

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SEPTEMBER 2018

Director's Comments:



Last month, our neighbors in Mississippi were called by their Governor into a Special Legislative Session to address their failing infrastructure. The result was the passage of the Mississippi Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2018, and the Alyce G. Clarke Mississippi Lottery Law, which were both signed into law by the Governor.

The Mississippi Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2018 will:

- Divert 35% of the 7% use tax for internet and out-of-state sales to local governments and bridge repairs
- Divide up the use tax diversion - 15% to cities - 15% to counties - 5% to the Local System Bridge Program
- Create a new tax on hybrid and electric cars
- Bond \$300 million, with \$250 going to the Mississippi Department of Transportation for emergency projects and \$50 million to be spent on projects deemed necessary by the legislature
- Require counties to match the state use tax money dollar for dollar
- Divert the new casino sports betting tax money toward infrastructure

The lottery will dedicate the first \$80 million for 10 years to the State Highway Fund, and is to be used with matching federal funds when available.

As we gear up for our elections in Alabama in November, and a new Legislative Session set to begin in March 2019, it will be interesting to see if any of our elected officials propose similar legislation as a fix for our state's much needed infrastructure improvements.

Tim

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Upcoming Event:

AUCA Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

Current Event Sponsors:

(Additional sponsorship opportunities available - deadline is October 12th)

Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsors:



Bronze Sponsors:



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W.R. Mitchell Contractor, Inc.

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BLANKENSHIP
CONTRACTING, INC.



Upcoming Event:



**AUCA 2018 Fall General Meeting
& Sporting Clay Shoot**

Thursday, October 18, 2018
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

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 2019 AUCA Officers and Board of Directors, and present the AUCA "Member of the Year" Awards.

Annual Sporting Clay Shoot

Cost: \$600/Team or \$150/Individual

(Participants must provide own Gun and Shells)

Complete attached Registration Form and return ASAP.

Corporate Sponsorship opportunities available.

Sign up now before the event sells out!



AUCA PAC Fundraising Raffle

This year we are raffling two great prizes that anyone can use:

Prize #1: \$1,000 Cash

Prize #2: \$500 Cash



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 continued Legislative efforts in Montgomery and Washington.



OCTOBER 18, 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 October 12, 2018

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

4-PERSON TEAM & CART - \$600
1.) _____
2.) _____

INDIVIDUAL SHOOTER & CART - \$150
3.) _____
4.) _____

CART NEEDED: YES _____ NO _____

Carts provided for all shooters (you may also bring your own cart/ATV)

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

SPORTING CLAY SHOOT 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 REQUESTED BEFORE OR ON DAY OF EVENT! Return form and payment to:

Alabama Utility Contractors Association
P.O. Box 383185
Birmingham, Alabama 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.

News & Notes:

***ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
PROPOSED 2019 LEADERSHIP TEAM***

To Be Voted On At General Meeting Scheduled For October 18, 2018

OFFICERS

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

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

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: DOUG BLANKENSHIP, *BLANKENSHIP CONTRACTING, INC.*

SECRETARY/TREASURER: ROBBIE BUTLER, *CLEARY CONSTRUCTION, INC.*

BOARD MEMBERS

AARON SCHMIDT, *SCHMIDT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRUCTION, INC.**

RANDY BISHOP, *CONSTRUCTION LABOR SERVICES, INC.*

ANDRU BRAMBLETT, *UNITI FIBER*

BILL CARTER, *BILL CARTER CONSULTING, LLC*

RONNIE GOLDEN, *GOLDEN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY*

SHAUN GONZALES, *WESCO, INC.*

GAVIN JONES, *BAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS, INC.*

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

MARK MAYFIELD, *MILLER PIPELINE, LLC*

RICHARD MURPHREE, *SOUTHERN PIPE & SUPPLY*

STEVE WALKER, *JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.*

TERRY YOUNG, *MILLENNIUM RISK MANAGERS, LLC*

** IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT*



News & Notes:

AUCA Association Health Plan (AHP):

AUCA is continuing to work on offering an Association Health Plan (AHP) option for our members. The initial survey results show that we have enough member companies interested in participating, which justifies moving to the next step. If you have not already done so, please take the time to click the link: [AUCA AHP Survey Link](#) and complete the brief interest survey. The more companies that are willing to participate, the better an AHP can be for all participants.

