



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JULY 2018

Director's Comments:



In June 2018, the U.S. Department of Labor issued a new regulation regarding Association Health Plans (AHP's) allowing for more flexibility in formation and operation of AHP's.

Association Health Plans (AHP's) are group health plans that employer groups and associations offer to provide health coverage for their members' employees. They allow small employers, through associations, to gain regulatory and economic advantages available to large employers.

Benefits of AHP's:

- Allows small employers to group together to achieve group buying power and economies of scale
- Pooling together allows for rate stabilization and lower rates in the long run
- Health plans may be customized to meet needs of the group rather than one-size fits all government dictated plans
- Plans may be managed and member education provide more transparency and understanding of health costs drivers
- Independent contractors may participate
- AHP's may form based on industry or geographic concentration

AUCA has been actively investigating the possibility of offering an Association Health Plan option for our members. The recent regulatory changes make this possibility more feasible than ever. However, in order to make an AHP work, we have to have a certain number of members to participate. Therefore, we will be sending out an interest survey soon to determine the likelihood of this happening. Please take the time to complete the upcoming survey to help our Board of Directors develop a potential AHP implementation strategy.

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Tim

News & Notes:

President Trump Signs Order to Boost Workforce Development

This month President Trump signed an Executive Order establishing a National Council for the American Worker and the American Workforce Policy Advisory Board. Composed of Cabinet members and advisers, the council will oversee current government training programs and measure their effectiveness in preparing workers from high school graduates to mid- and late-career workers for jobs in the new economy.

The new council will meet the demand for skilled workers by developing a strategy to expand apprenticeships and align programs with industry needs. The president also announced the creation of an outside advisory board of "industry leaders and experts" to shape public policy and work with the council.

ALACTE Conference - Connecting with the Construction Industry

AUCA has been asked to represent the Construction Industry during a breakout session titled "Connecting with the Construction Industry in Alabama" at the ALACTE Conference in Birmingham on July 31st. The goal of the session is to introduce Alabama High School Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teachers with various Construction organizations in the state, and to provide them with strategies for connecting their classrooms with our members.

As economic conditions continue to improve, and workloads increase, the availability of skilled workers will continue to be a challenge. If you have any feedback on what types of education and training programs that you would like to see offered at the High School level to better prepare the workforce for entry into the Construction Industry, please contact the AUCA office.

CEFA Equipment Operator Training

The Construction Education Foundation of Alabama (CEFA) is gearing up to offer a class to the general industry for equipment operator training at their office in Birmingham. To do so, they are attempting to add 18 weeks (1 night a week) of NCCER training to the class as optional training. They need to put together a team of about three (3) instructors to deliver the training, and are looking for people with a background in equipment operations who are retired, or working and looking for part time supplemental income (\$40 an hour) to help with the class. The commitment is expected to be no more than 3 or 4 weeks for each instructor. For additional details, please contact CEFA President Byron McCain at (205) 956-0146.



News & Notes:

AUCA 2019 Board of Directors Nominations:

We are soliciting the membership for suggestions of people to serve on the 2019 AUCA Board of Directors. If you have someone in mind that you think would be an asset on the AUCA Board, please email us by August 31st to recommend them to the AUCA Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving yourself, please feel free to list your name as well.

Nomination Forms will be sent out electronically to all member companies. The Nominating Committee will review the nomination forms of those desiring to serve on the 2019 Board at the September 19th AUCA Board Meeting. The proposed slate of nominees will be announced to the membership and the candidates will be voted on by the members in attendance at the October 18th General Meeting in Montgomery.

AUCA Newest Member Companies:

Water Services Group, LLC

Northport, AL

Misc. Metals & Fabrication, LLC

Northport, AL

Sales Tax Exemption:

AUCA continues its efforts to schedule a meeting with the Alabama Department of Revenue regarding the Sales Tax Exemption process for Water & Sewer projects.

Infrastructure Failure Hits Close to Home:

On the morning of July 25th, a 20" Birmingham Water Works water main ruptured along Highway 280. This caused the temporary closure of all inbound lanes of rush hour traffic on our state's busiest highway for several hours. It also disrupted the water supply for many surrounding businesses.

Until underground infrastructure funding is prioritized, this scene will likely be repeated.



Upcoming Events:

AUCA Local Lunch Meetings
Dates and Locations To Be Announced



Construction Risk Conference
August 23, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Alabama AGC Headquarters
Birmingham



September 25 – 27, 2018
Embassy Suites Montgomery

Damage Prevention Summit Session topics to include:

- Alabama 811 annual membership meeting and operations update
- Components of a successful ticket
- How important is white lining?
- What the law really says
- Benefits of being an Alabama 811 member
- What obstacles do excavators face daily?
- What obstacles do locators face daily?

www.alabama.damagepreventionsummit.com



AUCA Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

October 18, 2018

Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club
Montgomery, AL





AUCA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Reed Contracting Services



2512 Triana Blvd SW
 Huntsville, AL 35805
 (256) 533-0505 Phone
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Founded in 1987 by Michael Reed, Reed Contracting Services, Inc. began business in Union Grove, Alabama with only one dump truck. Since then, the company has grown to over 450 employees, numerous pieces of construction equipment, and a large fleet of trucks. In 2005, Reed moved operations to Huntsville, Alabama in order to serve the Tennessee Valley more effectively.

Reed Contracting is built on its commitment to provide a safe work environment to its employees, complete projects in specified time frames, while providing complete customer satisfaction. Reed Contracting continues to grow because of these commitments to its employees and customers. Using formalized methods and pre-planned processes, Reed develops a working plan for every project. That plan is monitored with on-site inspections and quality control evaluations to assure the job is performed to our customer's complete satisfaction.

