



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARCH 2021

Director's Comments:



As I was sitting in the AUCA Office on Thursday afternoon writing this newsletter, I received a notification that a Tornado Warning had been issued for our area. I immediately left and headed down Highway 280 to seek shelter in the basement with my family at our home in Shelby County. Not long afterwards, a tornado did come through the area. Thankfully, we were all safe, but houses in our neighborhood and others close by were destroyed. The same storm then moved on into Calhoun County where at last report, five people were tragically killed.

When I had last watched the weather report during the morning hours, everything "bad" was predicted to be in the northern part of the state, and arriving much later than it did. So, despite all of the modern radar and weather forecasting technology that exists, I've learned a valuable lesson to definitely heed all warnings, even if you are only remotely close to the predicted area of severe storms.

On a brighter note, COVID-19 numbers in our state continue to decline dramatically, and Governor Ivey has announced the mandatory statewide mask mandate will expire on April 9th. As a result, we are anticipating that we will be able to have a much closer to normal looking Spring General Meeting, Golf Tournament & Crawfish Boil on April 22nd in Montgomery.

We have a great speaker scheduled to join us, and have already had a number of teams and sponsors commit to participate. Hopefully the weather forecast will be great, and we can safely gather together for fun with our industry peers. We hope to see you there!

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Tim

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

AUCA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 31, 2021

Washington Update with Congressman Gary Palmer
April 6, 2021

Time: 9:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. via "Zoom"

On Tuesday, April 6, U. S. Congressman Gary Palmer will join with the Homewood, Hoover Area, Greater Irondale, Mountain Brook, Shelby County, and Vestavia Hills Chambers of Commerce for a virtual event from 9:30 A.M.-10:30 A.M. via ZOOM.

Congressman Palmer -- first elected to represent Alabama's 6th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2014 -- will provide participants with a Washington update.

There is no cost to attend, however, registration is required no later than 2:00 PM on Monday, April 5, so please contact The Shelby County Chamber via e-mail at info@shelbychamber.org or by phone at 205-663-4542 or [register online](#) to secure your place.

AUCA 2021 Spring General Meeting,
Golf Tournament and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil
Thursday, April 22, 2021
Arrowhead Country Club - Montgomery, AL



AUCA 2021 Fall General Meeting
& Sporting Clay Shoot



Thursday, October 14, 2021
Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club - Montgomery, AL



AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

Current Event Sponsors:

(Additional sponsorship opportunities available - deadline is April 16th)

Corporate Sponsors (to Date):





AUCA 2021 Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

*Thursday, April 22, 2021
Arrowhead Country Club
50 Ocala Drive Montgomery, AL 36117*

General Meeting & Lunch - 11:30 a.m.
Golf Tournament - 1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start
Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil
(Immediately Following Golf Tournament)



General Meeting & Lunch
Guest Speaker: Lauren Sisler - ESPN and AL.com
Cost: \$20/Person
(Included with Golf Registration or Corporate Sponsorship)

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

12th 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 and "safely" enjoy networking with your industry peers at our after tournament Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil.



APRIL 22, 2021 - 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 16, 2021

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 SPONSOR - \$250

Includes: Company logo on event signage and promotional materials, and admission for two (2) company representatives 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.

Alabama Legislative News:

As of the writing of this report, the 2021 Alabama Legislative Session is more than halfway complete, having used 16 of the possible 30 Legislative Meeting Days. Legislators are currently on Spring Break, but will be returning to Montgomery on Tuesday, March 30th for day 17 of the session. To date, there have been a total of 914 bills introduced: 563 in the House and 351 in the Senate. Legislative procedures and access to the State House continue to be impacted due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Senate has approved a record \$7.67 Billion Education Trust Fund Budget for fiscal year 2022. The legislation moved to the House of Representatives where it was referred to the Ways and Means Education Committee. The \$2.5 Billion General Fund Budget, which had previously passed the House, has received its first reading in the Senate and been referred to the Committee on Finance and Taxation General Fund.

AUCA has been on-hand to testify in three Public Hearings for bills relating to the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board (AOWB). The first Public Hearing was on March 11th for HB483 in the House Economic Development & Tourism Committee. AUCA Lobbyist B.T. Crowe was among those that testified in favor of the bill which would limit the authority of the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board. The bill received a "Favorable Report" and is now pending a third reading in the House.

The second hearing was on March 17th for HB318 in the House Ways & Means General Fund Committee. HB318 would enable the Onsite Wastewater Board the ability to increase the maximum fine allowed for violations from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per violation. AUCA is strongly opposed to this bill., and AUCA Director Ayers was on hand to speak against it.

