



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SEPTEMBER 2016

Director's Comments:



I recently read a statistic that 1/5 of the U.S. economy would grind to a halt without reliable water infrastructure. Yet, with pipes in the ground that have long outlived their service life, and a population that continues to grow and put additional stress on the existing systems, our government proposes to cut funding instead of increasing it. This logic is baffling, especially when you consider the many unnecessary programs that our federal government does support.

We must continue to work together as an industry to raise awareness for the needs of all underground infrastructure systems. These are serious problems that unfortunately cannot fix themselves. If new revenue cannot be found to address the problems, then our leaders need to look for ways to cut other programs that are not as critical. In other words, do what they should already be doing - be good stewards of the taxpayer's money.

Economic development officials will also tell you that infrastructure is a critical component when attempting to lure industries to locate in our state. At our October 13th General Meeting in Montgomery, we are pleased to have Greg Canfield, the Alabama Secretary of Commerce speak to our group. Secretary Canfield will help explain why it is imperative that we continually invest in our infrastructure in order to remain competitive, and to keep our economy strong.

We are also pleased that Senator Del Marsh is scheduled to attend the event to receive our "Legislator of the Year" Award. Senator Marsh has been an ally to AUCA on many issues, and we look forward to honoring him and continuing our working relationship.

We hope that you can make time to come out and join us at a fun event, and have the opportunity to remind key leaders of our state how important our issues are.

Tim

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Upcoming Events:

AUCA Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

Current Event Sponsors:

(Additional sponsorship opportunities available - deadline is October 7th)

Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsors:

Schmidt Environmental Construction
Howell, LLC
Ferguson Waterworks
Flint Equipment Company
CLS General Contractors
U.S. Pipe

Knapheide Truck Equipment
Southern Pipe & Supply
Southern Light
National Trench Safety
Sunbelt Rentals
Insituform Technologies

Bronze Sponsors:

American Ductile Iron Pipe
J. Smith Lanier & Co.
Blankenship Contracting
Sloan Utility Contracting
Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff & Brandt

Miller Pipeline
Millennium Risk Managers
Alabama 811
J.M. Wood Auction Company
Tractor & Equipment Company

Station Sponsors:

W.R. Mitchell Contractor
Turner Insurance & Bonding

Dyas Human Resource Development
Truitt Insurance & Bonding



Upcoming Events:



AUCA 2016 Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

Thursday, October 13, 2016
Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club
4758 Lower Wetumpka Road Montgomery, AL 36110

General Meeting & Steak Lunch - Begins at 11:00 a.m.
Raffle Drawing - 12:30 p.m.
Sporting Clay Shoot - Begins at Approximately 1:00 p.m.



General Meeting & Steak Lunch **Greg Canfield - Alabama Secretary of Commerce**

Cost: \$20/Non-Shooters

(Lunch Included with Clay Shoot Registration or Sponsorship)

Come network with your peers, win great door prizes, and enjoy a delicious steak lunch while listening to our special guest speaker. We will also vote on the 2017 AUCA Board of Directors and Officers, and present the AUCA Member of the Year Awards.

Annual Sporting Clay Shoot

Cost: \$500/Team or \$125/Individual + Cart Fee

(Participants must provide own Gun and Shells)

Corporate and Station Sponsorship opportunities available.

Complete attached Registration Form and return ASAP.

Sign up now before the event sells out!



AUCA PAC Fundraising Raffle

We are raffling two great prizes:

Prize #1: YETI Tundra 35 Cooler

Prize #2: Beretta A300 Outlander 12 Gauge Shotgun



Tickets are \$10 each and allow two (2) chances to win.

(You do not have to be present to win)

All money raised from the raffle will go towards the AUCA PAC Fund to help support our Legislative efforts in Montgomery and Washington.



OCTOBER 13, 2016 - 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 October 7, 2016

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

SPORTING CLAY SHOOT TEAM & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

GOLD SPONSOR - \$1,000 Includes: 4-man team, cart, name recognition and company logo on AUCA website, event signage, promotional materials, and four (4) station sponsorships

SILVER SPONSOR - \$650 Includes: 4-man team, cart, name recognition on event signage, and station sponsorship

BRONZE SPONSOR - \$250 Includes: Admission for two (2) company representatives to attend General Meeting Lunch, name recognition on event signage, station sponsorship, and may provide trappers on course to network with shooters and hand out company prizes or give-a-ways

STATION SPONSOR - \$100 Includes: Signage at individual shooting station

4-PERSON TEAM - \$500 + CART FEE 1.) _____ 2.) _____ 3.) _____ 4.) _____

INDIVIDUAL - \$125 + CART FEE

You must provide your own shells (Factory shells only - #7-1/2 or higher shot load)