Utilities, Water and Sewer Systems

Reed Contracting Services specializes in water, sewer and storm drainage construction. Reed employs utility crews that are fully trained by OSHA authorized instructors in trenching and excavating, competent person and confined spaces. We use the latest technology and own the high-tech equipment needed to insure a safe and compliant installation.



Full Company Services:

- *Asphalt Paving & Products*
- *Ready Mix Concrete*
- *Underground Utility*
- *Site Preparation*
- *Road Construction*
- *Industrial Maintenance*
- *Sand Services*
- *Hollywood Rock Quarry*

Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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

MEGA INFRASTRUCTURE EFFORT – SUMMER / FALL OUTLOOK

With shifting responsibilities resulting from key staff departures in the Trump Administration, Key Advocates met with staff of the U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao to discuss CWCC priorities. Up until recently, this effort was lead by central staff to the President and not a cabinet member. Given the reality that water infrastructure funding is not within the wheelhouse of Secretary Chao's priorities, Key Advocates focused on the need for any "mega" infrastructure package to be multimodal and be limited to core infrastructure priorities. In addition, it was strongly recommended that "pay for" mechanism(s) be included in any potential infrastructure bill(s) to avoid the pitfalls of recent efforts that included a vision for priorities without any sense of how to fund those priorities.

WRDA REAUTHORIZATION

We previously reported to you that WRDA reauthorization is being discussed as a potential opportunity for progress to be made on water infrastructure priorities. It remains the case that the House version of WRDA Reauthorization remains a "Army Corps of Engineers only" bill while the Senate version includes provisions of the SRF WIN Act. On June 6th the House passed its version. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's version (Floor action pending) of WRDA reauthorization - S. 2809, "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018," included in the Manager's amendment to S. 2364/H.R 4902, the "SRF WIN Act," with the following changes - the annual authorization level was reduced from \$200M to \$100M; the duration of the new program reduced from 5 to 2 fiscal years; the \$7B per state cap deleted; and language regarding the funding relationship to the SRF's included. CWCC has expressed support for these with the caveat that the interest rate in the SRF WIN proposal be "up to the prevailing Treasury rate" and not tied to the specific prevailing rate.

FY19 HOUSE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL (THE SRF'S)

On June 6, the House Appropriations Interior Subcommittee approved its version of the federal FY19 Interior Appropriations Bill - \$1.4B for the CWSRF; \$863M for the SDWSRF; and, \$75M for WIFIA. The SRF levels are \$300M below FY18 levels, those levels are a result of raising the budget caps. To date there has been No Senate Action on this issue. Clearly, getting these levels up to or over the Federal FY18 levels will be a priority in the coming months.

www.cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org



Health & Safety:

Provided by Josh Broaddus @ J. Smith Lanier & Company

STRETCHING

Why Stretch?

- Stretching is useful for both injury prevention and injury treatment.
- If done properly, stretching increases flexibility, this can directly translate into reduced risk of injury. A muscle/tendon group with a greater range of motion will be less likely to experience tears when used actively.
- Stretching is thought to improve recovery and may enhance athletic performance.
- Stretching improves your balance, coordination, and circulation. This increases blood flow to your muscles often speeding the recovery process after muscle injuries.
- Flexible muscles can improve your daily performance in tasks such as lifting and bending.
- Stretching promotes better posture. Frequent stretching keeps your muscles from getting tight, allowing you to maintain proper posture and minimize aches and pains.
- Stretching can relieve stress by relaxing the tense muscles that often accompany stress.
- Stretching before work tasks helps you focus on working safely.

Stretching Safely:

- Stretching should be a key part of your exercise program.
- Stretching before physical activity will prepare your body.
- Stretching after your work promotes better range of motion of your joints.
- When stretching:
 - Follow the instructions of your medical care provider!
 - Stay within your comfort range! Expect to feel some tension when stretching. If you feel pain, you've gone too far.
 - Move slowly and support your body.
 - Hold each stretch for 10-15 seconds.
 - Breathe freely as you hold each stretch; try not to hold your breath.

Stretching Essentials:

- Target major muscle groups: When you are stretching, focus on your calves, thighs, hips, lower back, neck and shoulders.
 - Stretch muscles and joints that you routinely use at work or play.



Health & Safety:

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- Warm up first: Stretching muscles when they are cold increases your risk of injury, including pulled muscles.
 - Warm up by walking while gently pumping your arms, or do a favorite exercise at low intensity for five minutes.
 - Stretch after you exercise — when your muscles are warm and more receptive to stretching.
- Know how often to stretch: As a general rule, stretch before and after a manual task or exercise.
 - If you do not exercise regularly, you might want to stretch at least three times a week to maintain flexibility.
 - If you have a problem area, such as tightness in the back of your leg, you might want to stretch every day or even twice a day.
- Know when to exercise caution: If you have a chronic condition or an injury, you may need to alter your approach to stretching.
 - If you have a strained muscle, stretching it may cause further harm.
 - Discuss the best way to stretch with your medical provider.

Concluding Points for Reducing Your Risk:

- Correct posture alleviates stress on muscles, tendons and nerves.
- Take periodic stretch breaks.
- After work, enjoy activities that use other muscles. Try activities such as swimming and jogging which use different muscles.
- Your health contributes significantly to your success on and off the job.
- Our number one goal is to keep you healthy and safe at work.



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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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