The third hearing was for SB277 on March 18th in the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. SB277 is the companion bill to HB483. The passage of either SB277 or HB483 would specifically exempt privately owned wastewater systems from regulation by the AOWB. AUCA is supportive of these companion bills.

In Public Hearings, both proponents and opponents are able to present their case within a very limited amount of time to the Committee. However, as is often customary following a Public Hearing, no vote was taken on either HB318 or SB277. They will be voted on at a future Committee Meeting. SB277 has been assigned to a Senate Subcommittee which will meet on March 30th.

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



News & Notes:

AUCA 2021 Scholarship Program:

- AUCA has budgeted to award six (6) Scholarships worth \$1,500 each.
- Money will be paid directly to the College or Trade School of the applicant's choice.

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 a construction-related curriculum.
- Must be either employed by, or have a parent or grandparent employed by a current AUCA member company.
- Application must be received by April 30, 2021.
- Applications are available on the AUCA website:

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



2021 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal

We are grateful to the many companies that have already paid their 2021 AUCA dues. For those that have not yet renewed, please make arrangements to submit your payment as soon as possible to ensure no interruption of membership 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.



News & Notes:

Alabama Damage Prevention Alliance (ADPA) - Large Project Committee:

The ADPA Large Project Committee met virtually on March 24th. Several AUCA Contractor members, along with AUCA Director Ayers, participated in the call. The group is continuing to determine “best practice” parameters for defining a large project as it pertains to the Alabama One-Call Law. Determining what is a

large project can be considered as either distance/footage of job, length of time to conduct work, or both. Complexity of the area where the work is occurring is another key factor to consider.



The next call for the ADPA Large Project Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14th at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to participate and help have a voice for your industry, please contact the AUCA Office for additional details.

As a reminder, the Alabama Damage Prevention Alliance (ADPA) was established to promote public safety and prevention of damages to utility infrastructure through education, cooperation and communication efforts among all stakeholders.

Alabama Underground Damage Prevention Authority

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.



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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

BIPARTISAN CLEAN WATER FUNDING BILL INTRODUCED

In the first significant action on infrastructure by the new Congress, yesterday the Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Chair of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA), and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) announced they are set to introduce the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021.

This bipartisan effort would authorize \$50 billion in direct infrastructure investment over the next five years. The Clean Water Construction Coalition is listed as an early supporter of this bill as it meets our funding level objectives for the Clean Water SRF programs and more. Specifically, the bill would:

- Authorize \$40 billion over five years (\$8 billion/year) in wastewater infrastructure investments through the Clean Water SRF, which provides low-interest loans, loan subsidizations, and grants to communities for wastewater infrastructure. These funding levels are approximately a four-fold increase of \$6.37 billion additional funding/year from current funding levels (\$1.63 billion/year). These levels are supported by recent national infrastructure needs surveys for wastewater, combined sewer, and other stormwater assets.
- Authorize an additional \$2 billion for grants to municipalities to capture, treat, or reuse sewer overflows or stormwater.
- Authorize new program funding for \$2.5 billion in grants for states to implement State water pollution control programs.
- Provide \$1 billion for Clean Water pilot programs for watershed-based efforts to address wet weather discharges, to promote stormwater best practices, to undertake integrated water resource management, and to increase climate resiliency.
- Authorize \$1 billion in grants for alternative water source projects, such as wastewater or stormwater reuse, to augment the existing water supplies.
- Provide \$1 billion in Clean Water Act grants to municipalities to implement treatment standards for PFAS and other emerging contaminants.
- Provide \$2.5 billion in wastewater infrastructure assistance to address the backlog of critical needs for Tribal Nations.

Sante Esposito has been in constant contact with Congressional Leaders and Hill staffers on this matter. We are pushing for a "clean" bill to move to the Senate that focuses on funding these criti-

Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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cal programs and is devoid of attached issues that will erode the bipartisan nature of the effort. It is likely this bill will be bundled into a larger infrastructure package.

ASCE RELEASES 2021 INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD

The 2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure was released this month by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) – a partner with CWCC in Water Week / Infrastructure Week outreach events. The report shows that the nation has made some incremental progress toward restoring our nation's infrastructure. You can look up the grades for your state by [CLICKING HERE](#).



The 2021 grades range from a B in rail to a D- in transit. Five category grades — aviation, drinking water, energy, inland waterways, and ports — went up, while just one category — bridges — went down. And stormwater infrastructure received its first grade: a disappointing D. Overall, eleven category grades were stuck in the D range, a clear signal that our overdue bill on infrastructure is a long way from being paid off.