Safety rules must be followed; signed waiver required; ear plugs and eye protection recommended

GOLF CART NEEDS (CART INCLUDED w/ GOLD & SILVER SPONSORSHIPS)

Cart rentals available for \$75 per cart; reservations due 9/30/16 due to limited supply (you may bring your own cart/ATV)

CART RENTAL NEEDED: YES _____ NO _____

TEAM PRIZES

1st Place Team: \$400 + Trophies 2nd Place Team: \$300 + Trophies 3rd Place Team: \$200 + Trophies

GENERAL MEETING LUNCH (INCLUDED w/ TEAM REGISTRATION or SPONSORSHIP)

General Meeting Lunch: \$20/Non-Shooter x Quantity () = \$ _____

PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE OR ON DAY OF EVENT! Return form and payment to:

Alabama Utility Contractors Association

159 Highland Park Drive

Birmingham, Alabama 35242

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.

Upcoming Events:

JOIN US AT THE THIRD ANNUAL ALABAMA DAMAGE PREVENTION SUMMIT.

The Third Annual Alabama Damage Prevention Summit, hosted by Alabama 811 and the Alabama Damage Prevention Alliance (ADPA), is scheduled for **October 4-6, 2016** at the Embassy Suites in Montgomery, AL.

There are pre-summit events including a golf tournament, locate rodeo and educational certifications in addition to the educational tracts as part of the summit itself.

Questions answered at this year's event:

- What keeps the locator from arriving on time to a locate?
- I hit a buried utility line, now what do I do?
- I've waited the two working days and the lines still aren't marked, can I go ahead and dig?

Register now and save!

Visit <http://www.alabama.damagepreventionsummit.com/> for more information.

Concrete Pipe and Box Culvert Installation Classes

AUCA in collaboration with the American Concrete Pipe Association will host the final two regional installation classes for Contractors, Municipal Engineers, Consultants, and ALDOT staff. Class sizes are limited. To RSVP, please use the below link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L9dXtS5M2qGM72KpceM38R_B8R_VGCyGJqekhJwaV4Q/edit?usp=sharing

Huntsville

Friday, October 14, 2016

Hilton Garden Inn

4801 Governors House Dr SW, Huntsville, AL 35805

Mobile

Friday November 4, 2016

ALDOT SW Regional Office

1701 I-65 West Service Road North, Mobile, AL 36618



News & Notes:

**ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
PROPOSED 2017 LEADERSHIP TEAM**

To Be Voted On At General Meeting Scheduled For October 13, 2016

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: SHAUN GONZALES, *WESCO*

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: ERIC HUDGENS, *SLOAN UTILITY CONTRACTING*

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: AARON SCHMIDT, *SCHMIDT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRUCTION INC.*

SECRETARY/TREASURER: GAVIN JONES, *BAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS*

BOARD MEMBERS

RANDY BISHOP, *CONSTRUCTION LABOR SERVICES, INC.*

DOUG BLANKENSHIP, *BLANKENSHIP CONTRACTING, INC.*

ANDRU BRAMBLETT, *SOUTHERN LIGHT*

BILL CARTER, *AMERICAN DUCTILE IRON PIPE*

LAIN CHENEY, *FERGUSON WATERWORKS*

RONNIE GOLDEN, *GOLDEN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY*

JOHN PAUL LAMBERT, *LAMBERT, INC.*

LARRY LOGSDON, *WALLACE, JORDAN, RATLIFF, & BRANDT, LLC*

MARK MAYFIELD, *MILLER PIPELINE, LLC*

BILL McGOUGH, *W.R. MITCHELL CONTRACTOR, INC.*

RICHARD MURPHREE, *DRM UTILITIES, LLC*

STEVE WALKER, *JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.*

TERRY YOUNG, *MILLENNIUM RISK MANAGERS, LLC*



News & Notes:

Mobile Area Lunch Meeting - September 14th

Contractor's Sales Tax Exemption Reporting Requirements

Presented by Traci Sherlock from Alabama Department of Revenue



Meeting Sponsored by:



News & Notes:

ACPA Pipe and Box Culvert Installation Seminars



**Dothan
September 8, 2016**



**Montgomery
September 9, 2016**



**Tuscaloosa
September 22, 2016**



**Birmingham
September 23, 2016**



News & Notes:

Alabama One-Call Notification System Study Commission Update:

The most recent Commission meeting was held in Birmingham on September 19th. The group will meet again on October 25th at the Alagasco Operations Center in Montgomery, with the intent of drafting legislation to be introduced during the 2017 Alabama Legislative Session.

