



## ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

**TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**APRIL 2019**



*AUCA Executive Director Tim Ayers and 2019 AUCA President Bill McGough from W.R. Mitchell Contractor in Mobile pose for a photo with U.S. Congressman Bradley Byrne prior to the AUCA Spring General Meeting on April 18th in Montgomery.*

United States Congressman Bradley Byrne was the special guest speaker at our recent Spring General Meeting in Montgomery. Mr. Byrne is a 2020 Republican candidate for U.S. Senate from Alabama.

He vowed that if elected to the Senate, he would be a fiscal conservative to rein in government overreach and give business owners the opportunity to grow. As a Senator he plans to continue fighting for small-business owners at every turn.

Thank you to all our sponsors and attendees that made the event a tremendous success.

*Tim*

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# AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:

## Corporate Sponsors:



**AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:**

**Hole Sponsors:**

**Slaughter Construction Company**

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**Alabama 811**

**Uniti Fiber**

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**Johnson & Associates Engineering**

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**Door and Player Prize Items:**

**Alabama 811**

**Southern Linc**

**Go Build Alabama**

**John Deere Financial**

**Progress Bank**

**Spire**

**National Trench Safety**

**Consolidated Pipe & Supply**

**Knapheide Truck Equipment**

**AUCA**

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We appreciate the many sponsor companies, volunteers, and participants that graciously made this event possible.

***Thanks for your continued support of AUCA!***



# *AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:*



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# AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:

## Team and Individual Golf Prize Winners:



**1st Place Team:**  
**CLS General Contractors**



**2nd Place Team:**  
**Ferguson Waterworks**



**3rd Place Team:**  
**Ferguson Waterworks**



**Closest to Pin:**  
Ty Patterson



**Longest Drive:**  
Trey Howell



**Longest Putt:**  
Josh Boyd



## *Alabama Legislative News:*

Since last month's Special Legislative Session that saw the passage of the Rebuild Alabama Act, the 2019 Alabama Regular Legislative Session is nearing the halfway point. To date, 13 of the possible 30 Legislative Days have been used, and 520 bills have been introduced in the House, and 329 in the Senate. A lot of attention has focused on bills for a Lottery, Abortion, and the repeal of Common Core Education requirements.

As for our industry, the Sunset Bills for the continuation of the Licensing Boards for General Contractors (HB110) and Onsite Wastewater (HB111) until October 1, 2020 both passed the Senate and have been forwarded to Governor Ivey for signature. SB71, which as introduced would increase the administrative obligations of the Attorney General's Office to develop an E-Verify affidavit, and the counties and municipalities to confirm applicants for business licenses, permits, and other documentation to operate a business are enrolled in E-Verify. This bill is still pending a 3rd reading in the Senate.

SB193 dealing with Unemployment Benefits has passed the Senate and moved to the House where it was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Small Business. As introduced, SB193 would reduce the maximum number of weeks that unemployment compensation benefits are payable for any benefit year beginning on or after January 1, 2020 from the lesser of 26 weeks or one-third of the wages paid for insured work during the base period, to the lesser of 14 weeks (up to a maximum of 20 weeks depending upon the average state unemployment rate) or one-fourth of the wages paid for insured work during the base period.

SB315, the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Bill, unanimously passed the Senate Transportation & Energy Committee on April 25th with a Favorable report after adding two amendments. Unfortunately, one of the amendments includes a sunset provision that would repeal after seven years the requirement for all underground utility facility owners to become a member of the One-Call Notification System. The bill has now moved to the full Senate for further consideration.

HB400 dealing with broadband construction and installation within electric easements by electric providers is pending third reading after receiving a Favorable report from the House Urban and Rural Development Committee with 1 substitute offered.

We will continue to update our members on the status of these bills, as well as any newly introduced bills of relevance, throughout the remainder of the Legislative Session.

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

## News & Notes:

### Mobile Area Lunch Meeting - April 25th



ALDOT Assistant Region Engineer Brian Aaron, P.E. speaks to the group about the Rebuild Alabama Act and upcoming projects in the ALDOT Southwest Region

### OSHA Whistleblower Update:

On April 19th OSHA issued a press release announcing a meeting on May 14, 2019, in Washington, D.C., to solicit public comments and suggestions from stakeholders on issues relating to whistleblower protection under Section 11(c) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. This is the third in a series of meetings at which OSHA is seeking public input on how it can improve whistleblower customer service, and enhance public understanding of the whistleblower laws.

### 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.
- The Scholarship Committee will select the two winners from AUCA member company employees, or family members that apply before the April 30th deadline.
- Applications are available on the AUCA website:

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



## News & Notes:

### **Truitt Insurance & Bonding Receives Distinguished Award:**

AUCA member, Truitt Insurance & Bonding was recently chosen to receive a 2019 Top Tiger Award from Auburn University's Harbert College of Business. The Top Tiger Awards recognize fast-growing businesses led by Auburn alumni. Congratulations to Tony and the rest of the Truitt team.

### **AUCA Newest Member Company:**

#### **SiteMix Pressure Grouting, LLC**

Atlanta, GA

Company Representative: John Knieper

## **Upcoming Events:**

### **National Trench Safety - Competent Person for Excavation Safety Class**

Thursday, May 30, 2019

5965 Rangeline Road

Theodore, AL 36583

Contact Jon Frits for more information - [jonfrits@ntsafety.com](mailto:jonfrits@ntsafety.com)

### **Warrior Tractor & Equipment Company - Graysville Store Grand Opening**

Thursday, August 1, 2019

Contact Brenda Culp for more information - [brenc@warriortractor.com](mailto:brenc@warriortractor.com)

## **2019 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal**

If your company has not submitted your membership dues renewal, please make arrangements to submit your payment by April 30, 2019. 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.