While ASCE grades 17 categories individually, our infrastructure is a system of systems and more connected than ever before. As you consider the grades and analyze the data behind them, there are three trends worth noting according to ASCE:

- Maintenance backlogs continue to be an issue, but asset management helps prioritize limited funding. Sectors like transit and wastewater have staggering maintenance deficits but, developing a clear picture of where the available funding is most needed improves overall system performance and public safety. The drinking water sector, for example, has embraced asset management and new technology to pinpoint leaks and target repairs.
- State and local governments have made progress. Federal investment, when available, has also positively impacted certain categories. Thirty-seven states have raised their gas tax to fund critical transportation investments since 2010. Ninety-eight percent of local infrastructure ballot initiatives passed in November 2020. At least 25 major cities and states now have chief resilience officers. These improvements were made by elected officials from both sides of the aisle and with strong voter support. Meanwhile, categories like ports, drinking water, and inland water-

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Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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ways have been the beneficiaries of increased federal funding.

- There are still infrastructure sectors where data is scarce or unreliable. Sectors like school facilities, levees, and stormwater still suffer from a lack of robust condition information or inventory of assets. To target investments and allocate funding, routine, reliable data should be the standard.

This information has been used to raise both awareness of unmet needs and to celebrate areas of infrastructure policy supported by additional funding. We can use this data to applaud public and private partners for progress they have made along with pushing for more progress in areas we know need more attention.

CWCC has set priorities that rely on bold action from Washington, as well as continued prioritization by states and localities. The data in this report can be used as you interact with your Congressional delegation in the coming weeks. Congratulations to ASCE for releasing this critical report.



Health & Safety:

Provided by www.oshatraining.com

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk: Biological Hazards – Common Signs and Symptoms of Infection

[Reference: Paragraph (5)(a)(1) of OSHA Act of 1970 / Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) Guidelines]

There are several common signs and symptoms that present themselves when the human body's immune system is trying to fight off an infection. Experiencing one or more of these signs or symptoms may be an early indication that you, or someone else displaying them, are potentially infected with a contagious virus, bacteria, or other biological agent.

- **Runny or Congested Nose** – The human body naturally creates mucus to trap irritants, allergens, and infectious agents that enter the body through the nose and other openings. And when the foreign bodies increase in number, such as when some viruses attach to cells that mutate and begin to duplicate, the human body generates even more mucus, literally trying to trap and flush the infectious agent out of the body through your sinuses and nose.
- **Coughing and Sneezing** – Mucus built up in your respiratory tract may thicken and change color from clear to yellow or light green, a possible sign of infection. As thick mucus, or phlegm, builds up, your body tries to expel it by coughing and sneezing.
- **Fever** – Many viruses, including influenza and the Corona virus, are sensitive to heat and cannot survive above-normal body temperatures for an extended period of time. So, your body purposefully raises its own temperature to try and weaken or destroy the infectious agent.
- **Muscle and Joint Pain** – Your immune system signals white blood cells to create various chemicals to fight off an infection caused by various agents. In many cases, these chemicals also cause inflammation in your muscles and joints, resulting in them feeling sore or achy.
- **Vomiting or Diarrhea** – When certain bacteria, viruses, or parasites get inside your stomach, they can cause irritation of your stomach lining and intestines. Ingesting food or beverages can further irritate your stomach, which responds by trying to expel its contents by vomiting. Sometimes the irritation is so severe that you continue trying to vomit even after your stomach is empty of its contents, a reflex condition known as the dry heaves. And when certain infectious agents upset your gut, your body may try to expel the contents by redirecting water from other parts of your body into your bowels, essentially trying to flush them out via a runny, watery stool.



Health & Safety:

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These are some of the most common signs and symptoms signaling your body may be trying to fight off a contagious infection, although it's possible these could be attributed to some other disorder. And some infections may present unique signs or symptoms (**NOTE: reference the CDC *handout for symptoms of Corona-19 and Influenza viruses, discuss similarities and differences***). But regardless, if a person is experiencing one or more of these signs or symptoms persistently, or if the effects of the symptoms are severe, that person should avoid being around others and arrange to obtain a proper diagnosis from a medical professional as soon as possible.

COVID-19 vs Flu			
	COVID-19	Flu	
 Common	Fever/chills		
	Cough		
	Body Aches/ Headache		
	Tiredness		
 Less Common	Loss of taste/smell		
	Runny/stuffy nose		
	Sore throat		
 Not Common	Shortness of breath		
	Severity	Varies. Older adults and people with certain underlying conditions are at higher risk of severe illness. Seems to cause more severe illness in more people than flu.	Varies. Young children, older adults, and people with certain chronic conditions are at higher risk of severe illness.
	Onset of symptoms	Later (2-14 days after infection)	Earlier (1-4 days after infection)
	Cause	SARS-CoV-2	Influenza viruses



cdc.gov/coronavirus



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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others in your company. And, if you are
receiving this for the company owner,
please print out a copy for him/her.**

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Training Needs**

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