Proposed legislation will cover the establishment of an effective enforcement program to appease PHMSA, which views the current Alabama Damage Prevention Program as being inadequate. The legislation will also hopefully require mandatory participation for a Single One-Call Notification System to serve the entire state of Alabama to help improve safety for our industry. Without full participation, the current system is not truly a "One-Call" program, and places Contractors in danger when working in unfamiliar areas where all underground utilities may not have been located.

If you have any feedback on this topic, or would like to attend the next meeting, please contact the AUCA office.

OSHA News:

Be cautious of an email that has reportedly been circulating to numerous employers around the country that appears on its face to be a request from OSHA to download a guidance document about "Safety & Health at U.S.: Protecting Workers and Employers" in order to avoid being fined. This email is not sent from a Department of Labor email. Employers should always remember that OSHA never requests money over the phone or on-site at the close of an inspection, it never charges employers for posters or regulatory guidance, and its representatives are obliged to present their credentials upon request.

The fraudulent email contains a newsletter clipping that has both the DOL and the Department of Health and Human Services ("DHHS") logos at the top. It claims that the recipient employers have been selected to receive this guidance document, and that they will receive "an unannounced, on-site inspection" to investigate whether they are meeting Safety & Health Requirements. OSHA has confirmed that this email was not sent by the Agency. Employers should NOT click on any of the links in the email, should immediately delete it, and should run a virus scan. It is believed to be a phishing scam similar to ones that have plagued employers in the past. OSHA states that it will investigate and potentially refer the matter to the Department of Justice for a criminal investigation.



News & Notes:

In Memory of Mallory Carper:

Please keep Charlie Carper from Thompson Insurance and his family in your thoughts and prayers, after the passing of his daughter Mallory, on September 8th. Mallory was a joy and an inspiration to all that knew her, and I'm glad that I was able to be amongst those that did. She will be missed.

AUCA Mailing Address Change:

AUCA is in the process of changing our mailing address. When mailing correspondence, please make sure to send it to the new address:

**P.O. Box 383185
Birmingham, AL 35238-3185**

The office location remains the same, and we encourage members to drop by and visit if you're ever in the area.

AUCA Office Address:
7030 Meadowlark Drive, Suite E2
Birmingham, AL 35242

AUCA Members Enter the Political Arena:

Congratulations to Shawn Rice of Reed Contracting Services in Huntsville for his recent election to the Town Council in Grant, AL.

Also, we would like to recognize Mark Davis, from Mark Davis Construction on his attempt to win a seat on the City Council in Semmes, AL. Although Mark did not win, we applaud him for his efforts to make a difference for the good of his community.

Career Opportunities:

AUCA has several member companies throughout the state that are currently hiring for various positions, including Project Manager, Superintendent, and Sales Representative. Please contact the AUCA office if you would like to receive additional information.



Alabama Legislative News:

Alabama Special Legislative Session Wrap-Up:

The special legislative session called for by Governor Robert Bentley in August to establish a constitutional amendment enabling a state lottery to support the General Fund, and to provide funding for Medicaid, infrastructure investment, and/ or debt repayment concluded on September 7th.

The lottery continued to be a divisive topic, and was unable to receive the 2/3 vote needed in both houses to be placed on the November ballot as a constitutional amendment. Look for the lottery debate to continue to be a hot topic during the 2017 regular legislative session, as the state continues to struggle financially.

The most significant events that occurred during the special session were:

- Representative Mac McCutcheon was elected to be the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Legislation for the BP Settlement Fund Bond Issue was passed and signed by the Governor. This creates the Alabama Economic Settlement Authority and will provide:
 - \$120 million for Medicaid
 - \$120 million for Mobile and Baldwin Counties road projects
 - \$238 million to partially repay the Alabama Trust Fund Debt
 - \$161.6 million to repay the General Fund Rainy Day Fund debt due by 2020
- A Joint Legislative Task Force on Budget Reform was created. The 14-member panel will examine the structure and design of the state budgeting process and make recommendations for long-term budget system reforms. The task force is to report no later than the fifth legislative day of the 2017 legislative session. The task force will study issues including:
 - Implementing a biennial budget cycle
 - Requiring state entities to undergo greater performance and program reviews
 - Un-earmarking funds to provide more flexibility and legislative oversight
 - Reviewing existing state tax credits, deductions and exemptions that result in a total of \$4.1 billion in lost revenue for the state budgets
 - Identifying areas to provide tax relief to Alabama families without significantly affecting budgets



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC

U.S. SENATE OVERWHELMING PASSES WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

On September 15th, the Senate approved the Water Resources Developments Act of 2016 (WRDA) by a 95 “yes” to 3 “no” floor vote. The measure in total authorizes approximately \$13.3 billion for various water/port projects throughout the country.