## ***Clean Water Construction Coalition Report***

From Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

### **“Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019” is Now HR 1491**

As previously reported, Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Chair of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Grace Napolitano (D-CA), Representative Don Young (R-AK), and Representative John Katko (R-NY) introduced the bipartisan Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019 (HR 1491) to address America’s crumbling wastewater infrastructure and local water quality challenges. This bipartisan bill is said to be moving into the next steps of the process in May. If HR 1491 is signed into law it would more than double the Clean Water SRF (CWSRF), the top policy priority for the CWCC in 2019.

HR 1491 would authorize \$20 billion in Federal grants over five years (\$4 B / year would be more than double the current FY appropriation of \$1.6 B) to capitalize State CWSRFs. These funds provide low-interest loans and additional loan subsidizations (e.g., principal forgiveness and negative interest loans) to communities for wastewater infrastructure.

### **Infrastructure**

House Transportation Chairman DeFazio is pushing forward a proposal to raise the gas tax as a short-term fix for the Highway Trust Fund. At a Ways and Means Committee hearing he laid out why he thinks that plan makes the most sense and could even be bipartisan. Some Senate Democrats are on board, too (although notable gas-tax-hike opponent Senator Schumer has yet to weigh in.). Rep. Graves, House Transportation Ranking Member, wants to focus on a vehicle miles traveled fee as a long-term solution. Others want to push more of the financial burden onto states. And some, like Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman Barrasso (R-Wyo.), aren't talking about revenue much at all, but would rather focus on permitting reforms. According to the House Democratic leadership, Floor time for an infrastructure bill has been reserved for May or "late spring." The bill number will be H.R. 2, reflecting the fact that infrastructure is one of ten priority pieces of House Speaker Pelosi.

According to T&I staff, the Committee is focusing on the next few months as the key window for putting together an infrastructure package and bringing it to the House Floor. Majority Leader Hoyer wants appropriations to happen in the summer, so the Committee believes they need to complete infrastructure before then. They have targeted March and April for legislative development, and May/June for the House Floor. They say that the biggest hurdles are identifying pay-fors and advancing a package through the Senate. Chairman DeFazio strongly seeks to have a paid-for package. Areas for pay-fors may include (but not limited to) the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund; index-



## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

*Continued from Page 13*

ing the gas tax (technically outside T&I's jurisdiction); airport infrastructure; and, Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The Committee has yet to determine whether they will advance one big bill or multiple bills to be later packaged together. The Committee started hearings this month and will continue next month focusing on key issues and markups. The Chairman is seeking bipartisan support on the infrastructure package but the majority believes they will gain clarity over the next few weeks on whether that is possible. Discussions remain very fluid regarding the scope and size (e.g., \$1 trillion) of a potential infrastructure package.

The Committee is interested not just in repairing infrastructure, but building new long-term infrastructure that is environmentally safe, expands capacity, and facilitates innovation (e.g., driverless cars). Key areas for investment mentioned include highways (shoring up the highway trust fund), transit rail investments including the NE corridor; airports (at least \$120 billion in airport infrastructure needs identified); port infrastructure; water infrastructure and safety/contamination; emergency/extreme weather resilience protections in infrastructure; and, broadband infrastructure (including rural areas). The Committee believes there is a limited role for P3, in contrast to the Administration's Infrastructure Blueprint.

According to Senate Environment and Public Works Committee staff, the Committee has asked all Senators to submit their "infrastructure asks" by May 1. Pending that, the plan is to let the House go first on a bill to see what, if anything, it does. Staff is considering "flexible" funding options, such as more authority for states and locals to decide project funding, as part of their process.



[cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org](http://cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org)

## *Fleet Safety:*

*Provided by Josh Broaddus @ J. Smith Lanier & Company*

### **Driver Safety - Laws of Physics**

One of the most dangerous activities your organization's employees will engage in is driving to, from and for work. More than 100 people die every day in auto accidents in the US. Knowing the laws of physics on the road can help keep them safe.

#### **Centrifugal force is the feeling of pulling to the outside when making a turn:**

- This force can cause cars to roll.
- Drivers can lose control of their vehicles.
- Many roadways are built with curves at a slight slant to help drivers maintain control during higher speed turns.
- To maximize safety, be sure to reduce your speed when approaching curves and driving on curvy roads.

#### **Friction, i.e. gripping power, also greatly influences the vehicle's behavior:**

- Friction between your tires and the ground helps keep your car under control.
- Certain conditions, such as poor tires, water, mud, gravel, snow, ice, and wash-boarded roads reduce the friction that helps you maintain control.
- In order to minimize these hazards, reduce your speed and replace worn or damaged tires.

#### **Gravity affects the vehicle's weight and dictates its reaction on slopes:**

- When going downhill, gravity pulls your vehicle forward, leading to very quick acceleration and driving too fast. As needed, shifting into a lower gear and keep your eye on the speedometer and your foot over the brake. Pump the brake as opposed to keeping the brake pedal depressed to prevent brake fade.
- Gravity has the opposite effect when driving uphill. You may find your car losing momentum or struggling to maintain speed. This causes your car to work much harder, which can lead to engine overheating and other mechanical problems. To avoid this kind of complication, take hills slowly and watch your temperature. Turning off the air conditioning will also help.

**The force of impact:** With a little luck, and cautious driving, you can avoid experiencing this kind of force, which occurs when two objects collide. Studies involving this force teach us that hitting a stationary object at 40 miles per hour is equal to your car being dropped from 54 feet!

*Remember that the effect of each of these forces becomes more dramatic with speed, so drive carefully and remember that physics never sleeps.*



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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](http://www.aluca.org)**

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