As a reminder, Association Health Plans (AHP's) are group health plans that 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

AUCA PAC Fundraising Raffle:

Tickets are now being distributed to AUCA member companies for the annual AUCA PAC Raffle. All money raised from the raffle will go towards the AUCA PAC Fund to help support our Legislative efforts in Montgomery and Washington. With 2018 being an important election year, we need to ensure that our PAC Fund remains strong.

We hope that you and/or your employees will be able to participate. Tickets are \$10 each, and offer two (2) chances to win. The drawing will be held at our October 18th General Meeting / Sporting Clay Shoot in Montgomery. You do not have to be present at the event to win.

This year we will be raffling two great prizes that anyone can use:

- **Prize #1 - \$1,000 Cash**
- **Prize #2 - \$500 Cash**



News & Notes:



In Memory of Bucky Lambert:

AUCA member Bucky Lambert, owner of Lambert Inc. in Stevenson, AL died on September 6th at the age of 68.

Mr. Lambert was a Vietnam Veteran serving in the US Army. He was in the construction business for 51 years, most of them as owner of Lambert Inc. and Southern Concrete Products.

Please continue to keep the Lambert family in your thoughts and prayers.

Alabama Damage Prevention Summit - Montgomery



The 5th Annual Damage Prevention Summit was held at the Embassy Suites in Montgomery on September 26-27th. The event was well attended by stakeholders from all aspects of the damage prevention industry, including AUCA, and several of our member companies.

Equipment Operator Training:

The Construction Education Foundation of Alabama (CEFA) will be offering a class for equipment operator training at their office in Birmingham for up to 24 students. The classroom portion will be based on IVES and NCCER Training models for Heavy Equipment Operations, and will also include 16 hours of seat time training on a Backhoe and Skidsteer. If your company has any interest in registering students for the class, please contact CEFA President Byron McCain at (205) 956-0146.



News & Notes:

Alabama Licensing Board for General Contractors Vacancy

Joe Rogers, longtime Executive Secretary for the Alabama Licensing Board for General Contractors is retiring. As a result, the state has begun the process to find his replacement.

The Alabama Licensing Board for General Contractors was created through legislation enacted in 1935. The Board licenses and regulates commercial/industrial contractors in the major and specialty classifications that constitute the construction industry.

This is a very important position for our industry, so if you know of anyone that should be considered, please have them complete an application package before the October 12th deadline.

Executive Secretary job responsibilities include:

- Responsible for communicating effectively with the Board and providing, in a timely and accurate manner, all information necessary for the Board to function properly and to make all informed decisions.
- Responsible for fiscal management and generally anticipates operating within the approved budget, ensures maximum resource utilization, and maintenance of the organization in a positive financial position.
- Responsible for the effective administration of daily operations.
- Responsible for the hiring and retention of competent, qualified staff.
- Responsible for signing all letters, agreements, and other instruments made and entered on behalf of the organization.
- Strong organizational abilities including planning, delegating, task implementation and facilitation.
- Knowledgeable of Alabama legislative and regulatory processes.

Additional information about the qualifications, responsibilities, and salary for this position can be found at the following link:

<http://www.personnel.alabama.gov/CurrentNews/ExecSecGCBoard.pdf>

Application packets must be received by the close of business on Friday, October 12, 2018.



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC

HOUSE & SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON THE WRDA REAUTHORIZATION MEASURE STRIKES A BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT TO DOUBLE DRINKING WATER SRF FUNDING

On September 10th, U.S. House and Senate Conference Committee leaders announced a bipartisan and bicameral agreement on the WRDA infrastructure legislation. The legislation dubbed the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, was announced by House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA), House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman John Barrasso (R-WY), Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-DE), House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), and House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ). The bipartisan and bicameral agreement must now be approved by both the U.S. House and Senate chambers.