The Senate WRDA measure, S2848, contains funding for navigation, port, dam, flood control, and ecological restoration projects. Also contained in the legislation is \$1.8 billion for storm water construction projects, \$1.4 billion grant program for rural drinking water/wastewater projects as well as other significant provisions for clean water and drinking water programs. Also included is \$220 million for water infrastructure improvements to States with “emergency drinking water situations” and \$70 million to capitalize WIFIA loan projects.

The U.S. House has yet to move the bill for a floor vote, however, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster has indicated that there will be an effort to bring the Committee’s WRDA measure to the floor prior to the Congress’s Fall recess.

Coalition representatives will urge the House leadership to post the House T & I Committee’s bill for a floor vote. Once passed by the House, Coalition representatives will work with members of both Chambers to advocate for inclusion of Clean Water and Drinking Water funding language to be added to the final legislation during conference negotiations on the bill between the House and Senate.

FY 2017 INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The full House has approved its FY 2017 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill while the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its companion spending bill but has yet to post the measure for a floor vote. The House measure funds the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF programs at \$2.1 billion. This represents an overall annual decrease to the combined CWSRF (\$1 billion) and DWSRF (\$1.07 billion) programs of approximately \$186 million. The House measure also funds the new WIFIA program at \$50 million. The Senate fiscal year 2017 Interior bill funds the Clean Water SRF at \$1.35 billion, the Drinking Water SRF at \$1.02 billion and \$30 million for the WIFIA program. This represents an increase of \$113 million over the FY 2016 enacted level. While the Senate Appropriations Committee did approve the measure on June 16, 2016, the Senate is not anticipated to move to bill to a full Senate floor vote prior to the November elections. If this is the case, a Continuing Resolution will need to be moved in order to continue funding for these programs at the current FY 2016 funding levels.



Health & Safety:

Reflective Safety Gear

Your reflective and fluorescent safety gear is some of the most valuable safety gear available today. Why? When working on a construction jobsite or roadway work zone, motorists can readily notice you. Reflective and fluorescent safety gear help motorists and equipment operators see you out of their peripheral (side) vision. Remember that as coveralls, jeans & shirts wear and get dirty they become "camouflage" on the jobsite, blending in with dirt work & excavations.

WORKSAFE TIPS

REFLECTIVE SAFETY GEAR

- Signaling by flaggers and the use of flaggers, including warning garments worn by flaggers shall conform to Part VI of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices ["MUTCD"]
- OSHA says flagmen shall be provided with and shall wear a red or orange warning garment while flagging. Warning garments worn at night shall be of reflective material.
- OSHA says that, for daytime work, the flagger's vest, shirt, or jacket shall be orange, yellow, strong yellow green or fluorescent versions of these colors.
- For nighttime work, similar outside garments shall be retro reflective.
- The retro reflective material shall be orange, yellow, white, silver, strong yellow-green, or a fluorescent version of one of these colors and shall be visible at a minimum distance of 1,000 feet.
- Wear reflective gear whenever there is an exposure to struck-by hazards like moving equipment and moving traffic.
- Federal Highway Administration will require Class 2 and 3 performance vests whenever work is being done on federal aid highways.
- High visibility clothing does perform a very important function by making workers more visible to vehicle drivers and equipment operators.
- When reflective garments are worn in dirty or oily environments, they will need to be laundered or replaced.

REFLECTIVE & FLUORESCENT GEAR HELPS DRAW ATTENTION TO YOU.



EQUIPMENT OPERATORS, OTHER DRIVERS & WORKERS CAN SEE YOU BETTER DURING DAWN, DUSK AND NIGHT TIME HOURS.

- Whenever laundered or soiled heavily, they lose their reflective strength. Replace whenever the vest looks old or faded.
- Don't wear the reflective vest, or keep it tied up tight, if there is a chance it can be caught in a PTO shaft or moving parts of a machine.
- Even drivers and equipment operators that are paying attention frequently find it difficult to see workers on foot or working along the roadway.
- A lot of work is being done at night, when light levels are low, at dawn, dusk and during rainy or snowy weather.
- Visibility problems are the cause for many of the deaths and injuries that happen when workers get hit by vehicles or mobile equipment.
- Reflective and fluorescent apparel serves as a first line of defense that protects workers against being hit by a vehicle or piece of equipment operated by someone who can't see them during the day or at night.

Alabama Utility Contractors Association
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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**

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



@AlabamaUCA

