.6 Billion Education Trust Fund Budget, and a Conference Committee had to be appointed to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate versions. It is believed that once this is accomplished, the Session will end early for the first time in recent memory. After all, this is the same group of Legislators that went the full Regular Session, plus two Special Sessions in 2016 just to pass the budgets.

While the 2018 Session has been brief and without as much controversy as in some years, Governor Ivey has already signed into law some bills that will impact our industry:

- **SB205**, pertaining to the Craft Training Board, which was assigned Act #2018-181
- **HB83**, the Veterans Employment Act, which was assigned Act #2018-194
- **HB243**, dealing with ALDOT Bids, which was assigned Act #2018-199
- **HB35**, that would include certain specific tax exempt public water or sewer authorities, districts, boards, and systems under the definition of a governmental entity, has been assigned Act #2018-234.

Other bills are still pending, but with Session nearing the midnight hour, may fall short this year. We will continue to report on the status of all bills until the end of the Session, and provide a full recap once it has concluded.

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



A Solution For Employers

Contractors Retirement Plan *Features:*

Employer

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

Employee

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

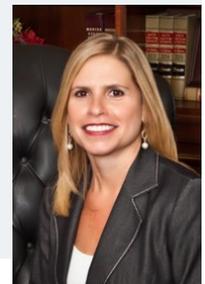
Plan administrator

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



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

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



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

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

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Training Needs***

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