The 300+ page draft bill is still being reviewed line by line by CWCC representatives. Here are the highlights specific to water infrastructure investment programs:

- Reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SDWSRF) at \$1.174B for FY19, \$1.3B for FY20 and \$1.95B for FY21. As FY18 appropriation for SDWSR was \$1.16 Billion if authorized and implemented, the SDWSRF would be funded at 180% of current levels by 2020.
- A number of provisions drawing from a bipartisan House Energy and Commerce Committee bill, including Davis Bacon, assistance for disadvantaged communities, compendium of best practices, technology review, source water usage, assessment and elimination of cross-cutting requirements, natural disaster area assistance, monitoring of contaminants, drinking water fountain replacement for schools, innovative water technology grant program.
- \$100M authorization for meeting regulations in "underserved areas."
- WIFIA would be made permanent, special rules for certain combined projects and repayment, \$50M authorized for FY20 and FY21, state loan funds can finance up to 100% of project costs subject to default, can't pass through fees, no new reviews required, 180-day approval of applications, and funding tied to SRFs' FY18 or 105 % of FY17, whichever is greater, levels).



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

Continued from Page 9

- Combined Sewer Overflow Control grants for \$225M authorized for FY19 and FY20.
- Provides grants for schools to replace lead in drinking water fountains and increases emergency assistance for areas affected by natural disasters.

[CLICK HERE](#) for legislative text of the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018.

Once the U.S. House and Senate pass this bipartisan consensus bill, it will be sent to President Trump for his signature.



www.cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org



Fleet Safety:

Provided by Josh Broaddus @ J. Smith Lanier & Company

PARKING LOT ACCIDENTS

Safe driving requires our full concentration. Maneuvering on a busy highway and driving defensively on the commute to and from work is challenging enough. However, many good drivers relax their concentration and safe driving habits when pulling into a shopping center on the way home from work. Drivers also can lose focus when arriving in the company parking lot in the morning or after lunch. This lack of attention in parking lots can often result in a loss.

An astounding one in five vehicle accidents occur in parking lots. These accidents account for 14% of auto physical damage claims. While many of these accidents are relatively minor, too often the incident results in death or serious injuries. An average of 206 drivers and pedestrians die in work related parking lot accidents annually. Additionally, millions of dollars are spent paying medical bills and lost wages for employees. These accidents are not just work related, 22% of child vehicle fatalities are to pedestrians.

Major causes of parking lot accidents

- Many drivers ignore the posted speed limit
- Drivers fail to follow safe backing procedures
- Failure to scan the parking lot for pedestrian and vehicle traffic
- Confusing parking lot layout and signage that pushes non-focused drivers into mistakes
- The sheer high volume of vehicles and pedestrians, especially in the holiday season

Tips to reduce parking lot incidents:

- SLOW down and obey the posted speed limit and all traffic signs
- Park for a forward exit, and if possible, pull through into the open space ahead
- Keep your head on a swivel to watch for oncoming traffic and mirrors
- Park farther out in the parking lot in less congested areas
- Turn headlights on at all times so see others and be seen
- Exercise extra care at parking lot entrances and exits
- Drive defensively and yield the right of way if necessary to avoid an accident
- Avoid distractions such as cell phones, eating and drinking and loud music



A Solution For Employers

Contractors Retirement Plan *Features:*

Employer

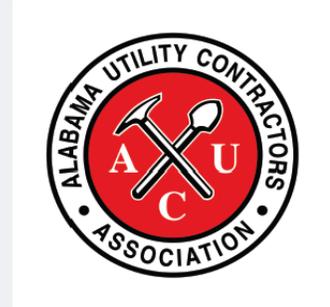
- No cost to employer, no TPA or audit fees
- Fiduciary relief from most 401k liabilities
- Powerful recruiting and retention tool
- Association leadership oversees the plan operation

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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E-mail: tim@aluca.org

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

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www.aluca.org**

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